

**TMN- Hill Country Chapter  
August 2005 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Sharon Corley, Ronald Hood, Wanda Mattarocci , Phyllis Muska, Bob Richie, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Amy Sugeno, and Nancy Vaughan

**Absent:** Kathryn Harrison, Sandy Pena, and Betty Thomas

The meeting was called to order by Jim Stanley at 2:00 PM on August 17, 2005.

**Chapter T-shirts:** Sharon Corley reported that our first order of 50 Chapter T-shirts will be available for sale at our August 22 Chapter meeting. After discussing the cost of the T-shirts and shipping, a motion was made by Bob Richie and seconded by Nancy Vaughan to sell the T-shirts for \$20 each. The motion was carried by acclamation.

**Programs:** Sharon announced that the program for our September 26 meeting would be on Weather. Ideas for future programs included Xeric Gardening and Landscaping by LCRA, Project NICE by the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, and Bird Misbehavior (such as brown-headed cowbirds, yellow-billed cuckoos etc.).

**“Bare Root” trees:** Last month Jim Stanley reported that the Chapter may have an opportunity to give away bare root trees from LCRA at the Earth Day Celebration. This could be a project. Jim obtained additional information that the trees are dug from the nursery in late December and January. The trees are shipped bare-root and must be planted as soon as they are received to assure a good success rate with these trees. Thus, it would not be possible to give away these trees at Earth Day in late April. Other possibilities were discussed for distributing these trees to our communities. A motion was made by Nancy Vaughan and seconded by Wanda Mattarocci to decline the trees this year due to concerns about the public’s success in growing bare-root trees and our Chapter having too many projects now. The motion carried.

**Plant Identification Classes:** Our Chapter will offer three classes this fall for our members and Class of 2005 as follows:

October 5	Forbs	Scott and Sandra Magee
October 12	Trees	Jim and Priscilla Stanley
November 2	Grasses	Jim Stanley

The classes will begin at 1 PM on Wednesdays at the Texas Lions Camp after the Class training and a brown bag lunch.

**Nominating Committee:** A Nominating Committee for new Board members and new Officers is needed by the September meeting. Nancy Vaughan volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee. She will seek two other members for the Committee. Officers are elected by the membership, and Directors are appointed by the President after consulting with the Board. It was deemed desirable to investigate the possibility of having a “staggered board”, achieved by having both 1 and 2 year terms the first year, followed by two year terms to assure continuity on the Board.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers at the October meeting. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting. The election will be held at the November 28 Chapter meeting.

**New Chapter Data Manager for 2006:** Priscilla Stanley announced that Nyta Brown from our Class of 2005 responded to our request for a successor to Tracy Garofano, who has served for two years in this

position. Nyta has experience using Access databases, and Tracy has volunteered help Nyta learn about the TMN State database.

**Class of 2005 Hours:** It was recognized that when the Class of 2005 begins counting volunteer and AT hours on October 1, the Data Manager will be receiving data from 98 members. Some Chapters choose to have more than one Data Manager to share the work. The new updates to the State Database now permit this option, with some constraints on whom can enter new AT projects.

The Board is considering several options. For now, it is recommended that the Class of 2005 give their hours to the Data Manager and also keep copies of their own records (either electronic or paper) as a backup.

**The Class of 2007:** Sharon suggested considering holding a second class in 2007, perhaps an evening or weekend class in the Spring of 2007. She noted that we had been unable to accommodate all of the applicants this year, and our day classes represented a challenge for folks who are working. She also noted that we would need to plan at least a year in advance for such a major project as a second class. The Board felt that it needed to review how the larger Class of 2005 (36 trainees vs. 30, 24 and 26 in previous classes) had worked out before planning further into the future. Bob Richie recommended that the New Class Representative participate in this review.

**Videotaping Classes:** A suggestion was made that the classes be videotaped to facilitate class makeups for those missing a class. It was recognized as a good idea, but we do not currently have the appropriate video equipment to tape the classes well.

**Auditing a Class:** After the application deadline, the Kerrville Water Department had sent an application for an employee who wanted to be a TMN to help the public be more water-wise. We had been unable to accept this person since we had already been unable to accept other applicants. A proposal to allow this employee to audit the class on Urban Systems and Wildscapes was deemed to be inappropriate. An alternative was agreed upon to send the employee a copy of the TMN curriculum chapter for that topic, and recommend that he attend our monthly meetings, AT, seminars and other local presentations on these topics.

**Mentoring New Trainees:** It was recommended that an alternate form of mentoring be considered for next year's New Class. Wanda Mattarocci moved and Nancy Vaughan seconded having a position of Class Liaison. One member of the Curriculum Committee present in the classroom would be designated as the person for answering all trainee questions in place of individual mentors.

**Class of 2005 Class Project:** Nancy Vaughan listed several potential class projects at parks, preserves and a childrens' camp that were already approved volunteer projects for our Chapter as possible class projects. It was felt that having too many projects without adequate follow through had been counterproductive in some cases in the past.

**State TMN Semiannual reports** for 2003-2004 were distributed to the Board and will be available to members at our Chapter meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM  
The next meeting is October 19, 2005.

Respectfully submitted  
Priscilla Stanley, Acting Secretary  
for Kathryn Harrison, Chapter Secretary