**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**Board of Directors’ Meeting**

**September 28, 2015**

**Board Members and Committee Chairs:**

Present: Rich Bradley, Art Williams, Marie Miller, Rich Nielson, Judy Brupbacher, Darlene Varga, Valerie Lefebvre, Sara Riggs, Henry Hahn, Brian Trock, Elizabeth Bowerman, Toni Allison, Kim Wright

Absent: none

Guests: Doris Stone, Jim Teeling, Pat Gonser

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6 PM.

**Officer Reports:**

**a. Secretary---**Kim was absent for the August meeting, so Elizabeth took the minutes. She presented the minutes for approval. Rich Nielson moved the minutes be approved; Henry seconded. Motion passed.

**b. Treasurer---**Rich Nielson presented the monthly statement for August. See report. He reported that the chapter had purchased 4 10x10 canopies for use by the chapter for various outreach projects.

**c. Vice President’s Report---**Elizabeth reported that there will be no speaker for the October meeting since that will be Graduation Night for the current class. November 19th meeting will feature Dinosaur George. Since we are expecting a large turn-out, the meeting will be held at Tye Preston Library. We were only able to reserve the 2 rooms, which will accommodate about 90 people. We will gather at 6 PM for refreshments and George will begin his presentation promptly at 6:30. Toni is working on lining up people to provide refreshments. Orientation for the new class will be October 28th at 5:30 PM. Toni is also working on refreshments for that occasion. She will send out an e-mail asking for help with these 2 events. The Christmas Party will be December 17th.

**d. Past President’s Report---**Henry reported that he has lined up a full slate of officers for 2016. Jim Teeling will run for President, Lisa Marler for Vice President, Rich Nielson for Treasurer, and Kim Wright for Secretary. He will take nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting, which is also our Christmas Party. **Committee Chair Placements-**Henry reported that Susan James will take the Communications Chair, which includes the website, publicity, out and about, historian, and social media. Membership will be Cheryl Trock; Outreach will be Pat Gonser; Projects will be Judy Brupbacher; Education will be Darlene Varga and Valerie Lefebvre. Under the Vice President’s position will be Hospitality, Speakers, and Community Recognition.

**e. President’s Report---**Rich Bradley presented the idea of having a class representative on the Board. This person would have no voting rights. Or perhaps have each student attend at least one Board Meeting during their class year. Darlene did not want to make it mandatory. She might be able to get them to sign up at their class to attend a Board Meeting. Henry suggested that the class leader attend a couple of meetings. This would allow students to get an idea of how the chapter operates and what exactly the Board does. Darlene will emphasize the importance of attending these BOD meetings.

**Chapter Business:**

**a. Communications---**Marie reported that Art and Susan Bogle’s picture was on Face Book for their Volunteer Awards. The new membership directory is on the website. Marie said when Susan James takes over the Communications Chair, the website will be more organized.

**b. Education---**Darlene reported that the current class (2015) will have 16 students with the required hours by graduation. She will give their names to Rich Nielson so that he can order their nametags. Art’s wife will do the certificates. Rich Bradley has their pins. Two students have earned their 250 hour pin. **Graduation---**Susan James sent out an e-mail to her class about the meal for the graduation. They will either provide pizza and the sides or a meat with sides. Val reported that the agenda for graduation will include Susan Bogle, who will speak on Volunteerism. Susan James will also say a few words, and Rich will have a few remarks before he presents the pins to the certified graduates. There will be a Power Point presentation, showing at what projects the students earned their hours. The graduation will be Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 PM. **New Class---**there may be 17 prospective students. Sara spoke with another person and an e-mail was received from one other, so there could be 19 students.Two may be coming from San Marcos because our class schedule better fits their schedule. Orientation will be October 28th at 5:30 at Agrilife. Rich Bradley, Rich Nielson, Art, Judy, and Brian and Cheryl Trock will attend.

**c. Membership---**Brian reported the hours earned for the month of August. See report. He said he will be gone from October 1-17, so hours reported to him will not be acknowledged until he returns. **Volunteer Reporting System---**the Transition Team consists of 6 members. Since the system is not fully operational at this time, Brian sent the current time sheet to Brad James on the Support Team. Judy, Brian, Cheryl, and Marie are our chapter’s e-coordinator administrators. Brian will oversee the Membership Committee; Cheryl will cover the background checks; Judy will be the Project Chair; Marie will be the webmaster. These four people will have access to all members’ information. We need the current members and projects’ updated list before we go online to report. Until then, we will still report our monthly hours to Brian. The new system will not accept hours reported more than 45 days after they were earned.

**d. Outreach---**Art reported that most of the speakers provided through our Speakers’ Bureau have not been Lindheimer Master Naturalists. He said that Coco Brennan will be speaking on Bats at a Lunch and Learn at the Spring Branch and Garden Ridge Libraries. Darlene said one of the new students is a firefly expert and might be a good potential speaker. Art will hand out a questionnaire to visitors at the October 10th Open House at Agrilife and also at Arbor Day on October 24. He would like any suggestions prior to the 10th as to what types of questions should be asked (what the public might be interested in learning about). Art has a new Lindheimer brochure that looks much better than the old and it will be ready for Arbor Day handout. **State Meeting---**Rich Bradley asked if anyone was attending the State Meeting. Craig Hensley gave Susan Bogle a book on dragonflies and he wants it to go for the silent auction (from him).

**e. Projects---**Rich Bradley reported that the **Open House** is October 10, 9 AM-2 PM. Susan James is attending the grass beds. We need volunteers for the bird feeder activity and native grass beds. We will have the Traveling Trunk (pelts) and applications for the new class will be available. Jim Teeling may be able to attend the trunk. Art asked if we have a greeter. Yes, there will be a Welcome table and Art will have the questionnaires there. **Arbor Day---**Art said it is on October 24 from 9 AM- 12 PM at Landa Park. He needs volunteers to staff the tables. We will be giving out bags of mulch and compost tea. There will be games for children with prizes (an amulet made of deer antler). There will also be a drawing for 6-8 unclaimed trees from the Green Up Comal project. **Projects---**Judy is trying to update the Projects List and getting the list transferred over to a new system. See list. The items in yellow might be deleted from the list, but that may be done later. Changes need to be made to the contact persons for some of the projects. It was mentioned that some contacts are not LMN members, such as Mark Henderson, who coordinates work on the South Trail. It was decided that this is acceptable; we will try to get him to take the class to become a LMN. Judy also handed out a list of all the applications for Advanced Training and Volunteer hours since January 1, 2015. See list.

**Open to Floor---**Rich Nielson asked if there was any way to mark the new canopies as property of the LMN chapter. We would use a permanent marker. He also said a budget committee needs to be formed. It was decided that Rich Bradley, Rich Nielson, and Jim Teeling would comprise that committee.

Art mentioned that he receives lots of e-mails that have a long list of recipients. Some of these people have moved, others have left the chapter, some never graduated, some have requested that they be removed from the mailings. Marie will delete these names from the list.

Elizabeth suggested that our chapter make a donation to the Hill Country Alliance for the calendars that Christy Muse gave out at the September meeting. She said they have a value of about $500. We will address this at the next Board meeting.

Val said that Dr. Warnecke, the speaker for Archaeology in December, suggested a field trip to a site. It would be similar to the one to Bamberger, in that it would be first offered to the current class, then open to the general membership after that. Rich asked that she bring that as a proposal to the next Board meeting.

**Adjourn---**Judy moved that the meeting be adjourned; Darlene seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

**Next Meeting---**Monday, October 26, 2015, 6 PM at Agrilfe.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists