## LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

**BOARD MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Nielson, Evelyn Nielson, Kim Wright, Joel Dunnington, Marilyn McFarland, Brian Trock, Jeanie Springer, Jim Doyle, Joyce Doyle, Debbie Kyrouac, Darlene Varga, Troy Luepke

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Hammack, Sara Riggs

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kim Wright had sent the January minutes out for corrections. A few corrections were made prior to this meeting. Joel Dunnington moved that January’s minutes be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. The motion passed. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Rich Nielson said he spoke with some members about doing their committee work prior to the Board Meeting, then present their motion/motions to the BOD, in order to expedite the meetings. Darlene Varga asked if the committees should send out their motions prior to the BOD meeting. It was decided that this is not necessary. Rich reported that the Past Presidents’ plaque has been updated with Joel Dunnington’s name added.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson reported that the January end balance was $9498.36. See report. Darlene Varga moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. The treasurer’s report was approved.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that Art Williams will be the March chapter meeting speaker. Art will speak on his historical video interviews with Lindheimer Master Naturalists. Pamela Owen will speak in April. She is the Associate Director of the Texas Heritage Museum on the University of Texas campus. Her topic will be the American Badger. Kathleen Scott will speak in May on Hummingbirds. Craig Hensley is June’s speaker and his topic will be Woody Plants of the Hill Country. Daniel Oppenheimer from the Hill Country Alliance will be July’s speaker, and Jon Zeitler will speak on Phenology in August.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington reported that the memorial plaque for Marlin Brendsel will be ready this week. The plaque will be on a stand. Joel said that the family wants to attend the placing of the memorial in the Arboretum. Art Williams will purchase an Escarpment Black Cherry tree to be planted in Marlin’s memory. Joel sent out the new Reference List but was concerned that it was too long. There is a shorter version for the Program to Assist Landowners (PAL). Joel asked Marilyn McFarland if his long list could be put on the website, but not under the Members Only section.
4. **Communications-**--Marilyn McFarland handed out a copy of her report. She asked those of us who have a Facebook account to “Like” or “Don’t Like” our website. She reported on hits that our site has received. She is working on revising the website because several items are outdated. She said some things can be changed that are not time sensitive, such as saying “Next Class Begins in October” instead of giving a specific date. Brian Trock said that the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) looks like a working document on the website instead of a finished document. It is an unfinished document. It was decided then that the only copy on the website should be the last completed and approved version. Rich Nielson said he would ask the members to vote to approve the working copy at the next chapter meeting. He will send out an email with the specific changes to be voted on. Rich asked for a motion from the BOD to make the following changes to the COH. Under Section 9, Outreach will be added as a Standing Committee instead of falling under Communications. Under Section 10, d. 1, remove “Outreach reports to Communications”. PAL will be added as a sub-committee under Outreach. Darlene Varga moved that the changes be made; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. Brian Trock said that some changes need to be made under Membership. He will prepare a motion for the next BOD meeting. Marilyn McFarland asked if the COH is located in more than one spot on the website. All locations need to be updated to reflect any changes. Marilyn said that the final copy needs to be sent to Communications. The webmaster and Communications are not responsible for making corrections to the COH. Evelyn Nielson asked if members can send items to Marilyn to post on Facebook or can we do that ourselves. Marilyn said either way would be okay.
5. **Education-**--Debbie Kyrouac reported that the Earth Day committee met. The various sub-committee chairs and mentors met to discuss Earth Day plans. She said that Mike Hammack is acting as a mentor, as well as some members from last year’s class, to new class members. Students are posting their own class times on VMS. There needs to be some clarification on how many hours each class should count. An announcement should be made that each class counts for 3 hours. Some field trips go over 2 hours, but Brian Trock said to keep it simple and only report the 2 hours. On VMS the training class is under IT (in training).
6. **Membership-**--Brian Trock submitted his January report. See report. The 2017 report shows that we lost 2 members due to no hours being reported in 2017. Brian said that Guadalupe State Park’s Discovery Center had the most reported Public Outreach hours. Only one active member has said “No” to the Criminal Background Check (CBC). Rich Nielson has asked Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth about what the VMS says about the CBC. Brian says we have two State documents that clearly state this requirement to have a CBC for each active member. Joel Dunnington said he will not vote to expel a member who refuses the CBC until State makes a clarification. Brian said that we would not expel them, but put them on the Inactive list.
7. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer reported that she sent an updated Projects List to Marie Miller in January, but due to a website issue, it was not posted. Jeanie spoke with Marie and Marilyn McFarland about this issue and it does appear to be resolved. The most current Projects List, dated February 16, 2018 is posted on the LMN website. Jeanie said she spoke with Sara Riggs about Advanced Training clarification. Sara sent the clarification out on Out and About weekly emails several times. The Project Committee continued to be quite busy this month with AT and VH application requests and general questions.
8. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga reported that there were only 9 people at the Headwaters of Comal event. She said she investigated the cost of a 5 by 5 climate controlled storage unit. The prices range from $42-60 a month. She said she will talk with someone at each place to see if we could get a discount since we are a 501c3 organization. Rich Nielson said we need to protect our investment into the Traveling Trunks. Our LMN brochures get damp in the current storage. Darlene said she will address the BOD when she gets some prices. Darlene wants to survey the members to see who might have some expertise or experience in topics on which they could do a presentation. Marilyn McFarland suggested that Darlene send out specific topics and see who might sign up. Troy Luepke suggested we use Survey Monkey, which is a good way to do a survey. The topics would be at the top and all a member would have to do is click on the topic in which they have experience. It would also ask about the type of audience that the member would be addressing (children or adults). Rich Nielson said to put out on Out and About that a survey is coming.
9. **PAL-**--Art Williams was absent. Joel Dunnington said that he will be visiting a landowner tomorrow and Rich and Evelyn Nielson will be going to visit a landowner on Saturday.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Rich Nielson reported that the Agrilife Open House is April 28th. If anyone wants to do a Trunk presentation, they need to let Troy Luepke know. There will be a Scavenger Hunt at the Open House. Jim Teeling is the contact for Folkfest, which is April 14-15. Earth Day in April 21 at TPML. Wine and Saengerfest is May 5. They will use 3 tables and have some Traveling Trunks on display. Darlene Varga said she never heard back from Mike Hammack about training the new class members on the Trunks. She said she also needs to know who will need the trunks at various events. Troy Luepke said he has been approached by local beekeeper Charlie Agar about doing a presentation in April and May. Troy will have a sign-up sheet for those interested in beekeeping. Troy said there is no acreage requirement to receive an AG exemption in Comal County. Joel Dunnington gave Jim Doyle a suggestion for a speaker for the chapter meeting---Tonya Homagoun, PhD., who would speak on iNaturalist.

Troy Luepke reminded the BOD that any Master Naturalists who do a presentation must have a sign-in sheet that lists the numbers of adults and children that attended the talk. These must be sent to Troy at the end of each month. He has sent this form out electronically to the membership.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists