**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kim Wright sent February’s Board minutes out via email for corrections. Corrections were made prior to this meeting. Kim moved that the minutes be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Nielson will make reports later in meeting.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson submitted her report for February. See report. Kim moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Jeanie Springer seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that he has speakers lined up for several months. At March’s 2019 chapter meeting the speaker will be Patsy Inglet. She will speak on “Bird Songs”. Rich Nielson has asked Art Williams if he could save his video presentation of the chapter’s history and member interviews on another format.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington was absent. Rich Nielson reported that the past Sunday, the memorial tree was planted in the Arboretum for Marlin Brendsel. Rich has been watering it regularly. Rich said that Joel got a response back from State about changes to the CMOP. They are not really working on that right now. Joel has sent the latest reference list to the Board. He would like it placed under Chapter Information where anyone can view it, not just members. Headwaters at the Comal Earth Day is April 22. Our chapter will have some participation in it. Darlene Varga is concerned that the Headwaters are charging fees for events. Earth Day, however, will be free. Darlene feels that at this moment, there are not enough attractions there to charge an entrance fee. Land Preservation of Comal County is now named Comal County Conservation Alliance. Their goal is to obtain land that cannot be used or developed for anything other than preservation. Rich Nielson has spoken with them and will attend a meeting. There are several events coming up that LMN is involved with---Folkfest, Agrilife Open House, and Earth Day.
4. **Communications-**--Marilyn McFarland submitted her report. See report. She met with Marie Miller on March 22. They made some changes to the website. The new address to reach Marilyn with chapter matters is lindheimermncontact@gmail.com. If anyone needs help with editing posts or spelling/grammar, Marilyn said that she can correct those things. Marilyn thinks that our chapter needs a logo. Other chapters have them and sell pins to their members. Jeanie Springer mentioned the Texas Star, which has been discussed in the past. Jeanie will send a picture to Marilyn. Rich Nielson wants an email sent out on Out and About to the membership for suggestions for the logo.
5. **Education-**--Rich Nielson has asked Mike Hammack, Education Co-Chair, to look at Section F in the COH. The heading is Standards for Graduation, Certification, and Re-Certification. Some changes were made clarifying the requirements for graduation. See changes in red on report.

Darlene Varga moved that the changes be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. The changes were approved. Debbie Kyrouac thinks that we need to de-emphasize “Hours” and say there are 12 classes and 2 field trips required for their training. Debbie said that plans for Earth Day are coming along. Rich Nielson said that he has not seen any requests for the Traveling Trunks at Earth Day. Darlene Varga has asked that at least one new person man the trunks at ED. There is some confusion since there are 5 festivals coming up in the next few weeks. Some groups like Bracken Cave and the Gorge are not even on the list of exhibitors for these events. Debbie suggested that the trunks might need to be assigned to these events in January instead of waiting until March or April. Evelyn Nielson spoke up and said that the Insect Expo asked about the Insect and Mammals Trunks at the last minute. She asked if those trunks could be assigned for next year’s Expo. Evelyn wanted to know if there could be a class to train members to man the trunks. Darlene Varga said that she has already done that. Darlene didn’t know if she could add any more names to the trunk volunteer list without it costing more money.

1. **Membership---**Brian Trock submitted his report. See report. He said that 2 students are dropping the class. Brian said that he is placing Ron Morris and Emie Ikels on the Inactive list. Brian brought up the COH definition of Membership. Under G2---for the purpose of reporting hours---after one year of inactivity, the member is placed on the Inactive list; after two years they are placed on the Lapsed list. The term “lapsed” does not appear on the VMS, so it needs to be eliminated. Jeanie Springer moved that that change be made; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. The change will be made to the COH.
2. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer reported that her committee had only one new application this month, which was Art Williams’ LMN/PAL outreach event at Sattler’s Ace Hardware. Numerous other AT and VH projects were reviewed by Jeanie and determined that they had prior approval or were sponsored by an LMN partner. Jeanie received a list of future AT from Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) in New Braunfels. WBU continues to provide monthly “nature sessions”. This list was for March through July. All had prior approval because they are being offered by Master Naturalists or LMN Partners. The nature session for July was not approved for AT because the topic is “Wildlife Exemption Requirements”. This is more for financial gain of the landowner, so it will be available for “information only”. Sara Riggs has placed all WBU nature sessions on the Out and About calendar.
3. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga reported that she has received 5 responses for speakers who would be willing to do presentations as an Outreach event. She said that she has 3 people signed up to help with the trunks and Fossil Dig at Folkfest, but she still needs more help. Darlene said that we have received an invitation to participate at the Science fest on October 7 from 3-6 PM. Darlene submitted a report on the search for a storage unit for the trunks and our chapter’s other supplies. See report. She received a call back from one place that corrected the cost of the 5x10 unit from $86 to $76 a month. If the Master Gardeners share the unit with us, we will need the larger 5x10. If they do not, a 5x5 unit will suffice. Darlene gave Rich Nielson some insurance brochures. Rich wants to check with another place for their insurance requirements. Rich did speak with Linda Valdez of the Master Gardeners to see if they would want to share a space with us. Linda said she would take the issue to their Board. They would only be storing books. Westpointe Storage is a little more expensive, but is closer to Agrilife. They require we use a lock provided by them and there is a charge for that. Iron Guard is less money and we can use our own lock. Rich Nielson told Darlene that she has money in her budget to cover the storage cost. Rich will see Linda Valdez on Wednesday and will get an answer from her about sharing the unit with the MG.
4. **PAL-**--Art Williams was absent. No report.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke reported that he has lined up a class on Beekeeping, which will take place in April and May and will count as AT hours. Open House is April 28th and Troy said they are working on a Bird Blind. Darlene Varga asked if next year we could coordinate the dates of events with other groups so that we are not so taxed for volunteers, trunks, and time. Evelyn Nielson said that Earth Day in Landa Park drew more people than TPML. Jeanie Springer suggested that in the future we combine Earth Day and Open House. Debbie Kyrouac said that at the outset, the new class was struggling with Earth Day planning. She noted that no one initially wanted to chair the functional subcommittee for Advertising and Promotion, but that the group has since coalesced under a de facto leader.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists