**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Nielson, Evelyn Nielson, Jeanie Springer, Joel Dunnington, Marilyn McFarland, Kim Wright, Joyce Doyle, Jim Doyle, Darlene Varga, Mike Hammack, Troy Luepke, Art Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brian Trock, Debbie Kyrouac, Joe Finneran (incoming Education co-chair)

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The October minutes were sent via email for corrections. Corrections were made. Joel Dunnington moved that the minutes be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. The October minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Nielson deferred his report until later in the meeting.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson reported that the ending bank balance for October was $9218.97. The end register balance was $9621.01. See report. Rich Nielson added that the chapter purchased 2 more tablecloths for the State meeting, bringing the total to 4 cloths and 4 tables. Kim Wright moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Joel Dunnington seconded. Motion passed. The treasurer’s report was approved.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that he has booked Tye Preston Library for our 2019 Christmas party/ annual meeting. It will be the second Thursday in December 2019.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington asked Rich Nielson if State had any decision on our involvement with the Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA). Rich said he has not received any communication about that issue. Jeanie Springer said that she has tried 3 times to get a response from State about this because of possible projects opportunities. Evelyn Nielson suggested that Rich Nielson send a letter, explaining that several people have tried to get a response on this matter and no one has heard anything and to please respond.

Rich Nielson will send out the slate of officers and chairs for 2019 to the membership. The officers slated to run for election are Rich Nielson for President, Rich Bradley for Past President (Joel Dunnington does not want to continue as Past President), Jim Doyle for Vice President, Martha Bersch for Secretary, Robin Hagan for Treasurer, and Mike Hammack and Joe Finneran as Education co-chairs. Marilyn McFarland will continue as Communications chair, with Sara Riggs as Out and About sub-chair, Carmen Horn as Newsletter, Peggy Haley as Historian, Marie Miller as Webmaster until Marilyn is up to speed on taking that over. Marilyn will also serve as Publicity and Social Media sub-chair. Cheryl Trock will serve as Membership chair and Jeanie Springer will be the Projects chair. Outreach will be co-chaired by Debbie Kyrouac and Jane Schnell. Art Williams will continue heading up the PAL program; Evelyn Nielson will handle Hospitality and Jim Doyle will oversee the Community Recognition Awards. Our chapter advisors will continue to be Troy Luepke, Comal County Extension agent, and Craig Hensley, TPWD and county biologist.

1. **Communications---**Marilyn McFarland submitted her report. See report. She said that she has been laboring over the website and is afraid that she will cause it to crash. She put a notice on the site that the site is being updated. Marilyn reported that the MyCanyonLake.com website had something posted about the PAL program. Joel Dunnington asked if his extensive reference reading list has ever been posted on the site. Marilyn said that it will have its own tab forpeople to access.
2. **Education---**Mike Hammack reported that there are 30 students in the new class. There were 13 students who attended the chapter meeting. The first field trip to Honey Creek had 23 students in attendance. It was a great hike with wonderful leaders. Marilyn McFarland asked if there was a class photographer. Mike said that Amber Lujan has taken that role.
3. **Membership---**Brian Trock was absent, but sent his report earlier in the month. See report. Rich Nielson said that a new student, Julia Morgan, has not been entered into the VMS system. Mike Hammack will check with Brian Trock. Mike said that there is only one student from the 2018 class that needs to graduate.
4. **Projects---**Jeanie Springer reported that State had suggested some changes be made concerning the acronyms used on the VMS system. Rich Nielson suggested that only AT hours be counted for the CCCA at this point since there has been no guidance from State. This should avoid conflict since CCCA is a lobbying group. Darlene Varga mentioned that we could check with other chapters to see if they have a similar situation.
5. **Outreach---**Darlene Varga said that she received an email from Troy Luepke about Smithson Valley High School wanting a presentation on the Skins and Skulls trunk. Debbie Kyrouac and Jane Schnell will take over Outreach from Darlene for 2019. Darlene said that the Headwaters at the Comal needs to be more organized. There was no communication about the recent presentation for first graders that would consist of four 45 minute presentations. Darlene said that Headwaters needs to make clear their expectations when they ask us to be a presenter at an event. Rich Nielson said that he will speak with Headwaters about this. Marilyn McFarland said that we should tell them what we will bring, provide, and present.
6. **PAL---**Art Williams said that there has been more interest from property owners in using our program. Art and Joel Dunnington went to Stallion Estates at the request of the Homeowners Association. They have visited about 50 homesites. Rich Nielson said that there is a certification program that he would like PAL participants to take. It costsabout $1500. After completion, the individual would be certified as a Landscape Specialist. Joel Dunnington said that he has taken the class.This class would benefit not only landowners, but also homeowners.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke said that there will be a new gate farther back on the Agrilife property. The existing gate will no longer be used so that people can gain access to the classroom area, the gardens, and the other points of interest. People will still need a code for the new gate to gain access to the barn area. There will be a “people gate” to allow walk-through access to the back part. To gain access to our storage, we will still need a code to get in.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden, and Wildscape workday has been cancelled due to cold weather. Our annual meeting and Christmas party is December 13 at TPML.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2019 BUDGET---**Evelyn Nielson presented the budget for 2019. She is optimistic about individual donations by thinking that if 100 people gave $25 each and 30 students’ tuition at $150 each, our coffers would be in great shape. The Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden, and Wildscape (BBW) will receive $500 from LMN, $500 from Master Gardeners, and $500 from Agrilife. The Chapter speaker allowance will be for mileage, set at $450 for 2019. The speakers for the classes budget will be $250 and fall under Education.

Evelyn Nielson said that at the State Meeting, she discovered that only 3 chapters statewide do not have membership dues. LMN is one of them. Most chapters have $20-35 annual dues. Evelyn recommended that we adopt dues. Darlene Varga concurred. Rich Nielson said if we approve the 2019 budget, he would send out a notice to the membership about dues. Joel Dunnington moved that the 2019 budget be approved; Mike Hammack seconded. The motion passed. The budget was approved.

Art Williams thinks that once a year, the Board needs to meet with the membership so that the chapter can know what is happening behind the scenes.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Sevretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists