**Prairie Oaks Master Naturalist**

**Minutes for March 15, 2018 Business Meeting**

Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center at Stephenville

1229 North US Highway 281

Stephenville, Texas 76401

Attendance: 13 chapter members, 15 members-in-training from current training class, and 4 guests.

Business Meeting

1. **Call to order:** at 5:51 pm by President Hamby
2. **Minutes from February 15, 2018:** Minutes were previously distributed via email and posted on the chapter web site by Secretary Damron. Minutes were read by Stephens and approved as read by President Hamby.
3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Hasten presented a summary of income and expenses since last chapter meeting, with an ending account balance of $1,884.41.
4. **Farmer’s Market Report**: Attendance for the market was low and there were very few vendors; seeds were obtained by Hasten and seed packets prepared by volunteers were given away as part of educational outreach.
5. **Awards Ceremony:** Stephens formally presented a 250-hour pin to President Hamby.
6. **Unfinished Business**
   1. The specifics of proposed chapter membership dues and 2018 budget were presented by President Hamby and questions from membership were addressed. Hamby noted that the proposal would be presented for approval by the POMN Board on April 3, and presented for a membership vote at the April 19 Chapter Meeting. Hamby announced that the Board meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on April 3 in the AgriLife Conference Room, and the meeting is open to all membership.

The membership dues proposal is as follows:

* Proposed Membership fees will be $25 for individuals and $30 for couples
* Membership fees for chapter participants who are currently Certified Master Naturalists will become due on June 30
* Membership fees for chapter participants who are currently Master Naturalist Pledges and Members-in-Training will become due on January 31, 2019
* In subsequent years, Membership fees for chapter participants who are Certified Master Naturalists will be due each January 31, and for Pledges and Members-in-Training on January 31 of the year following completion of initial training.
* Funds received as Membership fees will be allocated for support of: (a) chapter outreach activities and (b) expenses for annual meeting attendance by chapter state representative

1. **New Business**

President Hamby announced that the chapter has been offered a special registration fee of $60 covering all Stephenville Farmers Market days in 2018 plus the Arts & Crafts festival, and the $15 registration for the first Farmers Market day would be applied toward the $60 fee, making the blanket fee $45. Discussion noted that this significantly reduces the price for participation in this outreach activity.

1. **Announcements and Events**
2. Hamby reviewed upcoming volunteer opportunities including Stephenville Farmers Market, 9-12 on 4/7; Spring Wingding at Dinosaur Valley SP on 4/14; Native & Heirloom Plant Fair in Stephenville, 9-3 on 4/14; Tarleton Bioblitz at Hunewell Ranch (both Volunteer Service opportunity and Advanced Training opportunity) on 4/21- contact Hamby to participate in any of these events
3. Dublin St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on 4/17 – contact Tolboom to participate.
4. Comanche Museum project (ongoing) – contact Bradshaw to participate
5. Next Chapter Meeting is 5:45-7:00 on 4/19, followed by Advanced Training program “From Prairie to Seed Packets in 60 Months: Speeding Up Native Plant Domestication in Northcentral Texas” presented by Dr. James Muir
6. Stephens reviewed changes to spring training class schedule on 5/3 to accommodate curriculum units that were missed due to cancellation of class on 3/1 due to ice storm; the previously scheduled Advanced Training presentation Devin Erxleben has been rescheduled for June Chapter meeting; an Advanced Training program on pond management by Steve Bardin (Tarleton Adjunct in WSES) is scheduled for the May 17 Chapter meeting; the field class schedule for the morning of 4/7 will include a 2-hour segment at the Stephenville Waste Water Treatment Plant which will qualify as Advanced Training.
7. Hamby thanked chapter members who brought food for the meeting.
8. **Drawing:** Bill Hopkins was the drawing winner, receiving a book on groundwater conservation for the Edwards Aquifer
9. **Adjournment:** Hamby declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm and members convened working groups for planning volunteer activities.

POST-BUSINESS MEETING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Training Program: “Introduction to Groundwater Conservation Districts” by Stephanie Keith, Education & Public Relations Coordinator, Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, accompanied by Debbie Montgomery, Administrative Assistant, and Joe Cooper, General Manager