

TOS Board Meeting Minutes October 13, 2022

Present at today's meeting via zoom call were Christine Turnbull, Susan Foster, Byron Stone, Clay Taylor, Randy Pinkston, D.D. Currie, Kendra Kocab, Laura Wilson, and Frances Cerbins. Absent from today's meeting were John Berner and Romey Swanson.

President Byron Stone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. First order of business was approving the minutes from our retreat at the Davis Mountains Preserve in August. Motion to approve minutes as written was made by Randy Pinkston and seconded by Clay Taylor. All in favor. Motion passed.

Byron Stone advised the board that he has reserved the Davis Mountains Preserve for our board retreat August 15-18, 2024, and possibly August 10-13, 2023, as well.

We next discussed the sad news of the passing of longtime board member, director, and friend, Gailon Brehm. Gailon was active on many TOS committees, and will be difficult to replace. As immediate past president, Christine Turnbull will replace Gailon as chair of the Nominating Committee. Byron will talk to Laurie Mathers about his interest in joining the board as Regional Director for Gailon's region. Kendra Kocab found the financial documents Gailon created in our TOS drive under TOS Documents, Board, Sanctuaries and Nominating Committee procedures. Frances Cerbins questioned whether Google Drive maintains the history of all documents and Kendra Kocab said that it does. Byron Stone will write a memorial for the newsletter about Gailon and asked that we send remembrances of Gailon for this article. Frances Cerbins reminded directors to send their regional reports to Jack Eitniar.

Panama trip update: The trip was very successful. Participants saw 317 species in ten days. The only hitch was some of the return flights were delayed. Byron Stone would like to schedule the same trip for next year. Clay Taylor said we need to book with Canopy Tower now. Susan Foster said she would be willing to lead the trip. Randy Pinkston is interested in knowing if there were any covid related issues. Frances Cerbins suggested a set of written policies and procedures for covid. Kendra Kocab suggested we add a TOS travel section in the Let's go Birding section of our TOS website.

Clay Taylor updated us on TOS running two Costa Rica trips with Holbrook Tours. We would add what we want to make onto their price. They will handle all logistics, insurances, etc. Clay would like to run two trips, one for first timers to Costa Rica and one for returning birders, possibly with a theme such as owls, hummingbirds, etc. Clay is thinking nine or ten days on the ground. Selva Verde Lodge. January to April is the high season for Costa Rica. January 2024 has a lot of availability for a beginners trip. Return to Costa Rica option for theme for returning birders, which would possibly be in June. Clay Taylor will keep us posted on both trips.

The Due Diligence committee agreed that we need more help especially with planning meetings and trips. Also with managing sanctuaries and helping expand membership and outreach.

January meeting committee: Christine Turnbull reported that we have decided on the Hilton Garden Inn as our host hotel. We need to finalize a few things. Judy Kestner and John Berner will work on contract. Will have access to some great private areas. We are currently re-recruiting field trip leaders. Clay Taylor, Byron Stone, and Randy Pinkston (dependent on his on-call schedule) all said they would be available to guide.

Spring Meeting: Other meetings being held on the coast include the Corpus Christi Birdiest Festival April 27-30 and Spring Chirp in the Valley April 20-23. Randy added that the peak warbler time is May 5-12. This may be important to Century Club members. Discussed several locations including Fort Worth and Dallas. D.D. Currie suggested that Fort Worth Audubon may be willing to help us. She will check with them. Byron will check with Prairies and Timbers Audubon. Susan Foster and D.D. also suggested Junction, but it may be difficult to find a host group. Susan Foster will contact Rhandy Helton regarding the possibility of holding the spring meeting there. It's important to find a host organization. Byron will check with Prairies and Timbers first before Susan and D.D. make any inquiries.

Sanctuaries Reports:

Magic Ridge - Byron Stone reported a mountain of trash there, and will schedule a clean up date.

Hooks Woods - Kendra Kocab met with Glenn Olson regarding a three or five year plan for habitat management. She said the entrance to Hooks Woods needs to look more inviting. We could have a management plan by the end of the year. Kendra Kocab said we will host work days the same days as High Island work days to get more people.

Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned