A Message from Dave Powell, President of BPMN

The annual planning session was very productive. There were 18 chapter members in attendance, and the sharing was great. We spent time discussing how we can improve what we are currently doing, how to expand our efforts, ways that we might help new members get plugged into volunteer projects and the quality of the projects we currently have.

We approved having our second annual regional conference on April 11 to 13, 2014, since we had a lot of requests for this event. And, so the planning starts! We discussed the upcoming elections for president and vice president, and the nominating committee will begin looking for candidates.

The current chair people of the Outreach and Education Committees have asked to step down, so we need to find folks to step into those leadership roles as committee chairs. Robin Levenson volunteered and was appointed to chair the new Publicity Committee. After the group discussed the need for a Speakers

Members and Board members of BPMN attended the recent annual planning session.

Bureau/Educational Outreach group, Laura Simpson volunteered and was appointed to chair this effort.

We had a good lunch and a great time getting to know each other better, and it was good having members from most of our classes present. The complete minutes of the meeting are posted on our website.

What a great group we have, and the future looks bright!

Send Us Your Volunteer News and Photos

We would like to feature master naturalist volunteer activities in future newsletters. Send a photo with an explanation of your activity to eastbluff@verizon.net.
Volunteer Hours

BPMN needs volunteers to help prepare materials and staff our outreach booth for the following events:

**Allen Educator Expo** - Tuesday, Sept. 24, 4-6 p.m. This event targets teachers and support staff, as well as children's education/hobby groups.

**Plano International Festival** - Saturday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. This event targets families and environmentally-friendly businesses.

Both events are great opportunities to reach future TXMN class participants. We also need your creative ideas for door prizes and materials to engage booth visitors.

Email [Outreach@BPTMN.org](mailto:Outreach@BPTMN.org) if you can help.

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**Blackland Prairie Raptor Center** (www.bpraptorcenter.org) Most projects are ongoing.

**Contact Erich Neupert** erich.neupert@bpraptorcenter.org, 469-964-9696, for current projects and dates

- **Animal care** - assist in cage cleaning and feeding of birds of prey
- **Construction** - assist in construction of rehab flight cages and hospital as well as maintaining facilities
- **Public interaction** - engage public in activities to introduce them to raptors on the first Saturday
- **Prairie rehab** - assist in planting and continuing care of prairie
- **Gardening** - prepare and maintain garden area

**Collin County Adventure Camp** (www.collincountyadventurecamp.org)

**Contact Ron Bamberg**, rbamberg@gmail.com, 972.832.4791.

**On-site training for nature program guides begins in August.** Anyone interested in volunteering as a trail guide in the fall (beginning mid-September) should attend this training.

The camp has an ongoing need trail guides to lead nature walks for children and adults. The YMCA requires a background check.

**Connemara Meadow** (Connemaraconservancy.org)

**Contact Bob Mione**, 214-534-1900, [meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org](mailto:meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org)

**Invasive removal** - Requires minimum training on the day of scheduled activity and prior scheduling with Bob. Can be scheduled based on volunteer's availability. Must bring work/garden gloves, insect repellent and appropriate sun protection. Liability waiver signature required.

Meadow Open House (fourth Sunday during July, August and September, 7 a.m.). Check the Connemara web site (Connemaraconservancy.org) for information.

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**Consult the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist calendar** (http://bptmn.org/calendar/) for events. **The approved activities for volunteering and education, listed by both type and by partner, can be found at** [http://bptmn.org/info/project-opportunities/](http://bptmn.org/info/project-opportunities/).
The following are ongoing projects at the Heard:

Native Reptile Care - assisting and spotting for feeding, cage cleaning, etc., twice weekly, Tuesday and Saturday. Includes contact with museum guests and learning about native Texas snakes, including pit vipers.

Native Mammal Care - assisting and spotting for feeding, cage cleaning, etc.

Sanctuary - invasive plant elimination, trail maintenance & construction

Bird Banding - prior birding experience preferred, training required

Outreach

Contact Dave Powell, Powell1217@yahoo.com, to find out more about these two:

Maintain gardens twice monthly - 1st Thurs. & 1st Sat., working with Native Plant Society and master gardeners

Trail Guides - days vary, training required

The Heard requires a volunteer application and a background check to be on file with volunteer coordinator Beverly Halperin. We ask that you attend a volunteer orientation when available. Be sure to check in with the appropriate personnel before any work is performed.

Heritage Farmstead Museum Prairie Garden

Contact: Nancy Furth, N.furth@verizon.net, 972 491-2176

The prairie garden has been created and planted with primarily Blackland Prairie native plants. Since these plants are in their first growing season, some from seed and many greenhouse grown, they will need a little TLC as they become established. It would be great to have the help of a couple fellow master naturalists who would be willing to visit and water the garden early in the morning, sharing this responsibility on a weekly basis. If you live close to the museum and are willing to help, Nancy will be glad to discuss a workable schedule, show you the ropes (hoses) and the garden.

Junior Master Naturalists

Contact: Gwen Thomas, gmthomas29@fastmail.fm

The Jr. Naturalist Program welcomes new volunteers to assist with our program for 6th-8th graders at Wilson Middle School in Plano. The class meets after school every Wednesday during the school year from 3:30-5 p.m. We will be holding a planning meeting on August 28 at 3:30 p.m. in the classroom of Sharon Russell, Skills for Living Teacher, at Wilson Middle School on Custer Road in Plano. No specific skills are necessary. Just bring your energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing you there.
Fall begins the busy season at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) with many opportunities for volunteer hours in several different areas.

The educational staff and volunteers work with several school groups throughout the year. If you are scientifically inclined or enjoy leading nature walks and working with children, these are opportunities for you.

The opportunities at LLELA don’t stop when the sun goes down. There are monthly night hikes and Stars on the Prairie, a stargazing program led by our own Clyde Camp.

There are ongoing needs for volunteers in preservation, restoration and research, and for you historians, there is an 1870’s log cabin homestead where monthly tours are conducted. You can help in the native plant nursery, assist in harvesting seeds, planting prairie grasses, and help build and maintain trails.

To volunteer with the education department, contact Educational Coordinator Lisa Cole (lisacole@unt.edu), and to volunteer for preservation, restoration or research opportunities, contact Restoration Manager Richard Freiheit (freiheit@unt.edu).

The best way to find out about these and other opportunities is by going to the LLELA website at http://www.ias.unt.edu/llela/main.htm. The calendar will have the dates of each activity offered each month.
Advanced Training

**Plano Environmental Education Center.** 4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, has lots of classes in September and October, including “Creating Healthy Soils” on Sept. 12, 7 to 9 p.m. Click here to Register Today!, http://www.livegreeninplano.obsres.com/Info.aspx?EventID=3

Sept. 14, **Texoma Geology**, Hageman Wildlife Refuge, see www.friendsofhagerman.com for more details.


Texas A&M Agrilife
17360 Coit Road, Dallas
Phone: (972) 231-5362

Sep 4, 2013, **112 Vegetable Gardening - Fall**
Sep 17, 2013, **101 Landscape Basics**
Sep 17, 2013, **102 Lawn Care Maintenance**
Sep 19, 2013, **107 Saving from a Rainy Day - Making a Rain Barrel Class**
Oct 10, 2013, **114 - Composting**
Oct 15, 2013, **Controlling your Irrigation Controller**
Oct 17, 2013, **103 Trees for North Texas**

**Connemara Meadow Nature Preserve**, Alma, Rd. & Tatum (so. of Bethany), Allen

Sept. 7, Bird Walk with Rodney and Gailon, 8 to 11 a.m.
Sept. 7 & Oct. 5 , Astronomy Walk with Clyde Camp, 9 to 11 p.m., meet at Sun Creek Park parking lot near Connemara
Oct. 6, Bird Walk with Rodney and Gailon, 8 to 11 a.m.,
Oct. 12, Guided Meadow Walk with Rich Jaynes, 9 to 11 a.m.

Oct. 19, **Fossil Day** at Ladonia, TX (more info. to follow)