



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Agenda for June 9, 2016 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

I. Old Business

A. Amanda Chau – Nonprofit Corporation/501(c)3 Status Report:

- Mike contacted Michelle Haggerty and she suggested that we could contact Al Kirchner, a long-time TMN volunteer, who helped many chapters to get their 501(c)3 status. Al has agreed to help guide us this process.
- Before we can apply for 501(c)3, our chapter will be applying to be a nonprofit corporation in Texas. Heather Prestridge has agreed to be our registered agent. I checked and our name is available for us to use and completed Form 202. (I will send Form 202 in a separate email for the Board to review and approve.)
- We may have to re-do our EIN since we are changing from sole proprietor to nonprofit corporation and am waiting for Al for his advice.
- Once I have the Board approval, I will submit our paperwork online. Our application will be \$30 (\$25 filing fee plus \$5 online fee).
- After we have our formation paper, the next two steps are to apply for federal tax exemption 501(c)3 and state tax exemption.

II. New Business

- #### **A. Donell Frank - GC Butterfly Coordination Meeting Plans:** Jane Cohen who is with the A&M Garden Club. She is putting together this meeting along with help from me, I guess, and Barbara Willy the Monarch Gateway woman. The city of College Station is planning on hosting another Monarch workshop in August to make arrangements for the planting of wildflowers on the new 2 mile long walkway right off of highway 6 and Barron road in College Station. Jane contacted me because I told her we would like help with the plantings because that's what our members have been asking to do, get their hands dirty, so I kind of volunteered our chapter to help with that. She said since many of their members would not be able to actually do the manual work and she would greatly appreciate any help. This would also be a good opportunity for our chapter to talk with David Schmitz and reinforce our desire to have a place in the nature center at Lick Creek Park. He seemed open to the idea when I met with him last month.
- #### **B. Amanda Chau – Upcoming workshop(s):** We have scheduled a 6-hr Project WILD Educator workshop on Saturday, August 20, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Andrea Howard and I will be the facilitators for this workshop. Andrea also agrees to do a 3-hr GrowingUp WILD workshop if we want. Or, we can do a combo workshop on August 20 but it will be a 8 hr workshop which may be too long for a single day. I would like to discuss this with the Board and get final approval from the Board.

- C. Amanda Chau – Covering workshop fee for qualifying members: I would like to propose that our chapter will cover the workshop fee (registration and lunch) for TMN BV members who are up to-date in their dues, passed the background check, and plan to help with our outreach/volunteer events for youth in the future. Let's discuss this proposal at our Board meeting on Thursday.

III. Officer and Committee Reports

- A. President – Bruce Neville – Members are beginning to receive background check certification from the State Office. We requested and received some answers from the State Office about background checks. Basically:
If a member passes a background check, all is well. If a member fails a background check, they cannot be a member. If a member checks “no” for a background check, they can still be a member, but they cannot work with children, money, or State equipment.
The remaining question is, How do we identify those who have chosen not to have a background check to those coordinating volunteer projects, while protecting the privacy of the individuals?
The State Office has not provided an answer.
I participated in a State Representative conference call regarding planning for the State Meeting in October. The response for programs has been lower than normal. Chapters are asked to beat the bushes for programs for the State Meeting, and the deadline for proposals has been extended. I attended the June AgriLife Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) meeting.
- B. Vice President – Donell Frank –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of May 2016 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – As of 06/04/2016, we have a total of \$5085.33 in our account and 54 members who paid their 2016 membership dues.
- E. Committees
1. Immediate Past President, Olivia Ash –
 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair –
 - a. VMS is still giving us problems. My feeling is that members aren't submitting as many hours as they used to. Apparently this is happening in other chapters, too. Perhaps I need to give more instruction on how to use the system. Cheryl Foster, who is the TMN VMS trainer & supervisor assigned to our chapter, contacted me to say that Michelle Haggerty asked her to "audit" each chapter's VMS to make sure we are doing things correctly. I asked her to let us admins work with her list of issues (before she jumped in and made changes) so that we learn how to do things correctly. However, the Users Guide for Admins provided on the state website isn't always user-friendly.
 - b. Fourteen prospective trainees have inquired about the fall training class. Historically, about a third of these follow through.
 - c. Bruce asked the State Office our questions about background checks. The answer was informative, but didn't really answer our questions.
 - A. Archivist-Historian, vacant –
 - B. Data Manager, vacant -
 3. Advanced Training – Laura Biddle, Chair – Still waiting on a response from Terri regarding Stream Team Training being on Friday, June 24th instead of Saturday, June 25th. Currently placed on TMNBV calendar for Saturday; needs clarification on date and location of training. Our chapter will be hosting a 6-hr Project WILD Educator Workshop on Saturday, August 20, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. The workshop will be held at BRTC. We will post registration, cost, and other details of this workshop sometime next week. Stay tuned for more

information. Thank you Amanda for organizing this event.

The Monarch Habitat workshop on May 21st had a very good turnout. Thank you Donell for organizing this event.

Still receiving “unique” inquiries about AT events from members. I will send out the rules of what qualifies for AT again to help clarify.

4. Volunteer Service Projects – Steve Simcik, Chair –
5. Host – Deb Wilson, Chair – The social committee hasn't been social and I have no report for this month.
6. Communication and Outreach – Cheryl Lewis, Chair –
 - A. Webmaster – Carol Henrichs –
7. New Class Training – Mary Dabney Wilson, Chair –
8. New Class Representative, Denise Kieso –
9. Agrilife Advisor, Dusty Tittle –
10. Advisor, Heather Prestridge –
11. Program, Donell Frank – Fifty-seven people attended the Monarch workshop we had on May 21st at Carters Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in College Station!! Many thanks go to Cheryl Lewis on arranging for us to use that wonderful conference room. Many members from the El Camino Real chapter joined us as well as members from the A&M Garden Club, the City of Bryan and some people who heard Barbara Willy on the Skip Richter garden radio show on May 12th.

There will be another chance to go to a Monarch workshop later in the year. The city of College Station is planning on hosting another Monarch workshop in August to make arrangements for the planting of wildflowers on the new 2 mile long walkway right off of highway 6 and Barron road in College Station. Jane Cohen of the A&M Garden club contacted me because I told her we would like help with the plantings because that's what our members have been asking to do, get their hands dirty, so I kind of volunteered our chapter to help with that. She said since many of their members would not be able to actually do the manual work and she would greatly appreciate any help. This would also be a good opportunity for our chapter to talk with David Schmitz and reinforce our desire to have a place in the nature center at Lick Creek Park.

I will be attending a Monarch and Other Pollinators Habitat Coordination/Planning Meeting on July 29th at the USDA Building. We are gathering to discuss what's been done, plans of each group, how to network together. Learn more about each group to explore ways to involve residents/the community, to increase awareness about butterfly preservation and native plants for butterflies and other pollinators, and identify community partners for networking. Bruce will not be able to attend so I will need one more person to come and help me represent our TMN chapter.

Dr. Barron Rector has agreed to give a presentation for the July 14th meeting but I need a little help with what we think people want to learn about (grasses etc.) He asked me what I wanted him to present because he has a lot that he can talk about. I would also like to arrange a field trip for the month of July with Dr. Rector as well. He said he could take us out behind Easterwood airport for a field trip.

August 11th will be with Brian Robert with the TWA Conservation Legacy Programs.

September 8th - Dr. Mary Wicksten with a presentation of the Whiskey Bridge fossil beds. I also spoke to her about a Saturday field trip as well. She said that would be great and hopefully the river will be down so the fossil beds would be exposed.

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **TMN Summer/Fall Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
June 9, July 14 – Dr. Barron Rector, TBD, August 11 - Brian Robert, TWA Conservation Legacy Programs, September 8 - Dr. Mary Wicksten, Whiskey Bridge fossil beds, October 13, November 10
3. **Garden project at the City of College Station Community Services bldg** (1207 Texas Avenue.) Join Cheryl Lewis **on a Saturday** that works for you. 571-6448
4. Brazos County Health Department looking for committed volunteers to **host a Mosquito Ovitrap in their yard for a long term baseline study of Aedes mosquitoes** in BCS (V approved)
5. **Stream Team- Lick Creek Project:** sampling Lick Creek for water quality, Sat, June 11, 7:30 am, Equestrian Parking area. If you have not yet had your training, you are welcome to come and help.
6. **Basic stream team training (4 hours)**, Sat, June 25. Location and time TBD.
7. **Project WILD Workshop**, Humble, TX, Aug 20th. (AT approved; does not include travel time or break times). Preregistration is required.
8. **6-hr Project WILD Educator Workshop**, Sat, Aug 20, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, at BRTC.
9. **Master Naturalist 17th Annual Meeting, October 21-23**, LaTorretta, Lake Conroe