



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2014 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Attendance: Sarah Laughlin, Bruce Neville, Amanda Schwede, Amanda Chau, Joyce Conner, Cheryl Lewis, Olivia Ash, Betty Vermeire, Mike Conner, Jim Balthrop, Terry Junek, Teri Metcalf, Elrey Ash, Bob Presley, Molly Harris, Dusty Tittle, Steve Simcik.

Sarah called meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A. President - Sarah Laughlin – Dusty Tittle introduced himself. Began November 4. A. Chau will invite him to BVTMN Google groups. Defined Leadership Advisory Board-every county in Texas consists of chair-person of each functioning committee, i.e. BVTMN, Master Gardeners, etc., plus members at large meet five times a year. Members at large are expected to be less experienced with Extension. Does three major events a year-interpretation type event for one hour preceding commissioners report, annual banquet (second Monday of November), early December elected official event. Dr. Douglas Steele is Director. Leadership Advisor Board gets lots of support to provide events.
1. Turkey Creek Nature Preserve- Sarah sent an email out about it. New nature preserve prime to go up in Bryan. Train system. Local business man providing property to cover trail system that will cover Turkey Creek to the Brazos. Concrete or asphalt trails, the nature trails. Turkey Creek coalition. BVTMN has asked to be a partner to maintain their trails. Some is City property. On-going task for BVTMN-once a month, cleaning up trash, Audobon, Boy Scouts and others would also help. They would bring in consultants to help with trail-making. Contact from City of Bryan has been told he is required to make it happen. Businessman is fully supported. May be able to connect to Brazos in future. Before we commit, p/J. Conner, we have to work out liability first. Head business man is also working with the national parks systems. No projected time frame yet. J. Balthrop moved to tell them we were seconded.
 2. Projects with Master Gardeners- Molly became Master Gardener in 2009 to take care of plants for animals. President Master Gardeners this year. Plants and animals go hand-in-hand. Interested in same stuff, just different way of getting there. Both interested in informing the public. Molly sent out request of what plants Gardeners have planted and what they attract. She's kept a chart of plants and what they attract, such as milkweed attracting Monarchs and at least eight other species. About to change their butterfly garden and will add a butterfly wheel, passionate vine. Will probably be done this Fall. Trying to gear it toward dealing with kids. Wants to involve kids, junior Master Naturalists and junior Master Gardeners. Thins it's time for Master Gardeners and master Naturalists to start working together. Conservation is what both care about. And water conservation is too. Both have passion for education. Rather than preaching rainwater harvesting, come at water bill savings if done, rather than hitting people over the head. Molly is looking for advice, co-joint booths of Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists at events. Right now planning hardware of butterfly garden. Will look to Master Naturalists when time comes soon about what else to add and what else to plant.

3. Liability form for CS- been sent off to Michele. Sarah and Joyce are waiting for her response. Michele has sent it off to the legal side.
 4. Outreach Opportunity: request for a speaker at the UUCBV- For what we do. Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley. Sarah will send out an email with more information, asking for volunteers. Betty said state website has two PowerPoints that could be used.
- B.** Vice President - Bruce Neville – May is covered (Mark Suter-Edible Wild Plants); working on June.
- C.** Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of Mar 2014 meeting minutes
- D.** Treasurer- Amanda Chau –44 members paid/active to date; \$3636.46
- E.** Committees
1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – Jan (333.7 V/42 AT), Feb (454.3 V/36 AT), March (244.25 V/21 AT); first quarter (1032.25 V/109 AT)
 3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair –
 4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
 5. Host/Social – Melissa Kamerbeek and Jim Balthrop, Co-Chairs –
 6. Historian – Terry Junek, Chair –
 7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair –
 8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –
 9. New Member Training – Olivia Ash, Chair –

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.