



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2016 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Attendance: Amanda Chau, Mary Dabney Wilson, Donell Frank, Cheryl Lewis, Sue McBeth Welfel, Bruce Neville, Ginny Reese, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermeire, Deb Wilson.

Bruce Neville brought the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

We had a most successful Texas Trash-Off Day. Bruce said Heather Prestridge has asked that we do another area ground clean-up at the BRTC. Do we want to try to schedule a work date? Donell suggested a Wednesday or Thursday. Next Friday is the official Earth Day. Decided meeting next Wednesday or Thursday, April 20th or 21st, depending on the day Heather will stay late. Staggered arrival of volunteers based on end of work day works well. Bruce will send out an email once arranged.

Bruce thinks it's a cool idea to have a BVTMN tri-fold display and that we are working on a new one. He went by Brison Park and did not see any signs. Amanda Chau has emailed the contact about the signage.

Betty sent out an email on membership.

People need to RSVP to Laura Biddle about attending the TMPA field trip this Saturday.

Steve Simcik has gone through VMS training for entering volunteer training. Betty will send him information and he will begin entering it so that members can report hours. Betty said some additional training and coaching for membership may be necessary, due to the number of inaccuracies in membership reporting. Deb Wilson suggested resending previous types of emails, where specific AT and volunteer training hours were listed – This may encourage correct reporting in future. Steve clarified that FR stands for field research. Donell liked how Amanda Chau emailed specifics on how to report the Texas Trash-Off volunteer hours. Betty requested that Laura and Steve email her when they have entered new opportunities so that she can be on the look-out for them. Betty also said that once someone passes a background check, supposedly a copy of the certification card is sent via email or snail mail. There are not checks and balances if someone does not pass the background check. Amanda Chau said the Blackland Chapter does not allow their members to participate in ANYTHING if they do not pass the background check. Betty said she will check. Under the old rules, a concealed handgun license meant a person could pass a background check. Not anymore. TPWD is now performing them free of charge.

Betty said we have had eight inquiries about the Fall training class. Bruce said someone had also contacted her with an interest. Betty will put the registration form on the website.

Cheryl Lewis came up with an idea for the BVTMN tri-fold and passed it around. Includes our purpose and what we're trying to do, education, outreach, service, natural areas, and natural resources. It will be Velcro-type so that information and pictures can be updated. Bruce will put out a call for the junior master naturalist position so that we can re-activate our education piece. Cheryl is looking for pictures for the tri-fold. So please email them to her.

Cheryl passed around some of the information she will use at outreach events, such as Earth Day. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for Earth Day. She needs to schedule a work day at the waste water treatment plant.

Mary Dabney Wilson will check on who did the Park Hudson signage that we contributed verbiage to but that we did not get credit for.

Mary also confirmed a calendar for the Fall training class speakers. Next thing is someone from the committee to contact hosts for the training days and speakers. Bruce said the new curriculum will probably be out in June. And there will now likely be a pre- and post- test.

Bruce said Mike Stecher has asked him for the name of a suggested agent for the 5013c application. Bruce asked Heather Prestridge and she agreed.

Donell asked if we could apply for the monarch grant that Betty emailed. Mary said we are non-profit, but not a 5013c. Donell said we could partner with another organization that had 5013c status. It was decided the deadline (April) was too late this time.

Donell said she got Brian Robert (L.A.N.D.S. guy) to agree to be the speaker for August. Mary suggested contacting Dr. Stephen Quiring from TAMU-Geography, who can present on Texas weather and climate. Mary will email information to Donell.

Donell asked if there was a plan for BioBlitz. There is not one because we are not participating this year.

Deb Wilson moved to approve March minutes with one correction. Amanda Chau seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Amanda Chau moved to adjourn. Cheryl Lewis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.