

**Brazos Valley Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist
Minutes of Chapter Meeting October 13, 2011**

Attendees: Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Dwight Bohlmeier, Lynn Braswell, Amanda Chau, Jim Cummings, Lisa Davenport, Jackie Girouard, Linda Jones, Madge Luquette, Charlene Lusk, Bruce Neville, Chris Northcliffe, Christy Northcliffe, Jackie Palmer, Jean Paul, Barbara Pritchard, Jay Pritchard, Janet Quiram, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermeire, Randy Williams.
Guest: Ro Wauer

President Steve Simcik called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Reports:

Secretary: The September minutes were moved for approval by Amanda Chau and seconded by Jackie Girouard; passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Charlene Lusk reported that the current balance is \$5,632.62. Recent deposits totaled \$444.00; of this, \$424.00 was for shirts, \$15.00 dues, and \$5.00 donation.

Outreach: No report.

Training: Amanda Chau reported that the current Training Class was going well. President Steve thanked Amanda for all her hard work on the chapter polo shirts.

Membership: Betty Vermeire reported that 22 members submitted hours for September. Forty-four have turned in hours during 2011. So far this year, Three members have certified, seven have re-certified, three have achieved the 250 lifetime volunteer hours milestone and two have reached 500.

Advanced Training: Randy reported, "Quiet." Dwight Bohlmeier said there was a Houston Museum of Natural History field trip on Sunday, October 16 to the (Little?) Brazos River to collect fossils. He corrected the ID of the cephalopod fossil found on the class field trip to the Little Brazos.

Dwight also reminded us about a talk at Blinn on Tuesday, October 20 by ____ speaking on ____.
He had sent an e-mail about it.

Volunteer: Jay Pritchard reminded us about gardening at the Johnson Elementary (?) School the afternoon of Saturday, October 15.

BVSWMA sent an e-mail soliciting our entry into the Christmas Parade with a float made of trash. Discussion ensued pro and con. Steve suggested a committee to come up with a design and explore possibilities; Olivia Ash volunteered to "help" if others are interested.

Steve thanked all who volunteered at the BVSWMA Household Hazardous Waste Collection and at Boonville Days.

Steve also recommunicated with the person who asked us to have a table at the Farmers' Market. It will be November 5.

Jay asked us to pick up trash on the Brazos Center Trail whenever we can. He also mentioned that he had pictures (and GPS coordinates?) of the marked plants at the Trail before the markers had to be removed and also the plants at the Park Hudson Trail.

The College Station Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be December 17. Time spent in the field qualifies as volunteer hours. You don't have to be a birder to participate, as you can still spot birds or be the scribe.

Deborah sometimes needs help at the Museum with school classes and such (who said this?).

Social: Chris & Christy Northcliffe will host the Chapter at their Hill Country property the weekend of November 12. Those interested can camp out on their property on Friday night. They have arranged tours of Hamilton Preserve at 9am Saturday and Westcave Preserve at 11am, entry fee of \$5/person. Reimers Ranch can also be visited. BBQ at their property will follow. Let them know by the first week of November if you are interested in attending.

Jackie Palmer reported that four people attended the last social at the turf farm in Burleson County to walk around on a beautiful evening.

Historian: Photos were requested from each TMN chapter for the slide show at the Annual Meeting; Terry Juneke sent 20.

Dwight also commented on the AgriLife Extension elected officials luncheon in December; our Chapter gave a \$250 donation. Dwight asked Steve if he had received the request for nominations for Volunteer of the Year and sent it to the group. (Dwight received this award last year.).

Old Business

The museum projector has not arrived yet.

New Business

Amanda Chau requested that the Advanced Training and Social Committees continue to serve for snacks and speakers through the January chapter meeting and then let the new committees take over. Jackie Girouard suggested that at that meeting the committees get together to meet and discuss their functions. (Note: this is what we used to do). Someone suggested that Jimmie Killingsworth play music at the January meeting.

A motion for adjournment was offered at 7:12 pm by Amanda Chau and seconded by Jean Paul. It was approved by all as they shot out the door in the direction of the snack room.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Craig Wilson of the USDA, "Monarch Butterflies" with emphasis on the new People's Garden with butterfly garden, pocket prairie, and pond. It is located behind the USDA building on Holleman Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Vermeire, acting Secretary for the evening