



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2012
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

Attendance-Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Jo Anne Bates, Laura Biddle, Dwight Bohlmeier, Amanda Chau, Joy Conner, Mike Conner, Jim Cummings, Lisa Davenport, Jackie Girouard, Michelle Henson, Linda Jones, Sarah Laughlin, Cheryl Lewis, Madge Luquette, Charlene Lusk, Bruce Merryman, Bruce Neville, Jean Paul, Barbara Pritchard, Jay Pritchard, Janet Quiram, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Punnee Soonthornpoch, Cynthia Stephens, Mary Dabney Wilson

- I. Lisa Davenport brought to order at 6:30 PM.** She mentioned this meeting was the start of the year and kick off for committees.. Thanked Steve Simcik for serving as the 2011 BVTMN President. Introduced other officers (VP Janet Quiraam, Treasurer Charlene Lusk, Secretary Amanda Schwede).
- II. Officer and Committee Reports**
- A. President – Lisa Davenport – see above
 - B. Vice President – Janet Quiram -
 - C. Secretary – Amanda Schwede -
 - 1. Sign in
 - 2. Jackie Girourd moved to approve December 2011 holiday social minutes. Jay Pritchard seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - D. Treasurer – Charlene Lusk - \$4600.42 in treasury. Dues (\$15 per person) for 2012 can be paid today, cash or check.
 - E. Outreach – needs chair -
 - F. Training – Bruce Neville, Chair - b2neville@gmail.com
 - G. Membership – Betty Vermiere, Chair (bavermeire@suddenlink.net) -
 - H. Advanced Training –Jim Anding, Chair (kittyoncole@msn.com) -
 - I. Volunteer Service Project – needs chair -
 - J. Host/Social – [needs chair \(Jackie Palmer \(drjspalmer@gmail.com\)\)](mailto:drjspalmer@gmail.com) will help here after work settles down the 1st week of Feb.) -
 - K. Historian – Terry Junek, Chair -

L. Web – Amanda Chau, Chair (amanda.chau@blinn.edu) -

M. Program – Janet Quiram, VP and Chair -

III. Old Business

- A. Nametags ordered were distributed by Kitty Anding (\$6.00 fee for replacements paid to BVTMN). 2011 new class members received theirs and did not need to pay.
- B. Yellow 4H form for background check (\$10) to work with underage children. Dwight Bohlmeier will find out from Eric if the same ones used for Boy Scouts and teachers are okay or if we still need separate form and fee. Dwight will send out by email.
- C. Projector arrived at end of training last Fall but was defective and sent back to manufacturer. Lisa Davenport will find out from Debra Cowman where it's at.

IV. New Business

A. Suggested business meeting alternatives

- 1. Suggestion one: Board meetings held to discuss most of business we have been taking care of in our regular meetings. Could be held before regular meetings/another day. Everyone still welcome at board meetings so if anyone wanted to be a part of the decision making process they could attend the board meetings. Agenda could be sent out to all members so everyone would know what was being discussed. If there is a matter that the general membership needs to have a say in, it could be handled in a brief business session during our regular meeting. If the business of the chapter is conducted in that manner the business part of the regular meeting should take no more than 15 or 20 minutes. Bruce Neville said a previous attendee came to a meeting for an hour and left because the speaker didn't arrive when she thought, i.e. at the beginning.
- 2. Suggestion two: Change order of our meetings. Have speaker first and business meeting after refreshments. Speakers generally like to come early to set up equipment and then they have to sit around for an hour while we have our business meeting and 30 more minutes for refreshments. If they were to speak first the speaker could join us for refreshments, if he/she so chose, and answer member's questions or respond to comments during that time instead of having to extend the length of the meeting. Jim Anding suggested the speaker first, then snacks, and finally short meeting. Jo Anne Bates suggested separate board meetings. Jean Paul said we don't want to lose the public because they're invited. Jo Anne Bates moved to have board meetings when the president chooses and just have a short business meeting before each month's meeting. Board meetings open to all BVTMN. Seconded by Bruce Neville. Secretary will send out board meeting agenda via email. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Suggestion three: The refreshments can be served even before the speaker, while he/she is getting set up. Refreshments at 6:30. Speaker at 7:00. Business, if any, at 8:00.

B. Google groups and TXMN.org websites - Amanda Chau and Kitty Anding

- 1. Amanda Chau said BVTMN Google groups is for announcements. TMN websites have a lot of information, both TMN and BVTMN. Statewide listserv. Send opportunities you find out about to volunteer chair or advanced training chair (and committees) for review, approval, and then dissemination to Google groups.
- 2. Password to txmn.org/brazos is bvCrittter\$ and the password to our Google Group is your own Gmail account password. If you do not have a gmail account, you will not be able to access our Google Group. Dwight Bohlmeier's calendar and our BVTMN pamphlet can be downloaded from our website. 2012 chairs and committees will be posted on website. Email questions about access to BVTMN website to Amanda Chau. Amanda Chau will put together a step by step document and send it out on how to access both.

- C. Jay Pritchard -1. In the buy laws is the indication that work done on ones own property can not be counted as service. Work done on public property would in reality be this because it belongs to everyone. Work on ones own property should be OK if it is part of a larger program. 2. The Sam Houston Council of the Boy Scouts would like us to volunteer for work on summer camps (from Michelle Haggerty) and counts as volunteer hours. Today's meeting can be counted as one volunteer hour. Bruce Neville pointed out committee service counts as volunteer hours. Committee meetings depend on each committee, i.e. as needed, face to face, and/or by email.
- D. Awarding pins for milestone hours-tabled until February meeting
- E. ~7:15/7:30 PM Contra Band – Jimmie Killingsworth
 - 1. Snacks and committee sign-up portion
 - A. Program Committee is new and chaired by vice president. Sets up monthly meeting speakers, field trips; can work with advanced training committee if need be. Let Janet Quiram know if you're interested in hearing someone speak or want to hear about a certain topic.

V. Announcements

A. Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. TMN Spring Meeting Schedule: (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)

February 9	April 12
March 8	May 10

2. 2012 TMN State Conference

3. Monthly Meeting speakers:

- A. February 9-- Blake Alldredge of Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been working with land owners in the Trinity Basin. He will present the program entitled "All Things Trinity, All Things Conservation."
- B. March 8—Dr. James Derr will present "American Bison: The Ultimate Survivor" (Dwight made these arrangements---Thank you, Dwight)
- C. April 12—Jim Cathey will present a program on wildlife conservation, but final commitment has not been completed

4. 2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series (count as Advanced Training credit)

<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> to log on to the live webinars.

For more information contact:

Courtney Brittain, Texas Wildlife Association, Education Program Coordinator

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January 19 - Prescribed Burning for Wildlife, Dale Rollins

February 16 * Feral Hogs, Billy Higginbotham

March 15 * Pond Management, Michael Masser

April 19 * Riparian Management 201, Sky Lewey

May 17 * Integrating Cattle and Wildlife on Small Acreage, Larry Pierce

June 21 * Ranch Photography for Fun and Profit, John Martin

July 19 * West Texas Wildlife Management, Louis Harveson

August 16 * Rainwater Harvesting, Billy Kniffen

September 20 * Deer Nutritional Requirements & Implications for Management, Dave Hewitt

October 18 * Native Prairie Restoration, Forrest Smith

November 15 * Endangered Species Management, Brian Hays

December 20 * Forestry Management for Wildlife, Chris Comer

5. Go Fish! Learn-to-Fish Event Volunteers Needed

Did you make a new years resolution to volunteer more with Angler Education? Well here is your chance!

What: Go Fish! Learn-to-Fish Event (open to general public)

When: Saturday, Jan 14th

Time: Event time 9 am * Noon, volunteers please arrive at 7:30am

Where: Central Park Pond #1, College Station. This is a Neighborhood Fishing Lake (stocked!)

Directions: Take Harvey Road exit off Hwy 6 East Bypass and continue south on the service road. Park entrance is on the right just past Krenek Tap Road.

If you are interested and available to volunteer at this event please contact Jeff Akers, (713) 806-4981 or jakers@sheldon.k12.tx.us

VI. Amanda Chau moved to adjourn. Joyce Conner seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.