



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for February 9, 2012
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

I. Welcome

II. Officer and Committee Reports

A. President – Lisa Davenport

1. The Brazos Valley Farmers' Market celebrates Valentine's Day on February 11. The Master Naturalists are invited to have a booth at the event, at which we expect a larger-than-normal turnout. A singer-songwriter will perform 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., and Friends of the Market are planning children's activities, including a virtual scavenger hunt, face painting, and newspaper seedling pots. In fact, the Naturalists are welcome to use or share the Friends' booth space, table and canopy. We just ask that you arrive not later than 8:30 a.m, when the market visitorship starts to peak. We will be there at 7:30 a.m. If you would like to help set up our booth with your materials, you are more than welcome. Please let me know so that we can plan accordingly. Best regards, Jan Gerston

B. Vice President – Janet Quiram

1. We would like to invite the Brazos County Master Naturalists to be part of our Spring Festival. The Master Gardener's will have a booth, and we would love to have the Master Naturalists too. There is no charge for the event for vendors or guests.

Jon Mondrik
St. Andrew's Spring Festival, co-chair

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Spring Festival

Growing Hope for the Community

Saturday, March 3, 2012; 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's parking lot at 217 W. 26th Street in downtown Bryan

St. Andrew's is partnering with Keep Brazos Beautiful to offer a green-themed festival, which will include:

- Free, eco-friendly activities and games for kids
- Brazos Valley Farmer's Market and an arts and crafts fair offering local, home-grown produce and handmade products for sale
- Live-insects booth from Texas A&M University's Department of Entomology
- A booth staffed with Brazos County Master Gardeners answering questions about gardening
- Booths offering information about other local community outreach organizations
- Giveaways of environmentally friendly items as quantities last

Madden's Street Cuisine, Chef Tai Mobile Gourmet and Cake Junkie food trucks will set up in the church parking lot to sell gourmet food to the public.

St. Andrew's will provide free snacks to children under the age of 12. Supplies are limited, so come early.

Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win gardening equipment and tools and other eco-friendly items, which will all be on display during the festival.

Visit St. Andrew's website www.standrewsbcs.org.

C. Secretary – Amanda Schwede

1. Sign in
2. Approval of January 2012 meeting minutes

D. Treasurer – Charlene Lusk

E. Outreach – Cheryl Lewis, Chair (cheryl77845@yahoo.com)

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) - BVTMN participating in the festival in Rockdale

I. Volunteer Service Project – Jay Pritchard, Chair (MoPWatcher@aol.com)

J. Host/Social – Olivia Ash and Kara Rosch, Co-chairs (eandoash@msn.com; kara.rosch@blinn.edu)

K. Historian – Terry Junek, Chair

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

M. Program – Janet Quiram, Chair (janetqm@suddenlink.net)

III. Old Business

- A. Nametag orders from late last year to distribute - Kitty Anding (~\$6.00 fee to order replacement)
- B. Texas Nature Trackers Program - been involved in Mussel Watch and Amphibian Watch in past. Perhaps it is a good time to have a refresher course

IV. New Business

- A. Google groups and TXMN.org websites - Amanda Chau and Kitty Anding
- B. TMN background check - Should the chapter pay for this? Or, should individual members who plan to work with youth pay for this? This issue has been discussed at the meetings as well as via emails at least twice now. I think we need to make a decision ASAP. Information on youth protection standard http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/agent_yps_Volunteer_application/background_check_form http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/files/2011/12/membership_vol_background_check.pdf
- C. Applying for non-profit status - Is it time for TMN-BV to change our status from “not-for-profit” to “non-profit”? This will save us money when we have to purchase materials, supplies, equipment...etc. I understand that Jim Waldson has completed almost all the legal paper work to get our status change a number of years ago. The only problem back then was our financial records. Is it time for us to look into this again?

- D. Betty Vermeire-pins and Certification Certificates** (6 Certification Certificates and Pins, 28 Recertification Pins for 2011 (Horned Lizard), 4 250 Hours Pins, 2 500 Hours Pins, 2 1000 Hours Pins)
- 1. Certified: all Class of 2010:** Olivia Ash, Ray Frisbie, Bruce Neville, Janet Quiram, Kara Rosch
 - 2. Recertified:** Class of 2005 (Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, JoAnne Bates, Dwight Bohlmeier, Madge Luquette, Jane Packard, Jean Paul), Class of 2007 (Jackie Girouard, Terry Juneke, Charlene Lusk, Jackie Palmer, Betty Vermeire, Mary Dabney Wilson), Class of 2008 (Amanda Chau, Lisa Davenport, Molly Harris, Jay Pritchard), Class of 2009 (Liz Crompton, Steve Simcik, Randy Williams, Marilyn Yeager)
- A. Milestones:** 250 Hours (Jackie Girouard, Jean Paul, Jay Pritchard, Mary Dabney Wilson), 500 Hours (Molly Harris (received pin at Annual Meeting), Madge Luquette), 1000 Hours (Kitty Anding)

V. Announcements

A. Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

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

March 8	May 10
April 12	June 14

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—TBA

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
 2800 NE Loop 410, Ste. 105; San Antonio, TX 78218
 (210) 826-2904 ext. 122, (210) 826-4933 – fax, (210) 393-3467 - mobile
www.texas-wildlife.org, cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org

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. Global Amphibian Crisis: Dr. Michael Lannoo @ the Houston Zoo- March 9, 2012! (This program has been approved for AT credit.)

Description: Michael J. Lannoo, Ph. D Friday March 9, 2012 at the Houston Zoo Brown

Education Center

A Window into the Global Amphibian Crisis: Discovering the Biology of North America's Most Secretive Frog as it Approaches Extinction. - Featuring Dr. Michael Lannoo . Indiana University School of Medicine

Fellow Houstonians, the Crawfish frog is one of the most elusive and cryptic amphibians in our state, and little is known about them in Texas. Associated with crawfish burrows and tall grass prairies throughout their range, this species may be disappearing along with our vibrant Coastal prairies. If you are an amphibian, prairie, or environmental enthusiast you must not miss this presentation! Dr. Lannoo's love for this species shines through and his enthusiasm is truly infectious. Even the most hardened character cannot help but fall in love with this mysterious little frog.

"Whether as author, university professor, muddled researcher in a marsh, featured Discovery.com expert talking with kids about amphibian declines, or opponent in the political arena with Minnesota Governor Jesse "The Body" Ventura regarding the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's plan to drop funding for most deformed frog research, Dr. Michael "The Thinker" Lannoo loses no opportunity to go to the mat for amphibians." -Chicago Field Museum

Crawfish Frogs, a Texas native species, have been described as the most secretive frogs in North America. For the past three years Dr. Lannoo and his graduate students have been undertaking a variety of exciting and ground breaking projects designed to learn the important aspects of the population biology and landscape use of this unusual animal in the grasslands of Indiana. The ultimate goal is to manage this species to prevent its extinction. In 2001, Dr. Lannoo was awarded the Parker/Gentry Award for Excellence and Innovation in Conservation Biology by the Field Museum of Natural History, in Chicago. This award honors "an outstanding individual, team or organization whose efforts are distinctive and courageous and have had a significant impact on preserving the world's natural heritage, and whose actions and approaches can serve as a model to others."

Description: <http://www.houstonzoo.org/attachments/wysiwyg/50848/crawfishfrog.jpg>

Purchase tickets:

\$10 Students(ID required), Seniors (65 and over) and Children (12 years and over).

\$12 for Zoo Members

\$18 for non-members

Refreshments included in price of ticket.

BUY TICKETS NOW: <http://www.houstonzoo.org/lectureseries/>

Questions? Email us at conservation@houstonzoo.org

Photo courtesy of SFA student and herpetologist Scott Wahlberg, 2011.

One of only a handful of Crawfish frog sightings in Texas in the last couple of decades.

6. Spring 2012 Applied Biodiversity Science Seminar Series (This program has been approved for AT credit.)

The ABS Program sponsors a speaker series each semester that features practitioners and scholars in the field of conservation science from Texas A&M or invited from other institutions. As part of the series, we also organize Cross-Pollination Workshops that provide an open forum for ABS faculty and students to showcase their research and receive feedback from multidisciplinary perspectives.

Date and
Time

Location Title

Speaker

Jan. 26, 2012 4-5pm	401 RDER	Natural History, Aesthetics, and Conservation (more info)	Dr. Harry Greene, Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University (website)
Jan. 27, 2012 12-1pm	308 NGLE	Pleistocene Re-wilding: Lions in a Den of Daniels? (more info)	Dr. Harry Greene, Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University (website)
Feb. 23, 2012 4-5pm	215 ANIN	Texas Water Wars: Interactions of Science, Policy, and Politics to Determine If There Will be Water for Nature (more info)	Dr. Kirk Winemiller, Regents Professor, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University (website)
Mar. 23-24, 2012	213 NGLE	13th Annual Ecological Integration Symposium (website)	Visit the EIS website for a full list of speakers
Mar. 27, 2012 4-5pm	501 RDER	Personhood, Memory, and Elephant Management (more info)	Dr. Gary Varner, Professor and Interim Head, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University (website)
Apr. 11, 2012 4-5pm	TBD	*Earth Stewardship: Sustainability Strategies for a Rapidly Changing Planet (more info)	Dr. F. Stuart Chapin, III, Professor Emeritus of Ecology, Department of Biology and Wildlife, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks (website)
Apr. 27, 2012 12-1pm	TBD	Assessing Social Carrying Capacity on Texas Inland Waterways (more info)	Dr. Gerard Kyle, Associate Professor, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences, Texas A&M University (website)

7. Master Naturalists sought for assistance and support of Scout Programs

Hello Brazos Valley, Cinco Tierra, Piney Wood Lakes, Hays County, Coastal Prairie, Heartwood, Lindheimer and Gulf Coast Chapters:

Your local areas were specifically mentioned in the message below--Please contact Jerrel Geisler for more information on this opportunity in your local chapter area. (Contact info below)

Jerrel Geisler <jerrelgeisler@sbcglobal.net> 1/9/2012 2:30 PM >>>

As well as being a Master Naturalist, I serve on the Conservation Committee for the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout of America. One of the roles I am serving is a liaison for Master Naturalist Chapters for this committee.

I am sending this to you, to send out to a portion of the Texas Master Naturalist

(TMN) Chapters. We may have made this request before but I am reinstating our efforts to seek help.

We are seeking TMN Chapters or members who have or would like to help our at our Council owned properties and where available, to join our committee. While one role of our committee is to provide for the awarding of environmental awards to various levels of Scouts and Scout programs within the Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC), namely the William T. Hornaday Awards, we also deal with educating local camp and summer camp staff on Texas natural issues at SHAC properties and also range, wildlife and habitat conservation for those properties.

I am looking for TMN members who are seeking volunteer opportunities and may have been scouts themselves (Boy or Girl) in their youth, please forward this information to them and they may contact me to find what the various needs may be. We have had members from the Hays County or Lindheimer Chapters help us out a couple years ago with Summer Camp preparation. The assistance was well received and we are seeking more help for this summer and at some of our other camps, for various needs.

Potential needs for the SHAC Properties include; El Rancho Cima - near Wimberly, Texas, adjacent to Hays and Comal Counties; Camp Bovay - near Navasota, Texas; Camp Brosig - near Sealy, Texas and Camp Strake - near Conroe and the Woodlands, Texas. We also meet on a monthly basis at the SHAC Headquarters in Houston. Also, if there are members who are currently working with scouting units within these areas, we would like to know as well.

Please pass this along to members and Chapters on your listserve, or forward to someone who can. Thank you for your time,

Jerrel Geisler, CIG
Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout of America
Conservation Committee
jerrelgeisler@sbcglobal.net
281-467-2259

Texas Master Naturalist Gulf Coast Chapter

9. Preapproved AT credit program.

For questions contact Marsha May (contact info listed below)

Freshwater Unionid Symposium and Workshop
University of Texas at Tyler
Tyler, Texas
16 - 17 March 2012

TPWD and several mussel researchers are organizing a one day unionid (freshwater mussel) symposium for anyone involved or interested in Texas unionid research on Friday, 16 March 2012, 9:00AM to 5:00PM with a social following. The goal of this symposium is to share ongoing unionid research and discuss important issues. A Texas unionid identification workshop will be held the following day on Saturday, 17 March 2012, 10:00AM to 5:00PM.

At the symposium, there will be up to fourteen 20-minute time slots available for sharing research. If you would like to present your research, please send a description of your research in 200 words or less along with your contact information to Marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us by 5pm on 29 February 2012.

Space is limited, so registration will be required for both the symposium and workshop. There is no cost for the symposium but there will be a \$10 fee per person for materials for the identification workshop. This fee will be collected on the day of the workshop. The workshop will have beginning and advanced components.

Please contact me if you have any questions and to register.

Marsha E. May
Texas Nature Trackers
Wildlife Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744
(512.389.8062)
marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Master Naturalist Gulf Coast Chapter

10. This counts as Volunteer Hours (environment) for TMN folks.



Publicizing the Great Backyard Bird Count

Please invite your members and the public to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Gary Langham, Audubon's Chief Scientist, says, "This count is so much fun because anyone can take part--we all learn and watch birds together--whether you are an expert, novice, or feeder watcher. I like to invite new birders to join me and share the experience. Get involved, invite your friends, and see how your favorite spot stacks up."

Feel free to use the text below in your Chapter newsletters, websites, or other publications, and see <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for more ideas and resources to spread the word.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a great way to learn about and enjoy your local birds, engage with family and friends, and join thousands across the country in submitting observations to the GBBC database. Simply count any birds you observe in your backyard, local park or other location for just 15 minutes on one or more days between February 17 and 20, and report your findings online at <http://birdcount.org>. Learn more about participating in the GBBC at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html>. If an Audubon Center is nearby (see <http://www.audubon.org/search-by-zip>), invite a friend or relative to join you there. Share your GBBC experience throughout your social networks; for Twitter, use #gbbc.

9. The Brazos Valley Earth Day Committee cordially invites you to participate in the 17th Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival. This year's event is scheduled for April 21st, 2012 at Wolf Pen Creek. The event aims to celebrate and promote environmental programs and services throughout our community. In addition to numerous educational opportunities, the festival will include entertainment, children's activities, free refreshments, and this event's first *After Hours Concert* featuring **Vocal Trash!**

As a participant, area residents will have the opportunity to visit your booth to ask questions, gather information, and view demonstrations. **Each booth will include one 8-foot table and two chairs.** You will need to provide your own table covering and tent.

Your organization is welcome to distribute any business-related literature and/or incentives, but may not sell merchandise or solicit donations of any kind unless you have been approved as a *vendor by the committee. To apply as a *vendor (this includes food services), please notify Heather Qualls by replying to this email.

Your table will be available for set up at 9:00 am with the event beginning at 11 am. To save paper and time, register online > <http://cstx.gov/index.aspx?recordid=186&page=3086>

Please reserve your booth space by completing the online form by Friday, March 30, 2012.

*Vendor - Organization or business *selling* items *Exhibitor - Organization or businesses *not selling* items

Additional Earth Day information may be found online at www.brazosvalleyearthday.com, this website will be updated periodically as the event nears! If you are interested in being a sponsor of this year's event please let us know!!

Heather L. Qualls O 979.764.6229 | C - 979.561.6003

11. TEXAS BRIGADES TAKES CAMP IN NEW DIRECTION Waterfowl Presents New Possibilities For Future - Contact: Helen Holdsworth, 855-TXBRIG

San Antonio, Texas-The Texas Brigades is gearing up for the newest addition to their family, the Waterfowl Brigade. The camp will start this summer near Palestine, Texas. It will focus on teaching youth about managing land to benefit various waterfowl species and the importance of wetlands management.

The Texas Brigades hosts five camps each summer: two Buckskin Brigades, two Bobwhite Brigades, Bass Brigade and its newest addition, Waterfowl Brigade. The deadline for applying is March 15, 2012.

Participants must be between 13 and 17 years of age, and submit a complete application for consideration. Camp dates and locations are as follows: South Texas Buckskin located on the Southern Star Ranch in Uvalde, June 3-7; Rollins Plains Bobwhite located at Centennial Lodge in Coleman, June 16-20; South Texas Bobwhite located on the 74 Ranch in Campbellton, June 24-28; Bass Brigade located on the Warren Ranch in Santa Anna, July 15-19; North Texas Buckskin located on the Stasney's Cook Ranch in Albany, July 15-19; and finally Waterfowl Brigade located at the Big Woods on the Trinity in Tennessee Colony, July 22-26.

The Texas Brigades* mission is to educate and empower youths with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy.

I feel that the launch of the Waterfowl Brigade is a great and needed step in expanding the reach of the Texas Brigades, said former Brigades cadet Josh Pearson. *It will open new doors for them to new ideas.*The Texas Brigades was established in 1993 by Dr. Dale Rollins, Extension Wildlife Specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension, who came up with the idea for the Brigades as a way to expand Extension's educational efforts by developing wildlife ambassadors. "I think waterfowl is a good way to reach more kids, and I think the Texas Brigades has a lot of resources that can help make it a success," said Sarah Coffey, former cadet, "Also, since they [ducks] require a different habitat, it is a good way to learn about another ecosystem."

Not only is the Texas Brigades looking for cadets this up and coming summer but they are also looking for adult volunteers who are interested in participating and would like to gain the Texas Brigades experience. For more information, call 855-TXBRIGS, 210-556-1391 or log on to www.texasbrigades.org.

12. TMN Chapters needed as TPWD Texas Nature Tracker Partners!

Contact Marsha May for more information marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Master Naturalist Chapters needed as TPWD Texas Nature Tracker Partners!

Did you know that as a Texas Nature Tracker Partner, your chapter members would not only gain those much needed volunteer hours but also contribute to Texas wildlife conservation?

A Texas Nature Tracker partnership involves train the trainer workshops for monitoring amphibians, freshwater mussels, black-tailed prairie dogs, Texas horned lizards and turtles taught by TPWD biologists. Your chapter can choose which watch program/s you would like participate. These workshops also count as advanced training. Regional trainings for adjacent chapters can also be arranged.

Participating chapters are then asked to take this knowledge into the field and monitor local species as well as offer outreach opportunities for the local community. These outreach opportunities can be as simple as inviting folks in the community to join you during a monitoring event. Monitoring and other events that your chapter may choose to do as a partner would count toward your volunteer service requirements too.

Please contact me if your chapter is interested and I will send you more information. Our spring schedule is filling quickly.

I look forward to working with you.

Marsha E. May

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<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker>

13. Bioblitz will be April 27 & 28