



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

Attendance-Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Jo Anne Bates, Dwight Bohlmeier, Amanda Chau, Andrew Chow, Joy Conner, Mike Conner, Elizabeth Crompton, Jim Cummings, Lisa Davenport, Molly Harris, Michelle Henson, Terry Juneke, Sarah Laughlin, Cheryl Lewis, Madge Luquette, Charlene Lusk, Bruce Neville, Barbara Pritchard, Jay Pritchard, Janet Quiram, Kara Rosch, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Cynthia Stephens, Libby Vastano, Betty Vermeire, Mary Dabney Wilson, **Guests:** Melissa Kamerbelh

- I. **Lisa Davenport brought to order at 5:34 PM.** Brazos Valley Farmers' Market February 11 wants BVTMN to have booth 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Cheryl Lewis will bring to general meeting this evening. Would be volunteer and outreach.
- II. **Officer and Committee Reports**
 - A. President – Lisa Davenport – see above
 - B. Vice President – Janet Quiram - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Spring Festival wants BVTMN to have booth March 3, 2012; 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Would be volunteer.
 - C. Secretary – Amanda Schwede – Requested everyone sign in. Passed out original committee sign-up sheets to chairs. L. Davenport said anyone can join a committee at any time but to contact the chair. Requested approval of January meeting minutes. B. Neville moved to approve. A. Chau seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - D. Treasurer – Charlene Lusk – Balance as of February 8, 2012 was \$4829.67 in treasury. 24 members paid dues in January.
 - E. Outreach – Cheryl Lewis – Wanted to know what the outreach committee does. L. Davenport said details of committees can be found on the TMN website. Many details can be found in announcements. Articles in paper, contact at *The Eagle* (need peer review articles before submitting)-when birds are migrating would make a good article, like drought survival program article last week but with more detail. B. Vermeire suggested Sunday paper D section. Speakers bureau-let others know we're available to talk to groups. C. Lewis will send email to googlegroups about articles and speakers for feedback.
 - F. Training – Bruce Neville – Committee met. Will survey membership to see what everyone wants, likes/dislikes in training experience. Looking at making shorter class periods but longer semester. Starting to plan. Beginning after Labor Day. Thank you for suggestions. Keep sending them. Reviewing them.

- G. Membership** – Betty Vermeire – Last year we submitted 2452 volunteer hours and 555 AT hours. Members who did not submit hours are not certified and lack of reporting hours means money is not being given to the state. A. Chau asked what happened to the state's online hours submission. B. Vermeire said she has not heard anything else about it. L. Davenport asked if anyone had tried sign-in sheets at volunteer opportunities [as a means of tracking hours]. B. Vermeire said yes, but many have their own volunteer opportunities, making it difficult to track. She has had seven inquiries on training class interest. B. Vermeire and S. Simcik will present milestone pins at general meeting.
- H. Advanced Training** –Jim Anding – BVTMN participating in the festival in Rockdale
- I. Volunteer Service Project** – Jay Pritchard – Participate in about festival in Rockdale April 14. Looking to develop an automatically approved list, like TCWC and BVMNH. Talk about trail around BVMNH at next meeting-Marilyn Yeager is liaison.
- J. Host/Social** – Olivia Ash and Kara Rosch – K. Rosch said next event is star party at Lick Creek Park February 24th with telescopes. Will send out details on when and if food will be needed. Contact Olivia or Kara about socials you like or want to host. Cost of renting and deadlines. Will pass out sign-up sheets for food at general meeting.
- K. Historian** – Terry Juneke – Previously collected pictures. S. Simcik said TMN State Meeting had poster. B. Vermeire said historian keeps a historical record of membership, pictures, headcounts of committees, and events. B. Neville suggested a web form to enter data after an event. T. Juneke can come up with written form. How many people we talk to at events.
- L. Web** – Amanda Chau – Send volunteer and outreach opportunities to googlegroups ASAP so we committee can post to online calendar. Two calendars available beginning in March-one for everyone to view and one for BVTMN members only. Will use password for access to volunteer and AT credit. Hoping to eventually have a page for each committee. Good for next committee chair to prepare.
- M. Program** – Janet Quiram – Getting programs together and working with AT committee to get programs certified for AT credit.

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.

IV. New Business

- A.** Google groups and TXMN.org websites - Amanda Chau and Kitty Anding
- B.** TMN background check-A. Chau said everyone must do it and the cost is \$10. Waiver must be approved to not complete it. According to Eric Zimmerman, everyone is required to do it. Asked if someone refuses, should we not allow their membership? Will ask Jo Anne Bates about what bylaws require. L. Davenport will ask Michelle Haggerty if this is okay. Agrilife keeps record. L. Davenport has 24 copies of form with her. If checked previously, like with Master Gardeners, a letter/proof must be submitted. Agrilife Extensions wants to see approval. If expired, required to fill out new form. O. Ash Should we pay our own way or have fee incorporated with training class fee? Asked if hardship, could BVTMN pay the fee but have to submit to exec board? A. Chau moved to table.
- C.** Applying for non-profit status

D. Betty Vermeire-pins and Certification Certificates-Will hand out at general meeting.

V. **Announcements**

A. **Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items**

1. **TMN Spring Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
2. **2012 TMN State Conference**
3. **Monthly Meeting speakers:** February 9 Blake Alldredge, March 8 Dr. James Derr, April 12 TBA
4. **2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series (count as Advanced Training credit)**
5. **Global Amphibian Crisis: Dr. Michael Lannoo @ the Houston Zoo-** March 9, 2012!
6. **Spring 2012 Applied Biodiversity Science Seminar Series** (approved for AT credit.)
7. **Master Naturalists sought for assistance and support of Scout Programs**
8. **Freshwater Unionid Symposium and Workshop** UT Tyler March 16 – 17 (Approved AT credit program.)
9. **Publicizing the Great Backyard Bird Count** (Volunteer Hours (environment))
10. **Brazos Valley Earth Day** Committee wants BVTMN to have booth April 21st Wolf Pen Creek-outreach and volunteer
11. **Texas Brigades Takes Camp in New Direction:** Waterfowl Presents New Possibilities For Future
12. **TMN Chapters needed as TPWD Texas Nature Tracker Partners!**
13. **BioBlitz will be April 27 & 28**-outreach and volunteer

VI. J. Anding moved to adjourn. A. Chau seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.