



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for January 8, 2014
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A. President - Sarah Laughlin –
- B. Vice President - Bruce Neville –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of November 2014 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – a. If you bought or paid for any supplies or materials for the Chapter, please email me a scanned copy of your receipts (include your mailing address) or bring your receipts to me at our Christmas Social this Friday, 12/05. It is very important for our chapter to reimburse any outstanding expenses you paid for on our behalf so we have a better understanding of our expenditure. It is time for me to close our book for 2014 and to generate a year-end financial summary report. Please email or give me your receipts ASAP so we can reimburse you.
b. I would like to remind you that 2015 membership dues will remain the same, \$15. You can either give your dues to me at our meeting this Thursday, 01/08/15, or mail it to our PO Box address: TMN Brazos Valley Chapter, PO Box 9126, College Station, TX 77842-9126. Please make your check payable to "TMN BV".
c. Review our year-end financial summary (see attachment). This summary shows you what our budget and actual spending were for 2014. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like a copy of the Excel spreadsheet that shows all the details regarding these numbers. I would suggest that we review and approve this summary at our board meeting this Thursday, 01/08. Once we approve it, we can develop our 2015 budget.
- E. Committees
 - 1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
 - 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – submit your remaining 2014 hours.
 - 3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair –
 - 4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
 - 5. Host/Social – Jim Balthrop, Chair –
 - 6. Historian – TBD, Chair –
 - 7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair –
 - 8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –
 - 9. New Member Training – Olivia Ash, Chair –

II. Old Business

- A.
- B.

III. New Business

- A.
- B.

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **TMN Spring Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
Jan 8-, Feb 12-, Mar 12-, Apr 9-, May 14-
3. **Prescribed Burn Workshop Jan 9, Blinn College-Brenham** (AT approved)
4. **Fire Ecology: How to Conduct a Prescribed Burn, Sat Jan 10 8am – 3p at Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium & Prairie.** Group of prescribed burn experts to learn techniques that make a prescribed burn safe and beneficial for wildlife and brush control. Top experts will discuss fire ecology, planning for a burn and introduce participants to safety equipment. Participants will take part in the process of laying blacklines to prepare for a prescribed burn and learn sensible fire strategies to meet their stewardship goals. Presenters: Bill Armstrong, Dusty Bruns, Marsh Weiershausen, Wesley Evans. Tuition: \$25 Members, \$30 Non-Members, \$20 Member of Prescribed Burning Association
5. **Coastal Birding Workshop, Tues Jan 13 9-11 am at the Environmental Institute of Houston.** (AT approved)
6. **The Land of the Maya - Birds Archaeology, and Culture by Brock Huffman Wed, Jan 14 6:30 PM at BVMNH.**
7. **Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop (3-part series), CNC&F auditorium, Boerne**
Session 1: Overview & Property Inventory; Sat, Jan 17, 9 am - 1 pm
Session 2: Management Practices & Habitat Assessment; Sat, Jan 24, 9 am - 2:30 pm
Session 3: WTV History and Update on the Law, Application Procedures, & Putting It All Together; Sat, Jan 31, 9 am - 1 pm
8. **Women of the Land One-Day Workshop-rainwater harvesting, Blinn College Rankin Ag Complex-Brenham, February 7** (AT approved)
9. **Environmental Educators Summit 2015, Fri March 27, Lonestar College-Montgomery**
10. **Urban Riparian Symposium, Feb 11-13, Austin.** We're looking for abstracts to be submitted for presentations. You can find out more at [Online Registration](#)
11. **Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop – Dickinson Bayou Watershed. Feb 27, 9 AM–4:30 PM.** Galveston County Extension Office, La Marque, TX. [Online Registration](#) (AT approved)
12. **Environmental education mentoring course March 16-21 in Bastrop**
13. **Children & Nature Network Conference, Apr 7-9, Hyatt Lost Pines Resort.** <http://www.childrenandnature.org/site/conference2015/> (AT approved)
14. **Bioblitz April 24 7-9 PM & 25 9 AM-1 PM.** Lick Creek Park. (pre-approved Volunteer Hours)
15. **Brazos Bend Campout April 24-26 at Brazos Bend State Park, southwest of Houston.** AT hrs available-check w/your chapter after the program is announced.
16. **TMN 16th Annual Mtg, Oct 23-25, Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls**
17. AT Comm added list of pre-approved advanced training activities on BVTMN website <http://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2013-committees/advanced-training-committee/preapproved-at/>. Can also find this list by going to Advanced Training Committee webpage. Please check it out. May give you some new ideas for advanced training & also help reduce your need to request approval for activities.
18. Did this to reduce amount of email sent out to membership about advanced training & reduce load on next year's AT committee.

Note that any AT opportunity that is NOT on this list, must still be submitted for approval.

19. Ongoing activity- Public educational presentations on TV, radio, or group settings that members give on the Texas Master Naturalist Program, or on the following naturalist topics: Texas native plants; water conservation & fresh water management in Texas; Texas invasive plants; Texas wildlife; Texas wildlife habitat management; & endangered/threatened species in Texas. Members would receive credit for time actually presenting & for work such as preparation and travel, that supports the presentation. (V approved)

20. Pre-approved volunteer projects list: <http://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/volunteer-projects/projects/>. Note that you must report the data to the appropriate website for a collecting activity to count for volunteer time. Collecting and reporting data for iNaturalist is approved for volunteer credit. This includes organizational projects such as the development of a iNaturalist guide to a Texas area. Collecting and reporting eBird data is approved for volunteer credit.