



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for February 13, 2014
Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (BRTC)

I. Officer and Committee Reports

A. President - Sarah Laughlin –

1. Lick Creek Park: There is an opportunity to team up with other volunteer groups (FOLCP, RBAS, others?) and work with the City to be more involved with the new renovations planned for the park. More information will come as the groups coordinate with the City.
2. Reminder: Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival will be held at Wolf Pen Creek Park on April 5 from 11 am - 4 pm. Booths include an 8 foot long table and two chairs. Table coverings and tents are not provided.

B. Vice President - Bruce Neville –

C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of Jan 2014 meeting minutes

D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – please turn in your 2014 dues (\$15-check or cash, exact change)-37 paid to date. A special meeting was called and the Executive Board met on February 10th to discuss and set our 2014 budget.

E. Committees

1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair –
3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair –
4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
5. Host/Social – Melissa Kamerbeek and Jim Balthrop, Co-Chairs –
6. Historian – Terry Juneck, Chair –
7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair –
8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –
9. New Member Training – Olivia Ash, Chair –

II. Old Business

A.

III. New Business

- A. Kitty Anding-hand out 2012 nametags. She will be ordering 2013 name tags soon. Let her know if you need to order a replacement (\$5).**

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **TMN Spring Meeting Schedule: (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)**
February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
Feb 13- Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections: What Are They and Why Are They?- Dr. Betty Vermeire, Dr. Gary Voelker, Dr. Jessica Light

Mar 13-

Apr 10-

May 8-

June 12-

3. Plant Taxonomy Training (8 hrs approved AT)

Understand the terminology used to identify plants by their characteristics, Discover - Hands-on, in the Field demonstrations, Learn the use of taxonomic keys to identify plants 4 classes, each class building on the next: **Feb. 11, 25, Mar. 11, 25;** 11:30 am-1:30 pm Sheldon Lake State Park – Education Center, 15315 Beaumont Hwy/Business Hwy 90 East, At Park Rd 138, Houston 77049

REGISTRATION REQUIRED – Deadline is FEBRUARY 6 No fee. Space is limited.

To RSVP for the class - Email:

Kelly.norrid@tpwd.texas.gov and 281-456-

2800 ext. 227

*Bring a sack lunch & drink – or feel free to eat lunch before the class. Also bring note-taking materials.

4. 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) Feb. 14-17 (Vol credit-environment)

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

5. Wildlife Photography , Sat, Feb 15, 10 am-noon, Rockdale General Store, (AT credit)

Rockdale. Presented by nature photographer Greg Lasley. Lasley began photographing "as a novice but enthusiastic bird watcher" and has become very well known in his field.

He will speak about his experiences as a birdwatcher, a nature photographer and someone who is interested in all aspects of the natural world. Find out more about him at: <http://visitwinberley.com/articles/gregLasley.shtml> and <http://www.greglasley.net/> A photography book, "Texas Wildlife Portraits", is available from TAMU press. Mr. Lasley will sign your book. (He does not bring books to sell) (2 hrs. A.T.)

6. Home and Garden Expo, 2/23/14 <http://bcsbuilders.org/?event=35th-annual-home-garden-expo>

1) Make the World a Better Place--One Yard at a Time (AT approved)-

Cheryl Lewis, Horticulturist and Texas Master Naturalist in the Brazos Valley Chapter, will speak about the Sustainable SITES Initiative and its principles as they apply to homeowners, landowners, city planners, builders, landscapers, and nature lovers. The application of these principles (related to soil, water, plants, materials, and human health) lead to habitats that promote healthy diverse populations of plants and animals, including humans. Learn how you can apply these principles to your own backyard!"

This short introduction to the Sustainable SITES Initiative is scheduled for **Sunday, Feb. 23, 1:30 pm**, in the speakers' area at the Home and Garden Expo, **Brazos Expo Center**, 5827 Leonard Road - Bryan.

7. Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Worskhop in Hallettsville Feb. 25

8. March 7-9 Birds and Bloom workshop at Camp Allen (featured presentations that are instructional are approved for AT credit, not nature appreciation hikes)- Conference begins at 5:00 pm Friday and concludes at 2:00 pm Sunday.

<http://events.campallen.org/EmsRegics/RSForm.aspx?data=hHr80o3M7J6Ftxo9LgUChw%3D%3D>

9. Bluebird Season Kickoff conference in BASTROP March 1st (AT approved) See details below and at register.texasbluebirdsociety.org. Note that advanced registration closes 2/15/14! Dr. Patricia A. Gowaty, UCLA (via Skype) – bluebirds; Robyn Bailey, Cornell Lab of Ornithology – NestWatch; Bill Lindemann - planting for bluebirds; Sara Harrod, Texas State - bluebird research project; David Pruitt, BSA - nestbox trail at Mitchell Lake Audubon; Linda Crum - House Sparrow Control

10. Youth Leadership Development looking for adult volunteers

San Antonio, TX – Texas Brigades program The application deadline is March 15, 2014 and may be found at <http://www.texasbrigades.org/Applications/applications.html>. The 4.5 days camps are held on private ranches across the state. Exact dates and locations are listed on the website. For more information, call 855-TXBRIGS or 210-556-1391 or email hholdsworth@texas-wildlife.org.

11. March, and upcoming RBAS field trips

March 15. Upper Valley specialties (possible seedeaters, long-billed thrasher, green jays, olive sparrows, Audubon's orioles, 3 kingfishers), trans-Pecos specialties (white-throated swifts, poorwills, wrens, Hutton's vireo, green-tailed towhee, Chihuahuan raven), and possibly golden-crowned warbler, Fort Clark Springs

April 12. Local migrants, Brison Park and Country Club Lake

May 10. North American Migration Count, Brazos County

June. No field trip, too darn hot.

July 12. Still hot, but Fourth of July Butterfly Count.

12. Texas Stream Team Paddlers Needs Master Naturalists-Join the *Texas Stream Team* - a group of some 8,000 men, women, and children who have been active stewards of Texas waterways since 1991. **To find out how you can get involved, contact:**

Travis Tidwell, Texas Stream Team, Program Coordinator, (512) 245-9148 or txstreamteam@txstate.edu, MeadowsCenter.TXState.edu/

13. National Wildlife Week March 17-23 www.nwf.org/wildlifeweek

14. April 5th Deer Park Prairie Grand Opening with a day full of free tours & a sit-down dinner in the evening at Monument Inn (\$40/person). For all the details go to: <http://prairiepartner.org/group/hnpat> and click the desired links.

15. 2014 Prairie Power Series Flyer lists the prairie activities for 2014 co-sponsored by HNPAT (Houston Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas) and CPP (Coastal Prairie Partnership). Go to <http://prairiepartner.org/group/hnpat>.

16. Upcoming HNPAT Meetings at 3015 Richmond Ave., 6:30 p.m. For Refreshments & 7:00 p.m. Meet Starts.

Thursday, February 27: "*Mardi Grass: Flora of the Famous Cajun Prairie in Deer Park Texas*" by Author and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Botanist, Jason Singhurst. Jason has done extensive studies of the plants in Deer Park Prairie.

Thursday, March 27: "*Lawther - Deer Park Prairie: An Update of Event and Its Future*" by Jennifer Lorenz of Bayou Land Conservancy and Pat Merkord of Native Prairies Association of Texas

Thursday, April 24: Earth Month prairie related activities & Glenn Olsen speaking on prairie birds.

17. Stream Team Core (Basic) Training-Sat, May 17 10 AM until 3:30 PM.

Pre-registration is required; there are no costs for the training. To register please E-Mail: rgm3372010@live.com. (AT approved)

18. Southwest Stream Restoration Conference 2014 May 28-30th Hyatt Regency, San Antonio

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 and fresh water management in Texas; Texas invasive plants; Texas wildlife; Texas wildlife habitat management; and endangered or threatened species in Texas. Members would receive credit for time actually presenting and for work such as preparation and travel, that supports the presentation. (V approved)

20. Project FeederWatch (V approved) More info is available at <http://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>.

21. Wednesday Bird Programs (pre-approved AT)-Classes held at the Kleb Woods nature center, Tomball, TX, from 1:30-3:00 PM and may include an off-site field trip.

Feb 19-Big Sparrows: Fox and Zonotrichia; Feb 26-Little Striped Sparrows: Savannah, Vesper, and Melospiza

Mar 5-Ammodramus Sparrow Workshop (plus field trip); Mar 12-Grasspipers: Sandpipers We Find in Grasslands; Mar 19-Round Table: Why I Enjoy Birding (5 minutes per participant)

Apr 16-Warbler Look-alikes; Apr 30-The iPhone as a Birding Tool: A Hands-on Workshop

May 7-Mosquito Kings and Lying Chiefs: Flycatcher Identification; May 14-Breeding Birds of the Big Thicket

For more info, contact 281-357-5324 or klebwoods@hctx.net

*This free class is courtesy of Steve Radack, Commissioner Precinct 3

22. The AT Committee has added a list of pre-approved advanced training activities on the BVTMN website at <http://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2013-committees/advanced-training-committee/preapproved-at/>. You can also find this list by going to the Advanced Training Committee webpage. Please check it out. It may give you some new ideas for advanced training and also help reduce your need to request approval for activities.

We did this to reduce the amount of email sent out to the membership about advanced training and reduce the load on next year's AT committee.

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

23. Camp Allen (V credit)-interested in partnering with us for volunteer hours leading some guided nature walks? You would get volunteer credit for travel, prep, and the actual time spent on the walk. Emily Krueger, Navasota, 936-825-7175, www.campallen.org, emilyk@campallen.org

24. TMN Annual Meeting October 24-26, 2014 Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX

25. TMN AT: NAI Certified Interpretive Guide Training (AT approved)

26. Using Social Media for natural Resource education and outreach (AT approved)

27. Water quality monitoring (AT approved)