



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for July 10, 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 June 2014 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau –
- E. Committees
 - 1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
 - 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – submit your June hours
 - 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. 501c3 Status-Katharine Cupps
- B. Report on our initial meeting with the Greens Prairie Elementary representatives to plan their wildscape-Molly Harris

III. New Business

- A. Draft (see attached) of some kinds of guidelines or strategies for the use and maintenance of **technologies** for Exec Board to review. May even be a need to change our "Web" Committee to "Technology" Committee so members who are responsible for maintaining different **technologies** can come together to plan and coordinate. Amanda Chau and Mike Conner
- B. Memorial donations for Jay. Ideas for memorial include brick pathway at Lick Creek Park, donations for the BVMNH for childrens activities/supplies, Children's/ monarch garden at BVMNH.-Sarah Laughlin
 - 1. Memorial bricks in a walk in Lick Creek Park-get College Station to offer such a program for new Lick Creek Park Visitor Center. BVTMN could then purchase a brick recognizing our fallen members. Would give a permanent memorial that anyone visiting Lick Creek Park could see and would provide some support to the Visitor Center in the name of the fallen member. I suggest that we would purchase these bricks out of special member contributions rather than general funds as it seems more personal.-Mike Conner
- C. Alternate venue for training events-Katharine Cupps
- D. Outreach slides for new member training or January meeting-Katharine Cupps
Speaker honorarium/donation from UUCBV-Katharine Cupps

- E. Appoint someone to the State Volunteer Representatives Council-Sarah Laughlin and Joyce Conner
- F. Inviting the Wildlife and Nature Photography Group of Brazos Valley to become a partner with our chapter-Joyce Conner

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **TMN Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
July 10- Make the World a Better Place--One Yard at a Time with Cheryl Lewis,
August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
July 10-TBD, August 14-TBD, Sept 11-TBD, Oct 9-TBD, Nov 13-TBD
3. **Private Lands Summit, July 10th, San Antonio.** Contact Clint Faas, [\(800\) 839-9453](tel:8008399453), cfaas@texas-wildlife.org. Explore challenges faced by rural lifestyles, natural resources management, agriculture production and sustainable wildlife in Texas.
4. **Monarch Biology, Ecology & Monarch Larval Monitoring Project Training: "The MLMP @ CNC Back Porch Review"** 9 am - 4 pm; **\$20 Suggested Donation** at CNC auditorium & back porch. **Registration-**Cindy Glass [830-249-4616](tel:8302494616) or nature@cibolo.org (AT approved)
5. **Online course Using Technology in Environmental Education** (AT approved)
<https://sites.google.com/a/eelearn.net/eelearning-portal/courses/using-technology-in-environmental-education>
6. Upcoming RBAS field trip: July 12. Still hot, but Fourth of July Butterfly Count.
7. **Volunteer opportunity with Camp Millican.** Still looking for people to help with the day camp. If you are interested, please contact Emily Cain. Invited TMN to come help w/Camp Millican, **July 14-18**. Camp is for kids age 5-10, runs 8:30 am-2:30 pm. Extended camp session runs 8:30 am-5:30 pm. TMN is invited to come out and lead nature walks or possibly teach a class. Your involvement does not have to be the full 5 days that the camp runs. For more information or if you would like to volunteer for the camp, please contact Emily Cain at the Millican Reserve (emily@millicanreserve.org).
8. **Southeast Regional Texas Master Naturalist workshop, Sat. July 19 in Livingston, TX** at the Livingston-Polk County Chamber of Commerce. \$10 registration
9. **Texas Birding** w/John Baines from [Rio Brazos Audubon Society](http://RioBrazosAudubonSociety.org). **Tues, July 22, 5:30 pm.** Larry J Ringer Library. Learn about the birds and bird watching right here in Bryan-College Station and throughout Texas. (AT approved)
10. **3rd Annual Wish Upon a Butterfly Butterfly Release Event, July 26th** 9-11am at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. BVTMN has been asked to host a table in the Discovery Room and possibly answer butterfly related questions. To sign up to help, please contact Sarah Laughlin at sahlaughlin@gmail.com. (V approved)
11. **Better Lights for Better Nights Conference Friday, Aug 15,** Dripping Springs Ranch Park Events Center. \$50 Early Bird Ticket Price, \$60 After July 15 Ticket Price.
12. **Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist training, Sept 8-12,** Austin (AT approved). Registration required: <https://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/2014/06/18/2014-mves-training-registration-now-live/>
13. **TMN Annual Meeting October 24-26, 2014** Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX
14. **TMN AT: NAI Certified Interpretive Guide Training** (AT approved)
15. **Bracken Cave Tours** (AT approved). Some tours allow overnight camping; others appear to not. See info about one that occurred on 6/14. Tours appear to continue through September. From the PDF below, it appears that the tour can last up to 3 hours. More

information is available at <http://www.batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/visit-a-bat-location/bracken-bat-cave/subcategory/57.html>.

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

17. Texas Stream Team Water. <http://txstreamteam.meadowscenter.txstate.edu> (V approved) Stream water monitoring done and reported under Texas Stream Team guidelines or as part of a Stream Team sponsored activity is approved for volunteer credit. Time spent traveling for, preparing for (other than training), monitoring, and reporting is all approved. For more information, check out the Facebook page (linked above) or email carterstreamteam@gmail.com

18. Lost Ladybug Project (V approved)-Lost Ladybug Project seeking citizen scientists & naturalists to take photos of ladybugs to help understand recent decline of native species. Please help us build a North American map of ladybug species. Upload into our database using this easy form: <http://www.lostladybug.org/form/page-1-form-558.php>

19. Texas Stream Team Paddlers Needs Master Naturalists- 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/.

20. 2014 Prairie Power Series-Go to <http://prairiepartner.org/group/hnpat>.

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

22. 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.

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.

23. 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)

Technology Review and Availability for TMN Brazos Valley Chapter

Last Updated: 07/07/2014

[Prioritize Technology Use for TMN Brazos Valley Chapter](#)

[Chapter Web Page: txmn.org/brazos \(Informational\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[Facebook \(Social\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[Google \(Google Blogger, Calendar, Gmail, Groups, Google+, Picasa, and YouTube\)](#)

[Google Groups \(Social\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[Blogger \(Social\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[Google+ \(Social\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[Google Calendar \(Informational\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[Google Picasa \(Informational\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

[YouTube \(Informational\)](#)

[Contact Person\(s\):](#)

Prioritize Technology Use for TMN Brazos Valley Chapter

Technologies that are available to TMN BV can be broadly divided into two categories: social networking and informational. Here are what available or currently being used by our chapter:

Social Networking: Facebook, Google+, Google Groups, and Blogger,

Informational: Chapter website, Google YouTube, and Google Picasa

Based on a 2013 report by Pew Research Center, Facebook is the dominant social networking platform. To see the full report, go to

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2013/12/30/social-media-update-2013/>

Our own survey- I would suggest that we take a survey and see what technology or social media are used by our members. We will then focus and expand those technologies or social networking platform.

Survey Results: TBA

Chapter Web Page: txmn.org/brazos (Informational)

TMN BV Official Website:

<http://txmn.org/brazos/>

Membership and Privacy:

Part of our websites is available to the public but the Members Area is password-protected and restricted to our members (active or inactive).

Maintenance:

High. The pages are updated whenever there are changes or additions. Many useful and important documents are posted/archived on the website. Our blog, Facebook page, YouTube, and Picasa albums are linked to different pages on our website. You must be familiar with WordPress and have access to our website in order to maintain these pages.

Contact Person(s):

Main: Mike Conner, mike@conner.net

Others: members of the Web Committee

Facebook (Social)

Facebook has over a billion users and over 800 million active users. It is by far the largest social network on the web and would be an essential tool for outreach and marketing.

TMN BV Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/361254733982438/>

Membership and Privacy:

It is an open group and anyone who has a Facebook account can join and contribute. Once you are a member of the group, you can add other people to the group.

Currently, it has 87 members.

Static/Dynamics:

Everyone can post and comment on Facebook. I would suggest that TMN members to be more involved and actively promote our meetings and blogs.

Maintenance:

Very low. May have to keep an eye on postings that are not suitable.

Contact Person(s):

Jackie Girouard, Jackiegir@gmail.com

Google (Google Blogger, Calendar, Gmail, Groups, Google+, Picasa, and YouTube)

TMN BV has been using Google Group and Google Calendar for a long time and recently we added the use of Blogger, Google+, Picasa, and YouTube. We also created a gmail account for the chapter so all apps are now linked to or managed via the chapter gmail account rather than a specific individual.

The Google apps that are used for social interactions are: Blogger, Groups, Goolge+.

The Google apps that are used for information, resource, and archive are: Calendar, Picasa, and YouTube.

Google Groups (Social)

Brazos Valley TMN Google Group (similar to listserv):

<https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/brazos-valley-tmn>

Membership and Privacy:

It is a closed group. Members who began the new member training are added to the group by the Membership Committee. Once an individual is added to the group, an invitation is sent by Google Group to join the group. The individual must respond to the invitation before it is added to the group by Google. Although you do not need a gmail account to be added to our group, you can manage your own settings if you sign up with your gmail account. With your gmail account, you can access archived postings as well.

Currently, it has 147 members (active and inactive).

Static/Dynamics:

Members of the group can send email message to all members via Google Group. Members can reply to all or reply only to the individual who sent the email.

Maintenance:

Mostly low. New members are added each year when the new member training begins in September. May have to keep an eye on spams from hijacked or compromised accounts. Sometime members have to be removed because their email accounts kept bouncing back our postings.

Contact Person(s):

Main: Betty Vermeire, bavermeire@suddenlink.net

Others: Kitty Anding (kitty.anding@gmail.com), Amanda Chau (amanda.chau@blinn.edu), and Mike Conner (mike@conner.net)

Blogger (Informational and Social)

TMN BV Blog:

<http://bvtxmn.blogspot.com/>

Membership and Privacy:

The blog is shared openly and it is linked to our home page as well as our Google+ page.

Static/Dynamics:

Currently, the blog is maintained by one person. This can change if more people show interest. Anyone (member or non-member) can post a comment to the blog.

Maintenance:

Medium maintenance. The blog runs whenever the main contact person writes an entry. This will occur as the contact person sees fit. Currently, the posts run about every two weeks. Research and writing may take some time but are not difficult (the time being the main reason maintenance is “medium”).

Contact Person(s):

Main: Sarah Laughlin, sahlaughlin@gmail.com

Google+ (Social)

Brazos TMN Google+:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/102956140998253694839/about>

Membership and Privacy:

It is a open group. Members who have Google+ can join.

Currently, it has 3 members.

Static/Dynamics:

Google+ is Google-version of Facebook. Members of the group can join, contribute, and comments on its postings.

Maintenance:

Very low. May have to keep an eye on postings that are not suitable.

Contact Person(s):

Main: Amanda Chau, amanda.chau@blinn.edu

Google Calendar (Informational)

Brazos Valley TMN Google Calendars (BV Public Events, BV Adv Trn, BV MN Class of..., BV MN Memb General, and BV MN Vol):

Membership and Privacy:

The five calendars are shared openly and can be viewed (as events view) from our website <https://txmn.org/brazos/>

Maintenance:

Extremely high. Whenever there is an event whether it is advanced training, volunteer opportunity, monthly meeting, or training class and field trip, the events are posted on one of our five calendars. The events are added via gmail account.

Contact Person(s):

Main: Mike Conner, mike@conner.net

Others: members of the Web Committee

Google Picasa (Informational)

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/102956140998253694839/photos>

Membership and Privacy:

The photo albums are shared openly and can be viewed (as events view) from our home page <https://txmn.org/brazos/photo-gallery/> as well as the following pages:

Advanced Training photos:

<https://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2014-committees/advanced-training-committee/advanced-training-event-photos/>

Social Committee photos:

<https://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2014-committees/social-committee/social-event-photos/>

Chapter project photos:

<https://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2014-committees/historian-committee/chapter-project-photos/>

New training class photos:

<https://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2014-committees/training-committee/>

Google+

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/102956140998253694839/photos>

Maintenance:

Extremely high. Whenever there are photos available, they are uploaded to Picasa Web Albums and linked to our txmn.org/brazos. You must be familiar with WordPress and have access to our website in order to maintain these albums and their visibilities.

Although members can email photos directly to Picasa, someone has to organize the photos and embedded the albums in our web pages.

Contact Person(s):

Main: Amanda Chau, amanda.chau@blinn.edu

Others: members of the Web Committee? Historian Committee? Volunteer Services Committee, Social Committee?

YouTube (Informational)

YouTube can be an essential platform to provide educational videos to the public. TMN BV can make its own videos or can collect educational resources and make them available to the public.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0_eNGZ7e-RyYY5prPfKudg

Membership and Privacy:

Our YouTube Channel is shared openly and is linked to our home page

<https://txmn.org/brazos/> as well as our Google+ page.

Maintenance:

Low. Whenever there are interesting YouTube videos that are related to environment and education, they can be saved to individual “Playlists”.

Medium to High. Uploading an existing video, selecting/adding soundtracks, and sharing it to social media.

Very High. TMN BV members can make their own YouTube videos for outreach or educational purposes. The process involves developing storyboard, shooting the video, adding audio or selecting soundtracks, and sharing it to social media.

Contact Person(s):

Main: Amanda Chau, amanda.chau@blinn.edu