

Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, January 11, 2007

Attendees: Ken Hasson, Lourdes Hasson, April Hatfield, Jerry Taylor, Jessica Taylor, Ann Collins, Mary Waldson, Jim Waldson, Shari Kronforst, Phillip Kronforst, Leo Lombardini, Jimmie Killingsworth, Kate Kelly, Manuelita Ureta, Sara-Jane Jordan, Ginger Hamilton, Jo Anne Bates, Kitty Anding, Jim Anding, Punnee Soonthornpoch, Amy Laughlin, Ginny West, Dwight Bohlmeier, Bruce Abbitt, Jean Paul, Mary Strauss, Tom McDonald, Eddie Shanley, Mary Ann Cusimano, Madge Luquette.

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm.

Business Meeting

The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

A sign-up sheet was passed around. Those who wanted name tags could order one by noting the type wanted (pin or magnetic) next to their name on sign-in sheet. It was noted that the magnetic ones tend to fall off easily.

Committee Business

President Jo Anne Bates welcomed everyone. The first order of business was for everyone to choose committees for the coming year. Resulting committee assignments are as follows (asterisk indicates committee chair):

<u>Training</u>	<u>Advanced Training</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Volunteer Service</u>
*Dwight	*Phil	*Sara-Jane	*Jean Paul	*Mary Waldson
April	Mary Ann	Madge	Mary Ann	Bruce
Ginny	Madge	Kitty	Jerry	Mary Ann
Shari	Bruce	Punnee	Ginger	Mary Strauss
Jerry	Eddie		Phil	Jim Waldson
Jane?				Shari
Ann				
<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Historian</u>	<u>Host</u>		
*Kate	*Lourdes	*Amy		
Jimmie	Ken	Jim		
Manuelita		Ann		
Leo				

Everyone met for about 1 hour in their new committees to discuss future plans. The group then reconvened to discuss more committee business.

Volunteer Service Projects/Advanced Training:

1. Mary Ann Cusimano talked about Project WILD training to be held Friday, 1/19 6-8pm and Saturday, 1/20 8-12pm. Those interested, including any teachers or other non-TMN individuals, are asked to email Mary Ann (macbaxter@msn.com). This will count as Advanced Training.
2. The TMN Regional Meeting will be in Galveston on Saturday, 2/24/07. It is a day-long meeting with workshops and speakers about general TMN issues. This will count as Advanced Training.
3. Heather Prestridge of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (TCWC) wants to have a work day in early March to plant Texas natives, especially butterfly-friendly plants. Dates were discussed, but will have to be finalized with Heather. Mary and Ann agreed to develop a landscape design and plan for the area. Heather would like a map that visitors can use to learn about Texas natives. The will count as Volunteer Hours.
4. Dwight Bohlmeier plans to open the Blinn Aquatic Center on Tuesday nights 6-8pm. beginning 1/23/07. He plans to have work stations such as dissecting microscopes, animal tracking information, and garbage gardens around the Center. He needs 2-3 volunteers every week except spring break. Dwight will send out an electronic flier to everyone to pass along to teachers. The will count as Volunteer Hours.
5. Heather Prestridge wants to have the TCWC lobby open to the public on Fridays 10am-4pm. possibly beginning in March. She will send an email about setting up a training for us. If no visitors come to TCWC, she'll put volunteers to work in other ways. The will count as Volunteer Hours.
6. **Bioblitz** will be Friday, March 30 4-8pm and Saturday, March 31 10am-4pm. at Lick Creek Park. It will feature owl walks (Friday night), as well as interpretive walks. Heather would like us to take care of the stations along the interpretive walk. She also suggests that we start saving plastic milk cartons and jugs for kids to make into bird feeders. This will count as Volunteer Hours.
7. **Planet Earth Day** will be Saturday, April 21, 2007 in downtown Bryan. Mary Strauss, who is on the Planet Earth Committee, would like suggestions of organizations or departments who might be interested in participating.
8. Possible Projects: If you have a project you would like to suggest, there will be a downloadable form on the web site. This form should go to the Volunteer Service committee.
9. The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife Nature Trackers Program will hold the **Amphibian and Mussel Watch** on Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10, 2007. We will be trained to participate and this will count as Advanced Training. For \$10 participants get a CD for the Amphibian Watch and a guide for the Mussel Watch.

10. Other suggestions for Advanced Training include training on spiders, mushrooms, and pecans, as well as Aquatic WILD and Flying WILD (set up through the Audubon Society).

Other business discussed:

1. Manuelita Ureta volunteered to be the Class of 2006 representative on the Executive Committee.
2. Jo Anne Bates volunteered to be our representative on the State Volunteer Council.
3. Tom McDonald and Jim Anding were recognized for their work in the chapter and were presented with special pins.
4. Newsletter Committee report: Some members of the Newsletter Committee met with a web master about using grovesite.com for our web site, which would have a calendar. Jimmie wants to know what everyone would like to have in a newsletter. Punnee suggested that if we travel we should send in a brief story and photos for the newsletter. We are encouraged by Jimmie to think of “everything as a story” and submit material to the committee.
5. Mary Ann Cusimano pointed out that we need a clear explanation of who is responsible for which jobs, for example, who is responsible for tabulating our hours, who is responsible for reviewing ideas for volunteer activities, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.