



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter  
Meeting Agenda for February 11, 2016  
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

**I. Old Business**

**II. New Business**

- A. Bruce Neville - Final planning for retreat
- B. Bruce Neville - VMS

**III. Officer and Committee Reports**

- A. President – Bruce Neville – The 2015 Annual Report was submitted on time in January. We had 48 active members. During 2015, we trained 14 new volunteers, reported 1760.50 volunteer hours and 691.5 advanced training hours. We had 4 outreach events, reaching 808 people. We began clean-up of 3 parks (Brison and Gabbard Parks in College Station and the pond area of Brazos Center in Bryan) for 29 new acres impacted. 25 members recertified. One member, Jim Balthrop, achieved his 250-hour milestone. One member, Madge Luquette, achieved her 1000-hour milestone.  
I have been working on soliciting input from the membership on their vision for the organization. I sent out several emails and a survey soliciting comments, and I have received very thoughtful and thought-provoking responses. I will share those with the Board and the membership during a retreat. I have also developed a retreat to obtain direct input from the membership. I want to thank the Board for assistance and support in planning the retreat and particularly Deb Wilson, Host and Social Director, for arranging catering for the retreat and Vice President Donell Frank for arranging the venue.
- B. Vice President – Donnell Frank – Michael Warriner from TWPD will be presenting his program - Native Bees of Texas - for the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of January 2016 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – Our current financial status as of 02/06/2016 is good and we have \$5,830.57 in our account. We have 40 members who are up-to-date in their 2016 membership dues. Attached is the proposed 2016 budget for our chapter. I made two changes to our proposed budget since our budget meeting on 01/27/16: 1) I updated the total amount of membership dues near the top and 2) removed the line about rainy day fund near the bottom and just included our total on the line that said "Liquid Asset". Please review this budget and let me know if you have any questions. We will need to approve it at our 02/11 board meeting.

I would like to remind you that it is time to pay your 2016 membership dues. Our TMN BV membership dues is \$15, the same as last year. You can pay cash (exact change if possible) or with a check (payable to TMN BV) to me at our meeting on 02/11/16. Or, you can mail your check to me at the following address:

Amanda Chau

TMN Brazos Valley Chapter

PO Box 9126

College Station, TX 77842-9126

Also see attached 2015 year-end financial report.

**E. Committees**

1. Immediate Past President, Olivia Ash -
2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – Carol Henrichs will train us how to enter our monthly hours in the online VMS (Volunteer Management System). This method of reporting our hours is now required by the State TMN office.  
Everyone will receive their log-on user names and passwords at the meeting.  
Please make every effort to be there.  
p.s. For those of you who are not comfortable with online entry, we will have Hours Buddies to assist you.
  - A. Archivist-Historian, vacant –
  - B. Data Manager, vacant -
3. Advanced Training – Laura Biddle, Chair –
4. Volunteer Service Projects – Melissa Brown, Chair –
5. Host – Deb Wilson, Chair – Routine emails recruiting pot luck dishes for January Meeting; attended Budget meeting January 27, 2016.
6. Communication and Outreach – Cheryl Lewis, Chair – Communication and Outreach Committee Report of 2/9/16  
Communication and Outreach committee met on 1/28/16. We reviewed our duties according to the chapter operating handbook, discussed the budget, website improvements geared toward moving members and the public toward the website, addition of a facebook page for purposes of embedding information from there into the website, increasing participation through personal invitations to events or committee memberships, developing a chapter display board, participation in upcoming events (Millican Reserve, Retreat, Earth Day, Bioblitz, Boonville Days, etc.), and developing business cards for members to distribute as needed.
  - A. Webmaster – Carol Henrichs –
7. New Class Training – Mary Dabney Wilson, Chair –
8. New Class Representative, Denise Kieso –
9. Agrilife Advisor, Dusty Tittle –
10. Advisor, Heather Prestridge –
11. Program, Donnell Frank –

**IV. Announcements**

**Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items**

1. 1. TMN Winter/Spring Meeting Schedule: (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)

January 14, February 11, March 10

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2. Monthly Meeting speakers (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)

January - none, February - , March -

3. Garden project at the City of College Station Community Services bldg (1207 Texas

Avenue.) Join Cheryl Lewis **on a Saturday** that works for you. 571-6448

4. Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop (2 part series: January 9 AND January 16) CNC

Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne (AT approved)

5. Tree planting in The Big Thicket National Park, Jan. 18, 23 & 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27,

Mar. 12 (V approved)

6. Winter Tree and Woody Plant ID clinic, Palo Pinto Mountains State, Jan 30 1-3:30 pm

(AT approved)

Project FeederWatch, Nov 14, '15 - Apr 3, '16. (V approved)

find this list by going to Advanced Training Committee webpage. Note that any AT opportunity

that is NOT on this list, must still be submitted for approval.

. Pre-approved volunteer projects list: 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

April 14

▼ VMSLucas Gregory, Project Specialist, Texas Water Resources

Institute | Institute of Renewable Natural Resources - "Water Quality in Texas: What You Can Do to Help?", April - Michael Warriner, TWP, Native Bees of Texas, May-▼

▼ **Fire Ecology: Elements of a Prescribed Burn, Feb 6, 8 am-3 pm, CNC Auditorium** and Herff Farm Prairie [AT for speakers and learning the "how to" of prescribed burning (does not include travel time or breaks)]

▼ **Millican Reserve - lead nature walks, Feb 13.** Walks are an hour or less. Contact Sherry Pittman directly if you can help. (V approved - time spent, prep drive time)

**6. Honey I've Got the Bees, Feb 13, 9am-6 pm, Cibolo Nature Center & Farm** Auditorium (Possible AT: Portions may count towards AT - would need detailed info about subject matter of speakers, etc. if you attend)

▼ **7. Cornell University Lab of Ornithology staff will be teaching educators about two of their Bird Sleuth curricula at the Somervell County Expo Center in Glen Rose, March 10-11** (AT opportunity - days immediately preceding **Spring Wingding**)

**9. Surface Water Quality Monitoring Course, Mar 14-17** (AT hours available for one day course and multi-day course)

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11. 12Keep Brazos Beautiful BVTMN Volunteer Team - annual Texas Trash Off event,

April 9 (V approved)

13.

11.

**Deleted:** Tree planting in The Big Thicket National Park, Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 12 (V

**Deleted:** approved) .

**Deleted:** Project FeederWatch, Nov 14, '15 - Apr 3, '16. (V approved) .

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**Deleted:** AT Comm added [list of pre-approved advanced training activities](#) on BVTMN

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**FY 2015 (Actual)**

**FY2016 (Proposed)**

As of 12/29/2015

**Revenue sources:**

Membership dues	\$600.00	from 40 members	\$725.00	from 48 members
New Member Training		\$1,044.45		Left over (still need to purchase TMN shirts/
Unexpected donations			nametags)	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>		<b>\$1,769.45</b>

**Expenses (itemized):**

Communication and Outreach	-\$370.00	Banner, brochures, business cards & supplies	-\$183.81
Program	-\$300.00	8x\$25 gift cards, \$100 travel	
Advanced Training		\$0.00	
Education/Workshop			
Volunteer Service Projects	-\$300.00	supplies, seeds, plants, ...etc	
Host/Social	-\$400.00	supplies + Christmas Social	-\$195.94
MISC	-\$50.00	stamps, supplies	
Retreat	-\$720.00	Up to \$12 lunch for 60 people	
<b>Non-budgeted items:</b>			
Membership		-\$16.24	
Assets	-\$217.20	12 Trash Grabbers purchased on 04/28/15	
PO Box Rental	-\$42.00	-\$42.00	
Extension Banquet			
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>-\$2,182.00</b>		<b>-\$655.19</b>
<b>Net</b>		<b>\$1,114.26</b>	

**Liquid asset**

\$5,830.57	In the bank as of 02/06/2016
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The 2016 Budget was discussed on **01/27/2016** at Willie's Icehouse & Grills

and will be formally approved at the Board meeting on 02/11/2016

Bruce Neville	Deb Wilson	by a duly constituted Annual
Amanda Schwede	Carol Henrichs	Financial Examination Committee
Donell Frank	Cheryl Lewis	of 2015 Vice President Bruce
Amanda Chau	Betty Vermeire	Neville and 2015 Secretary
Denise Kieso	Laura Biddle	Amanda Schwede.

Mary Dabney Wilson

[signed] **7 January 2016**



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**4.**