



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter  
Meeting Agenda for March 10, 2016  
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

**I. Old Business**

**II. New Business**

- A. Donell Frank - Workshop and/or monthly presentation: Barbara Willy from the Monarch Gateway Organization
- B. Bruce Neville - I would like to discuss the survey and the retreat at the Board meeting, along with the creation of three new positions:  
Mentor Program Manager (reports to Membership Director)  
Field Trip Manager (reports either to Program Director [VP] or Advanced Training Director)  
Youth Programs Director (Board Level)  
There will be a real membership meeting on Thursday. I will bring the posters of the survey results. Since we have not told folks about discontinuing food, I have asked Deb to coordinate food for one more meeting. I want to talk to folks about changing our membership meetings to quarterly and leaving the announcements to the google group.
- C. Donell Frank and Bruce Neville - Just got confirmation today that Bioblitz is going to be on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Not sure if that will really cause a conflict if TMN decides not to participate. RBAS may schedule the big sit for either April 30<sup>th</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup> as well. Haven't really decided on a date yet. The big sit is going to be at Brison so maybe we could get some extra people to help pick up as well as sit J.

**III. Officer and Committee Reports**

- A. President – Bruce Neville – President's Report - March 2016  
During February, I solicited feedback from the membership through an anonymous survey and a retreat. The survey garnered 24 responses, and 24 members attended the retreat. Both methods provided plenty of frank and useful feedback, which I'm still studying. The raw results of the survey have been circulated to the Board and were posted at the retreat. A gross summary of both the survey and the retreat are:  
What are we doing right? New member training; Meetings and speakers; AT opportunities; Leadership; Communication.  
What do we need to change? Outreach/marketing to the public; Do away with food breaks; Management of natural areas; Recruiting, particularly youth and minorities; Communication; Outreach to local government; 501(c)3 status; Big Project; Funding.  
Why are you not active? Cliques/don't fit in; Too busy; Events are not attractive (too birdy).  
What could be our Big Project? Butterfly/native garden; Working with children/schools; Lick Creek Park; Prairie restoration; Bird blind; Invasive removal; Mentor program

How can we be self-sufficient financially? Raise/tiered dues; Fundraisers; More members paying dues; Donations; Grants; Local sponsors; Native plant sale; Speaker series; Kids programming; Native walks.

Should we expand our geographic base? Yes (7); No (1, actually “hell, no”); Maybe (6).

Considerations: Travel; Additional project opps; Fix our own problems first.

What else do you want the Board to know?

- “Right now, the Chapter is just existing.”
- Need volunteer ops for those with limited mobility.
- People continue commitments because of personal connections.
- Some want to get involved, but are intimidated.
- Need a 5-year plan.
- Volunteer time is limited by family and work responsibilities.
- Members bond with and identify with their training cohort more than with the larger group.

What can we do in the short term?

- Work with schools (Jackie Girouard)
- Funding
- Pocket prairies (Cheryl Lewis)
- Stop mowing roadsides (Betty Vermeire)
- Monarchs
- Raise dues (perks?)
- 501(c)3 status (Mike Stecher)
- Mentor program
- Build on training classes
- Practice
- Pritchard Trail
- Field trips
- Outreach

As a follow-up to some of the short-term goals, I have sent out a survey requesting interests for an “interests” list. I have gotten 12 responses, and will compile those. I have spoken with the Membership Director about seeking a Mentorship Program Manager. I have spoken with the Advanced Training and Program Directors about a Field Trip Manager and where that person should report. I propose that we create a Board-level position for a Youth Programs Director and Committee. Mike Stecher has agreed to work through the process of filing for 501(c)3 status for the chapter.

I also propose that we limit general business meetings to quarterly (March, June, September, and December), immediately following the speaker, and do away with food at the monthly speaker meetings. This month will therefore be a general meeting, to approve the above changes.

**B.** Vice President – Donell Frank –

**C.** Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of February 2016 meeting minutes

**D.** Treasurer- Amanda Chau – We have \$5587.70 in our account and 50 members who are up-to-date in their 2016 membership dues.

1. I would like to propose setting up a trash pick-up for Gabbard/Brison on either Saturday, April 30, or Saturday, May 07. Would you all please check your calendar and see if that date is in conflict with any other activities, field trips, or workshops.
2. 18 members signed up for the Texas Trash Off on April 9. We submitted our team application to KKB and named our team

"Team Dragonfly". We are still waiting to hear the specifics regarding location.

#### E. Committees

1. Immediate Past President, Olivia Ash -
2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair –
  - 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 – Host Committee Report, February 2016  
The host committee organized pot luck refreshments for the February 11, 2016 monthly chapter meeting and the February 20<sup>th</sup> retreat. The total cost of the retreat was \$313.18 which included 24 lunch meals from Jason's Deli, water, tea, ice, dessert, and paper products. Donell Frank supplemented drinks and snacks left over from a trash pick up.
6. Communication and Outreach – Cheryl Lewis, Chair –
  - A. Webmaster – Carol Henrichs –
7. New Class Training – Mary Dabney Wilson, Chair – Committee held its first meeting on Feb 25. Changes necessitated by the new curriculum were discussed. We will continue with an "ologies" based approach to classes and a systems based approach to field studies, working with presenters to fit in some of the other topics (citizen science, history, regulations), as appropriate. In order to fit everything in, there are now 11 Tuesday classes and 5 Saturday field studies. The Sugarloaf field trip was reinstated to cover local geology and anthropology. We are going to try again to cover weather and climate, pairing it with water resources. A draft calendar was created; some speakers are still very tentative. Kim Roesse will work on questions for a pre- and post-test. We will try to provide mentors for the new class members, with a limit to the number of volunteer hours that can be claimed per mentee.

**Tentative 2016 draft schedule attached.**

8. New Class Representative, Denise Kieso –
9. Agrilife Advisor, Dusty Tittle –
10. Advisor, Heather Prestridge –
11. Program, Donell Frank –
  - A. Michael Warriner from TWPd will be presenting his program - Native Bees of Texas - for the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - B. May - Barbara Willy with the Monarch Gateway Organization – Monarch Butterflies and Pocket Prairies (not the official title  
Of her talk, that's what I'm calling it for now) With the possibility of doing a workshop to learn about the plants, soil, Monarch disease, prairies etc. Speakers for the workshop includes TPWD, fish and wildlife and other non-profits.

#### IV. Announcements

##### Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **1. TMN Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)  
January 14, February 11, March 10
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)**  
January - none, February - , March -

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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, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11,

Lucas 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, TWPD, Native Bees of Texas,

May - Barbara Willy with the Monarch Gateway Organization – Monarch Butterflies and

Pocket Prairies (not the official title of

her talk, that's what I'm calling it for now) With the possibility of doing a workshop to learn about the plants, soil, monarch

disease, prairies etc. Speakers for the workshop includes TPWD, fish and wildlife and other non-profits.

**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)**

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

6. **7. How to Create and Protect Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Workshop, March 26,** 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., San Antonio, (AT does not include breaks or travel)

8. **9Keep Brazos Beautiful BVTMN Volunteer Team - annual Texas Trash Off event, April 9** (V approved)

10.

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Date	Day	Topic	Presenter	Location *	Host
9/6/2016	Tues	Welcome / Ecological regions of Texas	Training Committee / Bruce Neville / Laura Biddle	BVMNH	Training Committee
9/13/2016	Tues	Geology	Cheryl Metz	BVMNH	
9/20/2016	Tues	Soils	Cristine Morgan	BRTC	
9/24/2016	Sat	Field Study: Introduction to Habitats	Tenners Team?	Lick Creek Park	
9/27/2016	Tues	Ichthyology	Dwight Bohlmeier	BRTC	
10/1/2016	Sat	Field Study: Fish & Aquatic Systems	Dwight Bohlmeier	Little Brazos River	
10/4/2016	Tues	Herpetology	Toby Hibbitts	BRTC	
10/11/2016	Tues	Native Landscapes / Plants	Cheryl Lewis / Tenners Team	BVMNH	
10/15/2016	Sat	Field Study: Plants	Monique Reed	Lick Creek Park	
10/18/2016	Tues	Entomology	Novalene Thurston	BVMNH	
10/25/2016	Tues	Mammals	Doug Phillips	BRTC	
10/29/2016	Sat	Field Study: Archaeology, Sugarloaf Mtn	Alston Thoms / Tom Yancey / Dave Cunningham	BVMNH	
11/1/2016	Tues	Ornithology	Betty Vermeire & Bruce Neville	BRTC	
11/7/2015	Sat	Field Study: Habitat Reclamation	Jan Horbaczewski	TMPA, Carlos, TX	
11/8/2016	Tues	Weather & Climate / Texas Water Resources	?A&M? / ?Brandon Booth?	?	

11/115/16	Tues	Observing Nature / Closing Ceremonies	Larry Hysmith / Training Committee & Officers
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BVMNH

Training Committee

BVMNH = Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History  
BRTC = Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections

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

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

**Saturday** that works for you. 571-6448

**4.**