



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

### **I. Old Business**

- A.** Bruce Neville - Re-adopt our Bylaws. When we originally adopted them, we did not need a Conflict of Interest addendum. Now we do. According to our existing Bylaws, any change requires a 30-day notice to the membership prior to a vote. These have been vetted by the State Office. Once these documents are adopted, we can proceed with filing for 501(c)3 status.

Note that the only changes from the existing Bylaws are:

- 1) Changing the name to our new legal name on the cover and page 3, and
- 2) Adding the Conflict of Interest statement as an addendum.

The remainder of the Bylaws remain unchanged.

### **II. New Business**

- A.** Donell Frank - I would like to discuss the butterfly alley at Lick Creek Park and the availability of volunteers if the project with the developer goes through. I am currently talking with a company to go out there and hydroseed the area with a couple of mixes from the Native American seed company, the developer is going to pay for all of this. I am still in the process of talking to David Schmitz about what the TMN's role in the butterfly alley will be but I want to make sure we are all on board with the project before I commit to it.
- B.** Amanda Chau - Trash abatement projects:
1. CITO (Cache in trash out)- Sept 17 or 24
  2. Gabbard/Brison trash pick up- Oct. 22, Nov 5, Nov. 12, or Nov. 19
  3. City of College Station Adopt-A-Greenway program- our two year commitment will end after our clean up in October or November. Does our chapter want to commit another two years to take care of Gabbard and Brison Parks?
- C.** Amanda Chau - Stream Team water monitoring projects:  
City of College Station is interested in monitoring Bee Creek and Wolf Pen Creek Tributary for water quality and E.coli count. Our Stream Team is currently working with the City to set up a one year monitoring project which requires monthly monitoring of specific monitoring sites.

### **III. Officer and Committee Reports**

- A. President – Bruce Neville – Requests to the membership resulted in volunteers of Olivia Ash to fill the vacant Communication and Outreach Director position and Jackie Girouard to fill the new Youth Programs Director position. There have been no volunteers yet for a Field Trip Coordinator. The Youth Programs Director was identified by the membership as a priority during our retreat earlier in the year. There is no program description in the Chapter Operating Guidelines. It will be the job of the new Youth Programs Committee to establish goals for the committee to include in the Operating Guidelines. [Amanda S., please put an item in New Business to ratify these new Directors.]

Thanks to the work of Mike Stecher and Amanda Chau, the Chapter has incorporated as a first step to filing for 501(c)3 status. As part of the process, we need to revise our Bylaws slightly and readopt them. The revised bylaws and a Conflict of Interest document need to be adopted by the membership. Those documents were circulated the required 30 days prior to a called membership meeting in August for adoption.

Thanks to the work of Mary Dabney Wilson and the New Member Training Committee, we have another great line-up of classes, field trips, and instructors for the fall class. The new Statewide Curriculum was finally published. Thanks to Betty Vermeire, we were able to get early copies at the chapter discount.

Other Directors have also been busy. Know that I appreciate all that you do for the chapter.

- B. Vice President – Donell Frank –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of July 2016 meeting minutes
- Treasurer- Amanda Chau – **Treasurer's report:** As of today, 08/08/2016, we have a total of \$4999.67 in our accounts and 54 members who paid their 2016 membership dues. We recently opened a new account using our new EIN and are in the process of consolidating the two accounts. We will expect to close the old account sometime in August.

**Updates on 501(c)3:** Our application for 501(c)3 and Texas State Exemption are currently on hold. We will start the application process once the membership approves the bylaws and conflict of interest policy at the chapter meeting this Thursday, 08/11.

#### **Upcoming workshop:**

Also, I would like to remind you that our Project WILD Educator Workshop will be Saturday, 08/20, starting at 8:30 am at BRTC. The registration deadline is this Wednesday, 08/10.

- D. 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 – Steve Simcik, Chair –
  5. Host – Deb Wilson, Chair – No report for the social committee this month. I will be at the meeting on the 12th and may have an update on the lunch count for the Project Wild workshop to be held on the 20th. Amanda Chau requested I set up a Jason's Deli on line order

request for lunch and each person pay their own bill. She has also requested the Social Committee to provide drinks and snacks. At the meeting I will ask for a budget for these items.

6. Communication and Outreach – vacant –
  - 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, Donell Frank –
  - A. Youth Programs, vacant –
  - B. Field Trip Coordinator, vacant -

#### IV. Announcements

##### **Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items**

1. **TMN Summer/Fall Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)  
August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)  
August 11 - Brian Robert, TWA Conservation Legacy Programs, September 8 - Dr. Mary Wicksten, Whiskey Bridge fossil beds, October 13, November 10
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. Brazos County Health Department looking for committed volunteers to **host a Mosquito Ovitrap in their yard for a long term baseline study of Aedes mosquitoes** in BCS (V approved)
5. **North American Butterfly count**, Lick Creek Park, 9 am July 16 (V approved)
6. **Wish Upon a Butterfly release** at BVMNH, Sat, July 30, 9am-12pm (V approved)
7. **BVTMN Stream Team Aug 6 Lick Creek Sampling** (V approved)
8. **BVTMN Stream Team Aug 13 Scouting Trip** (V approved)
9. **Rainwater Harvesting program**, Thurs, Aug 11, Eldorado (AT approved)
10. **Project WILD Workshop**, Humble, TX, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. (AT approved; does not include travel time or break times). Preregistration is required.
11. **6-hr Project WILD Educator Workshop**, Sat, Aug 20, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, at BRTC.
12. **2016 BVTMN Training Class hosts**, Sept. 6 – Nov. 15, 2016 (V approved)
13. **2016 Wildscapes Workshop**, Houston, Sept 10, (speaker sessions qualify for AT - AT does not include travel time, breaks, etc.)
14. **Master Naturalist 17th Annual Meeting, October 21-23**, LaTorretta, Lake Conroe