



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Detailed Meeting Agenda for February 14, 2013 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A.** President – Olivia Ash
- B.** Vice President – Jim Balthrop
- C.** Secretary – Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of January 2013 meeting minutes
- D.** Treasurer – Amanda Chau
 - 1. We will be collecting TMN membership dues (\$15.00) and will accept either cash or check (Make your check payable to TMN Brazos Valley Chapter). If you cannot make it to the meeting, please mail your check to:
Amanda Chau
Texas Master Naturalists
Brazos Valley Chapter
PO Box 9126
College Station, TX 77842-9126
- E.** Program – Jim Balthrop, Chair
The Program Committee (me) would like to thank everyone that suggested speakers or topics. I have made contact with 90% of those and have commitments for Feb through June. See program list in Announcements section.
- F.** Training – Bruce Neville
- G.** Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair
Membership dues requirements
- H.** Advanced Training – Mike and Joyce Conner – Co-Chairs
- I.** Outreach – Dwight Bohlmeier - Chair
- J.** Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair
- K.** Web – Amanda Chau, Chair
- L.** Host/Social – Joyce Conner, Chair
- M.** Historian – Terry Junek, Chair

II. Old Business

- A.** Update on memorial bench – Betty Vermeire
- B.** Update on BVTMN shirt order – Molly Harris

III. New Business

- A.** Discussion of Membership dues

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

- 1. **BVTMN Spring and Summer Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
March 7, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8
- 2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
 - Feb 14- John Baines (Geologist, retired from Texaco) "Global Warming, Its Happened Two Times Before-Get Ready to Head for Higher Ground"

- March 14- Cindy Bolch (TMN Camino Real, Bat Committee Chair) - Subject, Bats
- April 11- Dale Kruse (S.M.Tracy, Herbarium Curator) - Subject, Moss
- May 9- Shelly Du Puy (NOAA Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Education Outreach Coordinator) - Subject, Flower Gardens NMS and Invasive Species
- June 13- Jan Janecka (TAMU-VIBS, Research Assistant Professor) - Subject, Mountain Lions in Texas

3. February 15 through 18 - Great Backyard Bird Count

A message from Betty Vermeire bavermeire@suddenlink.net:

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is for everyone, from beginner birdwatchers to experts, and for the first time ever, anyone can participate from anywhere in the world. Counting birds provides scientists and researchers with a real-time snapshot of winter bird populations. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Please join us for the GBBC, Friday, February 15th through Monday, February 18th, and together we can make our local birds count!

3. February 16 - Whoopers & Hummers workshop-- Cleburne, TX

Complete description distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

Saturday, February 16, 2013, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

United Cooperative Services Bldg., 3309 N. Main (Hwy 174), Cleburne, TX 76033

This event is **FREE**. Whoopers are in the morning from 9-12, and Hummers are from 1-4. Bring a sack lunch/drink and your morning coffee. Come for all, or come for one.

RSVP required due to the popularity of the content. Please contact the event coordinator: Carrie McLaughlin, TX Master Naturalist, carrie.mclaughlin58@gmail.com (682-459-1684)

4. February 16th - Project WILD Workshop at the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections!

Complete description distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda

Learn how to teach young people about ecology and wildlife using fun, hands-on educational activities.

Six-hour Workshop Fee: \$25 via the on-line site and \$5 cash at the door for lunch.

Preregistration required. . Deadline: February 13, 2013

Here is the registration link:

http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6mslyx27e8ed68e&llr=t7fgmrfa_b

5. February 15th through 24th – TPWD Crab Trap Clean Up Volunteer Event

A great volunteer service opportunity for TMN chapters along the coast.....

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is looking for volunteers interested in helping to remove abandoned crab traps — ghostlike killers of marine life — from their haunts along the coast.

Starting Feb. 15 and continuing through Feb. 24, all Texas bays will be closed for crabbing. Any traps left in the water will be assumed to be abandoned and considered “litter” under state law. This allows volunteers to legally remove any crab traps they find.

Since TPWD's Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program began in 2002, a total of 29,552 wire mesh traps have been removed and disposed of, mainly on the mid and upper coast. This year, the

department hopes to see the count rise above 30,000.

State game wardens remove more than 2,500 illegal traps annually, but many more still lie in the water to tangle fishermen's lines, trap game fish and crabs through what biologists call "ghost fishing," snag bay shrimpers' nets and create an unsightly view of Texas shores.

"It is estimated that one ghost fishing crab trap can trap and kill 26 blue crabs per trap per year," said Art Morris, TPWD program coordinator. "So, the 29,552 traps we have removed add up to over 480,000 blue crabs alone that have been saved from ghost fishing — if the trap was lost for only one year. Some traps had been derelict since 1998."

One study based on a biological inventory of 1,703 abandoned crab traps revealed 3,675 organisms in those traps, averaging two per trap. Some had many more.

"Naturally, we saw blue crabs and stone crabs, but we also saw just about every species of important Texan sport fish," Morris said. "In addition, we found 10 non-game fish species and 11 invertebrate species and even diamond-backed terrapins. Forty-one species in all."

To facilitate volunteer trap removal efforts this year, TPWD will provide trap drop-off sites at several locations in each major bay system along the coast starting Feb. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon, depending on the weather. Additionally, at all sites, dumpsters marked with banners will be available to receive traps for the duration of the closure.

Volunteers can concentrate their efforts on the opening weekend or work at their own pace anytime during the closure, but traps cannot be removed prior to Feb. 15 or after Feb. 24. TPWD asks that those who work on their own report where and how many traps you collected so the department can keep track of the total number of traps removed.

"The success of this program is a reflection of the keen sense of stewardship anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts have for our marine resources," Morris said. "Volunteers have removed more traps from Texas waters than in any other state and the results show. The waning number of traps removed each year indicates that their efforts are having an impact."

The Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and the Galveston Bay Foundation are providing continued support to the crab trap removal program. Along with additional aid from numerous organizations and companies who are volunteering their services.

To participate, volunteers can arrange to pick up free tarps, gloves, trap hooks and additional information at their local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Field Stations. TPWD requests that volunteers who remove traps record and submit information about the number of traps that they collect as well as any sightings of diamond-back terrapins.

For more information about the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program and how you can volunteer, please contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Office or Art Morris at the Corpus Christi Field Station: (361) 825-3356 or email: crabtrap@tpwd.state.tx.us.

6. Winter Webinars to Get You Ready for Spring

Webinar: National Wildlife Week--Branching Out for Wildlife!

Date: Wednesday, February 20th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

7. April 12-14: Prairies Lakes & Timbers north Texas TMN chapters regional conference

Detailed information distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

Online registration will be available soon. Watch our Facebook page for updates:

<http://www.facebook.com/PrairiesLakesTimbersConference>

9. April 20 - 18th Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Celebration at Wolf Pen Creek in College Station.

Information distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

BVTMN will be hosting two tables, one in the children's zone and one in the "adult" area. Joyce Conner has volunteered to coordinate the children's zone display (bird feeders, bird box etc). We have several members signed up to help at Earth Day but need someone to coordinate the other table in the adult area.

Set up begins at 9:00am and the event runs until 4:00 pm.

Reserve booth spaces by completing the registration form by Friday, March 22, 2013.

www.brazosvalleyearthday.com!

10. April 19th and 20th -BioBlitz

Information to date received from Bioblitz coordinator and SCB Vice President Carlos De La Torre:

2013 BioBlitz will be April 19th and 20th :

He will send more information when available.

11. Continuing Volunteer Opportunity – S.M. Tracy Herbarium, College Station

Dr. Dale Kruse, Curator of the S.M. Tracy Herbarium is looking for volunteers. The Herbarium is in the same building as the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (old TCWC) building. Knowledge of plants is desirable, but not essential. If you are interested, please contact him at dakruse@tamu.edu.

12. New Nature Play at Home Guide

<http://www.nwf.org/Home/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There/Policy/Natural-Play-Areas.aspx>

NWF and the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University are pleased to announce the release of our Nature Play at Home guide. This free publication shows families how to create simple and affordable nature play spaces in domestic outdoor spaces. The guide can be downloaded at www.nwf.org/natureplay.

13. Texas PTA has a grants program for schoolyard gardens called "Grow Your Garden Grants" The application can be found at: www.formsite.com/txpta/form256/secure_index.html

14. Nov-Dec. Reverchon Naturalist Newsletters from NRCS

Reminder – The newsletter welcomes interesting photos of native plants and related stories within the North Central Texas area. Submit articles of 350-700 words. Longer articles are also accepted.

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/bio/reverchon.html>

Dr. Ricky Linex, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 532 Santa Fe., Weatherford, TX 76086, [817-596-2865 Ext. 105](tel:817-596-2865) (O), [817-304-5266](tel:817-304-5266) (C), Ricky.Linex@tx.usda.go

15. Texas Archeological Society, Academy Sessions, for Spring 2013 (AT credit)

Complete information distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

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Archeology 101 - An Introduction

Where: Student Center at Victoria College, 2200 E. Red River, Victoria 77901

When: March 1, Friday 5 – 9 PM; Saturday 9 AM – 4 PM; Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

To register, go to <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/index.php>

Registration deadline: February 15

Archeobotany

Where: Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville 78028

When: April 6, Saturday 9 am- 4:45 pm and Sunday April 7, 8:30 am - 3 pm with Friday evening preparation of an earth oven-information to be sent to participants.

Registration deadline: March 22.

To register, go to <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/index.php>

16. The El Camino Real Chapter has set up an Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops for April 26 - 27, 2013 in Milam County.

Complete information distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

Reminder: if interested contact:

Katherine Bedrich, Texas Master Naturalist, *El Camino Real Chapter*, kamber51@att.net, 254-697-2836

17. Texas Junior Master Naturalist (TXJMN) Program:

Complete information distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

Reminder, TMN is looking for volunteers for program development teams.

Contacts:

Stephanie Stone Perry, TMN, Hill Country Chapter
and Michelle Haggerty, TMN State Coordinator

18. April 26th and 27th - Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops

Complete information distributed in BVTMN January detailed agenda.

Reminder:

Rockdale General Store; 1201 W Hwy 79; Rockdale, Texas..

Texas Master Naturalist Approved Advanced Training

Registration required. Fee \$10.00 for materials per workshop.