



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

Attendance: Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Laura Biddle, Tatum Brown, Amanda Chau, Donell Frank, Roger Hoestenbach, Cheryl Lewis, Charlene Lusk, Bruce Neville, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermeire, Deb Wilson.

The meeting was brought to order at 5:30 pm by Bruce Neville.

Donell Frank - Workshop and/or monthly presentation: Barbara Willy from the Monarch Gateway Organization. Donell asked Bruce if he thought we should do a full day or half day workshop on monarchs and prairies. Board interested in talk followed by a workshop (on Saturday) after the talk in May. Cheryl went to another workshop by Barbara Will and it included lunch and they charged \$15; and that including lunch is routine and they do set-up. Amanda Chau said the workshop in San Antonio charged \$20. Donell said the workshop will include other speakers from TPWD. Our chapter would host. Donell mentioned listing in newspaper. Amanda Chau asked about expected participation numbers. She will advertise with Master Gardeners and Barbara Willy said she would advertise on her website. Discussion of location based on potential size. Cheryl's workplace has a room that's free that could be used. Donell's work is possible but may not be large enough. Steve Simcik offered to check Blinn's large room availability. Wings N' More on Deacon suggested, if we buy their food, or Olivia mentioned Wellborn Community Center. Board agreed to move forward and those offering to check space availability will do so. Discussion of Saturday workshop after TAMU and Blinn graduations and avoid Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

Amanda Chau – Saturday, May 7th trash pick-up for Gabbard/Brison decided. Saturday, April 9th Texas Trash Off we submitted our team application to KKB and named our team.

Donell Frank - Bioblitz confirmed for April 30th. Not sure if that will really cause a conflict if TMN decides not to participate. Betty said schools are no longer allowed to advertise, thus the low turn-out in recent years. Two tables, one for adults and one for children – place together or separate? Audobon's Big Sit is May 1st.

Bruce Neville - Bruce suggested creating a Youth Programs Director (Board Level) position to help facilitate youth participation at events such as BioBlitz. Amanda Chau suggested putting out a call to membership for who is interested. She asked if Dwight might be interested but unsure if he can commit to it right now. Betty suggested Katharine Cupps.

Bruce also suggested a Field Trip Manager (reports either to Program Director [VP] or Advanced Training Director) position that could work with both. Decided to put it with Programs director.

Bruce will advertise for both positions. Person must be active in chapter and be paid up in dues. Bruce suggested Mark McDermott for field trip manager position.

Bruce asked if we want to participate this year in BioBlitz.

Board meetings will continue at 5:30 PM before each meeting. Business meetings will only occur quarterly now, with pertinent business information going out on GoogleGroups.

Donell asked if we are still interested in TWA Program presentation. Board agreed and she will see about scheduling him for the June or July BVTMN presentation. Mentioned Big Brazos Whiskey Bridge field trip to dig for fossils in a color month with low water.

Bruce mentioned 11 people responded to survey on expertise and contacts. Betty said adding skills to list, such as presentation skills, carpentry, crocheting, etc.

Cheryl asked when will submitted TMN hours be approved? Betty said the system doesnot work on a Mac, only on a pc. We willnot lose the hours we have submitted. Betty will review once computer works.

Cheryl said some Community Development staff have volunteered this coming Wednesday at 4PM to work in the garden. She thinks it would be good to have some Master Naturalists as well and she passed around a sign-up sheet. She will also send out a call via GoogleGroups.

Cheryl also mentioned native plant gardens in general, chapter display, outreach booth at BioBlitz and Earth Day.

Bruce said we need signage for garden bed, “sponsored by/provided by TMN Brazos Valley and City of College Station. Betty moved to approve expense for signage. Cheryl seconded. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm by Bruce Neville.