



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter  
Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2012  
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

**Attendance**-Jim Balthrop, Jo Anne Bates, Laura Biddle, Amanda Chau, Joy Conner, Mike Conner, Mary Ann Cusimano, Lisa Davenport, Sarah Laughlin, Charlene Lusk, Bruce Merryman, Bruce Neville, Jay Pritchard, Janet Quiram, Kara Rosch, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Cynthia Stephens, Betty Vermeire, Mary Dabney Wilson, **Guests**: Rick Laughlin, Ian Muise, Sara Lawhon

Lisa Davenport brought to order at 5:37 PM.

**I. Officer and Committee Reports**

**A.** President – Lisa Davenport - BISD requesting books; Franklin Texas Carnegie Library request; volunteers needed for after-school program in North Zulch. **B.** Neville said to give Calista's name to her. **L.** Davenport said she could ask TMN facilitator who could help train someone at North Zulch but cannot provide someone after school regularly. **A.** Chau is one of several BVTMN facilitators and she can help direct Megan Driver but will not be official facilitator.

**B.** Vice President – Janet Quiram

**C.** Secretary – Amanda Schwede - Sign in. Approval of February 2012 meeting minutes-A. Chau motioned to approve. **S.** Simcik seconded. Approved unanimously.

**D.** Treasurer – Charlene Lusk – 34 members have paid 2012 dues. **A.** Chau suggested posting non-active unless dues paid and AT/volunteer hours done or at least active.

**E.** Outreach – Cheryl Lewis – Made 43 pine cones and spoke with 57 people at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Spring Festival.

**F.** Training – Bruce Neville – TMN Training Committee Report

- 1.** Committee met last week. Might need to meet again before April.
- 2.** Survey-15 responses received and excellent comments. Overwhelmingly in favor of "keep the schedule the way it has been." More of a split on venue and food options. Problems with both venues; looking for another alternative. Several mentioned difficulties in getting to field trips; will find a place to meet and carpool.
- 3.** Classes-Sept 4 to Nov 13, allowing for no class on election night. Thinking of moving to Sep 11 to Nov 20. So many topics, so little time! Still refining class topics and speakers. As soon as that's refined, we'll begin asking potential speakers.

**G.** Membership – Betty Vermeire – Sent stuff to state: 25 people submitted 197.5 volunteer hours in February and 29.5 advanced training hours.

## **H. Advanced Training –Jim Anding**

- I. Volunteer Service Project – Jay Pritchard – lots of upcoming volunteer opportunities. Can't get into Google group access. A. Chau said she'll present on it at general meeting.**
- 1. We should volunteer at Milam County Nature Fest. L. Davenport- three weekends in a row of Milam County Nature Festival, Earth Day, and BioBlitz. Jay will contact Monika Libson about BioBlitz and if we can have a table.**
  - 2. Have plenty of pine cones. We're short on bird seed-will put a call out for it-has sunflower seeds but want some with more milo that can pack into pine cones. Jay has tent. C. Lewis has banner and one of signs along with stuff for pine cones. Jay has pine cones in car port. Need more than a table with just pine cones, like the bird board. S. Simcik said he has it.**
  - 3. Identification signs on Park Hudson trail have disappeared.**
  - 4. B. Vermeire-[BioBlitz] everyone welcome to come and can sign up for a specific area. She'll have TMNers email response to her. Areas include birds, mammals, insects, fish, botany, herps. We'll not do a table. Friday and Saturday are surveys. Friday afternoon is kid activity time where College Station school district kids can get passports stamped.**
  - 5. A. Chau said we need to get people's background checks done or have signature on form that they are not working with children. B. Neville-How long does process take for background check? L. Davenport said she didn't know but will find out. A. Chau suggested collecting forms and sitting on them until we know who will process them so that private information on forms isn't lying out for public view. Said we should at least collect forms. L. Davenport-will contact Michelle Haggerty about who to send to for processing. Need ASAP. B. Neville said TAMU people can send the forms to him, in a sealed envelope with name and TMN on front, for holding and Blinn people can send to A. Chau. A. Chau motioned the chapter pay the fee. J. Pritchard seconded with addition for chapter to look into including in cost of membership fee. Can also snail mail forms to B. Vermeire. A. Chau will have PDF form posted on web. L. Davenport said each person should hold onto until stack is achieved and then give to whomever Michelle Haggerty says is contact.**
- J. Host/Social – Olivia Ash and Kara Rosch – K. Rosch said last month's star gazing social was canceled due to weather. Next social will be last Friday in March-will email out what and where.**
- K. Historian – Terry Junek – Submitting pictures to Terry for website and historian files means submitter okay without copyright infringement.**
- L. Web – Amanda Chau - 5 to 8 minutes overview of website changes during general meeting.**
- 1. For past month, made major changes to Google groups and calendars. Only need bvCriticter\$ to access. Case sensitive. Do not need a Google account to access. Will present on it at today's general meeting.**
  - 2. Suggested changing Lisa's and Betty's home addresses on web to P.O. Box. Bank statements incomplete or not received but are needed to allow us to receive non-profit status. J. Pritchard said we need five years of financial statements or records, \$250 to apply, and data on last five years of chapter, to get it. B. Vermeire-Jim Walston had these and Dwight should have them in an expandable folder. A. Chau said it would save us money in purchasing so it would be worth it. L. Davenport said start with Jim Walston or Dwight. B. Neville offered to check it from a College Station P.O. box because it's right around the corner and he already checks it for RBAS. Mary Dabney Wilson set up RBAS P.O. box. A. Chau motioned to approve because of six month fee. J. Quiram seconded. Passed unanimously. B. Neville will set up next week.**

M. Program – Janet Quiram – Speakers lined up (see below). Still taking recommendations.

## II. Old Business

- A. Texas Nature Trackers Program - been involved in Mussel Watch and Amphibian Watch in past. Perhaps it is a good time to have a refresher course
- B. Amanda Chau - Propose our chapter open a PO box under chapter name and have all correspondence sent there

## III. New Business

- A. A. Chau-sign-ups complete to volunteer AV equipment for monthly meetings through June 2012
- B. A. Chau-TMN background check- decide are we going to try to get everyone to do background check and how to collect the fee
- C. Applying for non-profit status - Time for BVTMN to change status “not-for-profit” to “non-profit”? Will save us money when buying materials, supplies, equipment...etc.
- D. Web Committee- New Calendars are now live and you can start updating them

## IV. Announcements

### A. Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

1. **TMN Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 5:30/6:30 PM, BVMNH)  
April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11
2. **2012 TMN State Conference** October 26-28, 2012
3. **Monthly Meeting speakers:** April 12— April 12— Amanda Mancuso from Brazos Valley Recycling; May 9 John Nielson-Gammon "Scientific Basis for and Texas Consequences of Climate Change"
4. **2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series** (count as Advanced Training credit)
5. **Global Amphibian Crisis: Dr. Michael Lannoo @ the Houston Zoo- March 9, 2012!**  
(Approved for AT credit.)
6. **Spring 2012 Applied Biodiversity Science Seminar Series** (Approved for AT credit.)
7. **Master Naturalists sought for assistance and support of Scout Programs**
8. **Freshwater Unionid Symposium and Workshop-UT Tyler March 16-17** (Approved for AT credit.)
9. **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at Wolf Pen Creek**
10. **TEXAS BRIGADES TAKES CAMP IN NEW DIRECTION Waterfowl Presents New Possibilities For Future**
11. **TMN Chapters needed as TPWD Texas Nature Tracker Partners!**
12. **BioBlitz will be April 27 & 28** 15th annual BioBlitz is coming in April!
13. **Leopold Education Project Educator Workshop and Facilitator Training**
14. **MILAM COUNTY NATURE FESTIVAL PHOTO CONTEST IS BACK!**
15. **Ro Wauer will speak on "Natural Habitat" or “What's So Special About Texas Birds” at Martha's Bloomers on March 10 at 11:00.**
16. **Spring Beauty and the Bees - Volunteer pollinator monitoring**
17. **RBAS program-Purple Martins presented by Jim Anding. March 14th at 6:30 at BVMNH.** (Approved for AT credit.)
18. **Purely-for-fun TMN trip to Fort Davis and the Davis Mountains will be May 4-8, 2012.**  
(Note: This trip is designed for TMNs for leisure, not sanctioned AT trip. Might determine that some components provide AT at a later date.)
19. **Fourth Annual Beginners Beekeeping School**

V. B. Neville motioned to adjourn. A. Chau seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.