



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2015 Biodiversity Research and Teaching Facility

Attendance: Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Olivia Ash, Laura Biddle, Dwight Bohlmeier, Melissa Brown, Amanda Chau, Mike Conner, Donnell Frank, Roger Hoestenbach, Sue McBeth Welfel, Bruce Neville, Kathryn Nigh, Amanda Schwede, Betty Vermiere, Deborah Wilson

Bruce brought the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A.** President – Bruce Neville – 1. 2015 class already has a representative sitting on the board (Kathryn Nigh) 2. State conference call about state representative-Bruce will distribute notes when he gets them 3. Tomorrow is absolute last day to register for state conference, three attending, currently has two silent auction items but state suggested eight donations from each chapter
- B.** Vice President - Bruce Neville – no report
- C.** Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of September 2015 meeting minutes-update...Bruce suggested active members (not archived members) in treasurer's report and under membership committee report correct member class for 15 and 13 numbers and strike sentence about Betty having corrections to August minutes. Olivia moved to approve as appended and Amanda Chau seconded. Unanimously approved.
- D.** Treasurer- Amanda Chau – 48 paid members; \$3705.89 balance
- E.** Committees
 - 1.** Outreach – Olivia Ash, Chair – Boonville Days I this Saturday. Intend to get there with volunteers around 8:30 AM. Intends to showcase and give information on original prairie in the area and how to get back to that. Cheryl is picking up natural seeds tomorrow and will have that as individual packet of seeds to plant. Impact of the change of the environment and the difference it has made in the prairie since the 1850s. Dwight will get caterpillars and milkweed for Olivia to use and pick up. Pumpkinpalooza next day, 10-4, Bruce needs to get stuff from Olivia. Storage building had a break-in, only fishing things stolen and she has new keys.
 - 2.** Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – submit your September 2015 hours; next quarterly report (July, August, September and any other hours not yet submitted) is due. Online system has a 45 day entry limit after event. State wants six people to be trained and those will train the rest of the membership.
 - 3.** Advanced Training – Laura Biddle, Chair – Will send reminder email about what qualifies for advanced training credit.
 - 4.** Volunteer Services – Melissa Brown, Chair – see Amanda Chau's trash pick-up under B of new business below. Remove November 28th due to Thanksgiving holiday. That leaves November 21st and December 5th. Will clean both parks. Settled on Saturday, November 21st 8 to 10 AM. Will send out more information as it gets closer. Olivia said Heather Prestridge requested another flower bed clean-up at BRTC. Suggested Wednesday evening because

weekends are so full and Heather stays later. Will shoot for October 21st immediately after 5 PM until dark ~7 PM.

5. Host/Social – Deb Wilson, Chair – reserved UUC December 12th Holiday Social from 3 to 10 PM for \$56 with a \$125 deposit that's returned if nothing messed up. Will sign contract. Olivia has Barbara Pritchard's decorations and some additional. She and Olivia will look tonight before they leave to see what we have. See details below under New Business, A. Chapter will provide the meat, everything else is potluck. Elect officers, can bring a guest, food sign-up, brief business meeting. May consider selling centerpieces again for donations (did a time or two in recent past). Deb will send an email to plan the event and get sign-up sheet going. This year is our chapter's tenth anniversary and we need to think about what we will do, i.e. slide show. Need to invite Heather Prestridge, Mary Pearl Meuth, and Dusty Tittle.
6. Historian – TBD, Chair –
7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair – Have online directory with people's status. Thinks we are no longer compliant. But doesn't think there is anything specific about the webpage in the handbook. Active is clarified as having paid dues. Betty will look at online spreadsheet and will let Mike (He'll send Betty and Bruce the link.) know who is not active and CC: Bruce.
8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –
9. New Member Training – Dwight Bohlmeier, Chair – 1. Need to think about when we will have the new class do the background checks. Laura Biddle will check with Jan Horbaczewski and will email Dwight with what they need to do, i.e. sign waiver or background check. 2. Dwight passed around calendar and asked that we check dates, names. It will be at Office Max right before Thanksgiving for \$10 or can download it and print at home from website.

II. New Business

- A. Holiday Social- Unitarian Universalist Church reserved for Saturday, December 12th.
 1. Amanda Chau- How do you want to handle the church facility utility fee? Last year we paid \$53. Did the fee go up? Do I give a check to you tomorrow night at the meeting to pass onto your church?
 - A. We have budgeted \$200 for the Social Committee for supplies and Christmas Social. The Committee has used only \$8.65 so far so you have \$191.35 remaining in your budget.
- B. Gabbard and Brison Parks-Amanda Chau would like to propose we pick up trash on 11/21. No home game on these dates. How about other events or activities that may clash with our trash pick up.
- C. Nominating committee for 2016-2017 new officers-Olivia said we have a three member officer slate so far, no vice president yet, bylaws say publish 15 days prior to event. Have to be certified or certified in the past to be nominated. Nominating committee is made up of Jim Anding, Cheryl Lewis, and Olivia Ash.
- D. Oct 17th is trip to Cedar Hill Ranch with advanced training if haven't done before. Can also get volunteer hours with bird count. Different botany walk with Monique Reed so advanced training is available.

Amanda Chau motioned to adjourn. Laura Biddle seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.