



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2013 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Present at Board Meeting: Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Dwight Bohlmeier, Joyce Connor, Mike Connor, Cheryl Lewis, Bruce Neville, Amanda Schwede, Betty Vermiere, Sue McBeth Welfel

Minutes of Board Meeting

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A.** President – Olivia Ash – In President Ash's absence, Jim Balthrop brought meeting to order at 5:38 PM.
- B.** Vice President – Jim Balthrop –
- C.** Secretary – Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of Aug and Oct 2013 meeting minutes. First send out of October minutes was incorrect. Second send out of October minutes from Mike Connor is correct. Mike Connor moved to accept August and October minutes as amended. Joyce Connor seconded. Minutes amended and approved.
- D.** Treasurer – Amanda Chau – Current balance is \$3,575.82 and we have 49 voting members. She also requested to add her email information to minutes.
- E.** Outreach – Dwight Bohlmeier, Chair – Update on junior naturalist event through City of College Station. Dates and events set for Spring, 2014: February 6-Fishy Business at Central Park, March 6-Birding 101 at Wolf Pen Creek, and April 3-TBA at Veterans Park. Only 5 children attended the first junior naturalist event at Bee Creek. This junior BVTMN through the City of College Station is not as successful, plus the City charges \$20/day for each student. BVTMN Executive Committee decided to not participate because of cost and constant changes. \$20 cost did not provide children nor BVTMN anything. Olivia Ash suggested an ad hoc committee to look at offering Junior Master Naturalist training ourselves, as we have in the past. Dwight will notify City of College Station BVTMN will not participate in the current event. Cheryl Lewis informed the Executive Committee that Michele Haggerty is in the process of developing a state-wide junior naturalist program started, but will be a while before it is available. Joyce Connor then provided updates on First Friday events. Next First Friday will be December 6. She's working on doing a new table on feeding winter birds. She's trying to get a table and better lighting. Will coordinate same tables used for BVTMN holiday party the next day or Olivia Ash and Dwight Bohlmeier will bring two other tables. Joyce Connor would also like to move into a Backyard Bird Count instead of First Friday table next year. Joyce Connor moved to approve expenditure on color copies of Backyard Bird Count handouts. Motion approved.
- F.** New Member Training – Bruce Neville, Chair – Of 19 who began the 2013 class in September, 11 graduated on 12 November, and 2 more (starred) will make up one course and graduate shortly. This class is very engaged and will be a great addition to our chapter. The 2013 class is: Elrey Ash, Susan Barba, Melissa Brown, D. Bruce Dickson, Rick Laughlin, Alberto Manterola*, June Manterola*, Mark McDermott, Teri Metcalf, Bob Presley, Sue Slowey, Michael Stecher, Karen Weir

We had two new speakers this year, Dr. Hugh Wilson on botany and Novalene Thurston on entomology, both of whom were well received. We had one new topic, Butterflies, which was taught by Bruce Neville. We piloted a new evaluation system with a brief online survey by email after each class or field trip and received better feedback than in previous years.

I would like to thank my committee, Jackie Girouard, Melissa Kamerbeek, Sarah Laughlin, Janet Quiram, and Betty Vermeire for all their work. I would like to thank Kitty Anding for arranging sign-up sheets and monitoring attendance. I would like to thank Joyce Connor and the Outreach Committee for arranging the socials for the first and last classes and the members who came to meet the class and provide refreshments. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to host speakers and field trips.

I would like to thank the presenters: Jane Packard, Sarah Laughlin, Dwight Bohlmeier, Bruce Neville, Betty Vermeire, and Dave Cunningham of the Brazos Valley Chapter, and Christine Morgan, Hugh Wilson, Toby Hibbits, Novalene Thurston, Larry Hysmith, Alston Thoms, Monique Reed, and Jan Horbaczewski. We literally could not have done this without them. I would like to thank the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History and the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections for allowing us to use their facilities.

Based on the response for the fall, we do not propose a spring class.

New Member Training is certainly one of the most challenging, but at the same time, one of the most rewarding, activities in the Master Naturalist program.

- G. Membership** – Betty Vermeire, Chair – Betty reminded everyone to submit hours.
- H. Advanced Training** – Mike and Joyce Conner, Co-Chairs – Child protection training is still ongoing.
- I. Volunteer Service Project** – Mike Conner, Chair – discussion of volunteer insurance requirements. Covers you if you get sued. Must already have personal liability insurance to be covered under theirs as a secondary insurance. Only kicks in once personal insurance has run out. It is free and offered by the state. Membership waiver must be signed and on file, which is automatic with the organization membership. We then automatically have the insurance.
- J. Host/Social** – Joyce Conner, Chair – Upcoming events - report on catered meat for Holiday Party. **Dec. 7**, Holiday Day Party and Potluck at Ferguson Showroom, Bryan. Please save dates (more information to come later). This year, rather than the Chapter purchasing meat, individual members have volunteered to also purchase meat.
- K. Historian** – Terry Junek, Chair – Not present, but Olivia Ash reminded all to take pictures.
- L. Web** – Amanda Chau, Chair –
- M. Program** – Jim Balthrop, Chair –

II. Old Business

- A. A. Chau-Operating Handbook**- proposed changes Handbook (adding web committee as a standing committee). Executive Board has already approved changes to the Operating Handbook, but Amanda Chau will send out to entire membership 15 days prior to December 7 meeting/social to notify entire membership of updates.

III. New Business

- A. 2014 BVTMN officer elections**-Jim Balthrop will send out notification of new officers to entire membership 15 days prior to December 7 meeting/social for a vote at the December meeting/social. New Officers for 2014 are: President Sarah Laughlin, Vice President Bruce Neville, Treasurer Amanda Chau and Secretary Amanda Schwede.

- B.** Joyce Conner and Olivia Ash- discussion of sharing Chapter resources with other Chapters Request for the List of Common fish, etc. from our website. This request for the files is from the President of El Camino Real Master Naturalists in Milam County. Unless you are a BVTMN member you cannot access the list from our website.

If this was our intent (prohibit public from accessing the list), then I would need Board's permission to send this information to her (which is almost certainly for the use of their membership). Betty Vermiere has contacted the President of the El Camino Real Master Naturalists and taken care of the request. Bruce will develop a copyright notification on what's okay to print and distribute and what is not.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Chapter meeting called to order by Olivia Ash at 8:01 PM

Present at Chapter meeting: Those present at Board meeting, plus: Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, Carol Henrichs, Jo Anne Bates, Molly Harris, Janet Quiram, Jay Pritchard, Liz Crompton, Madge Luquette, Melissa Kamerbeek, C. Benson, Alberto Manterola, Elrey Ash, Sandy White, Steve Simcik

1. Approval of October minutes occurred at Board Meeting
2. Send Dwight Bohlmeier pictures for 2014 calendar (wildlife, insects, plants, scenic Texas, etc.). Get them to him by November 22. Dwight provided recap of status of Junior Master Naturalist program.
3. Jim Balthrop announced that a slate of 2014 officers has been chosen and he will send out the names via email 15 days before the December 7 meeting for a vote.
4. Olivia provided recap of Amanda Chau's treasury report and announced that dues will be due in January.
5. Joyce Connor provided a recap of First Friday events. She also asked for members to email her if they were having issues with the child protection training. Advanced Training credit was possible for the training.
6. Bruce Neville provided a recap of New Member Training.
7. Betty Vermiere announced that background check renewal was necessary every three years.
8. Dusty Tittle is the New Extension Agent
9. Mike Connor announced that a pre-approved list of Advanced Training opportunities is online.
10. Members area on our website is for members ONLY. Check with Bruce Neville before copying and distributing any information found there.
11. Joyce Connor updated holiday social party plans. RSVP was encouraged to her.