



## **Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2013 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

Present at Board Meeting: Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Mike Conner, Joyce Conner, Terry Juneke, Lisa Davenport, Cheryl Lewis, Bruce Neville, Christy Northcliffe, Betty Vermeire

Present at Chapter Meeting: those listed above, plus: Jackie Girouard, Melissa Kamerbeek, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, Charlene Lusk, E. Sue McBeth Welfel, Sandy White, Mary Dabney Wilson.

### **Minutes of Board Meeting**

President: Olivia Ash called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Treasurer: Amanda Chau-as of May 4 we have \$3684.69 (TMN own fund) and \$533.80 (Chris Northcliffe's Memorial Fund). Lisa reported that all expenses may not have been reimbursed towards Memorial Fund and that by next month it should be finalized so that the remainder could be donated to the family.

Program: Jim Balthrop-still looking for three speakers.

### Committee Reports

Training: Bruce Neville-still working on dates for Fall class. Needs an Entomologist and Ed Riley was recommended. Betty has had several inquiries about the Fall class schedule.

Membership: Betty Vermeire-asks members to turn in April hours.

Advanced Training- Mike Conner explained that in order to reduce the AT Committee review of many opportunities, he has asked Committee to review a procedural change that allows the Chair to have singular discretion approving events that have already been approved by other Chapters. The Board agreed with this change. In addition, Olivia stated that a member(s) reported being inundated with AT opportunity emails and asked if there was a solution to reduce emails. Joyce said that when we limited our scope to local events, some members complained. Members have expressed interest in events in Austin, Houston, Galveston, Bastrop, etc. Bruce suggested the possibility of having an AT Google Mail group so that everyone did not have to read all the emails. After discussion, Mike and Joyce agreed to make the subject header more explanatory so that members could easily delete distant events from their mail boxes.

Joyce stated that the Invasive Plant Workshop date was set for June 29, 9-4 pm, but that location was unknown to her (Amanda Chau was absent from this meeting). She appealed to the Board to help defray some costs because she did not know whether her Social Committee and the membership would be able

to supply all that was needed for the refreshments (e.g., coffee urns, coffee and tea, assorted supplies) that were not in the hospitality cart. Olivia asked for a list of what was needed and possible cost. Bruce suggested Joyce check with party supply for the rental of urns.

Outreach: Olivia reported for Dwight that he would like to have a June Junior Master Naturalist event day(s). Dwight was considering Miliken Reserve because at a gathering of many community groups, the Plateau Land and Wildlife Management Inc. invited everyone including our Chapter to have events on the 1000 acre reserve. Joyce said that Saturday June 15 (Audubon field day) and June 29 (Invasive Plant Workshop) are booked. There was discussion about the Reserve and whether we could be involved because of its direct link to the housing development and it being a closed community. Mike stated that as far as volunteering, the main consideration was that it not contribute to the landowner financially profiting from our event. He used an example that we could not help the landowner (or landowner's agent) fundraise.

Social/Host: Joyce Conner-reported that the May 4<sup>th</sup> Social at Melissa and Martin Kamerbeek's house was a success. About 16-18 people attended the potluck. The weather and location were beautiful and the host and hostess did a great job. Thanks to the Kamerbeeks.

A Fall social is still planned in September at Cedar Hill Ranch. Date is pending.

The Social Committee now has two possible locations for the holiday party, Dec. 7 in the evening: the Expo Center and Ferguson Enterprises (Melissa K's husband's work showroom) and shared some highlights of each location. Dustin Coufal of AgriLife is requesting the funds to pay for the Expo room. We will know by the end of May if there will be cost share. Joyce has tentatively booked both Ferguson and the Expo Center pending review by the Committee and AgriLife funding.

The Invasive Plant Workshop on June 29 from 9-4 pm will need volunteers to supply refreshments and she will be asking the membership to help. No location has been announced.

Historian: Terry Junek-reported that she is making albums for each year to bring to events for people to see. She brought the one she has started for 2013. Olivia said she is still looking for the large banner and maybe Steve S. has it.

### Old Business

#### 1. Lick Creek Park Dedication:

Lisa reported it will be Saturday, June 1 at 10 am. Olivia suggested we have cookies and cold drinks for attendees. She will get some plants to set around the area for the event. Joyce asked about parking. Lisa will see about opening up the equestrian parking area and see whether overspill can park on the county road. Lisa will follow-up about the speakers (Bruce and a City official mentioned). Christy mentioned the media (Betty – did you get the name she mentioned to contact?). Olivia suggested having photography work of Chris' displayed, perhaps a laptop that could slide show his picture, as well as having some pictures of Chris himself. Bruce will check on having them available.

#### 2. Earth Day:

Joyce reported that 215 adults and 186 children came to the Kids' Booth and over 200 pine cone feeders were made (some even by adults). There were 5 BVTMN volunteers and all of them were needed (this allowed them to each get a break). They ran out of supplies 45 mins early. Olivia requested that Joyce get the list of supplies that were used so that we could better anticipate next year. Joyce has most of list but is missing Barbara Pritchard's items and will compile final list. Joyce has all left over supplies ready to be stored in a unit if/when membership rents one. Also, Barbara Pritchard has asked that we have a different activity next year (animal tracks).

Olivia would like members to make more static displays for visitors to look at (e.g., butterfly box, rock display, bird board, grass book). Terry J. said she would make an insect display. Cheryl Lewis stated that she had brought left over materials from the Adult Table to share with the membership.

3. BioBlitz:

Olivia stated that there were many BVTMNs but still some confusion about where and when we were scheduled. She suggests that next year we meet prior to the event with the student group/organizers and solidify responsibilities. Betty stated that we had a history of involvement whereas the student body kept changing. For better organization, it was suggested that we have a meeting with the A&M Society for Conservation Biology and especially with the staff representative (who was Tom Lacher in the past). Betty announced that it was a best year for species counts (85??)

4. Storage Unit: Olivia has still to look into getting it.

5. Hazardous Waste Collection: Joyce and Mike Conner and Amanda Chau worked the event.

New Business

Cheryl Lewis stated that she was talking to a City official about having a Water Event. She will keep us informed as it develops.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:30 PM.

**The Chapter Meeting began at 8:05 pm.**

1. Minutes were approved unanimously (Joyce motioned and Lisa seconded)

2. Olivia reviewed committee reports from Board Meeting. Added were:

- a. Outreach: June 8 and June 22 were only Saturdays available for Junior Master Naturalist Saturday event and that she would check with Dwight about mid-week day(s) and whether it could be Miliken Reserve OR Lick Creek Park and the times he had in mind. Once determined, an email will go to the membership for participation.
- b. Volunteer: Olivia reminded members to save the date for the next Hazardous Waste Collection in October 2013 for volunteer hours.
- c. Child Protection Training: Olivia reviewed the need for members to complete the training on TrainTraq  
(<https://apps6.system.tamus.edu/TrainTraq/web/External/ExternalGatewayLogon.aspx>). Joyce reminded members to submit their certificate information to Betty for our Chapter records.

3. Upcoming Events:

- a. Olivia - Save the Date for next annual TMN meeting at T Bar M Ranch in New Braunfels, Oct. 25-27, 2013.
- b. Bruce - this Saturday (May 11) is North American Migration Count. There will be three groups. Emails will be sent to members with details.

4. Drawings were held for native plants brought in by Cheryl Lewis and for a terrarium made by Terry Juneke.

Meeting was adjourned unanimously (motion made by Joyce) at 9 pm.