



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2013 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Present at Board Meeting: Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Mike Conner, Terry Junek, Cheryl Lewis, Bruce Neville, Betty Vermeire

Minutes of Board Meeting

President: Olivia Ash called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

Secretary: Amanda Schwede was unable to attend, so minutes for June were not available and will be approved at the August meeting. Bruce is taking minutes.

Treasurer: Amanda Chau-As of today, 07/09, we have \$3345.56 in our bank. We have 47 paid members. I already updated this information on our web page. New BVTMN assets: our chapter now has two 6 foot tables, a canopy, and a set of canopy weights. (Thanks Olivia for purchasing these equipment for our chapter).

Here is a quick report on our June 29 Invaders of Texas workshop: We have 24 people attended the workshop, 17 of them are from our own chapter, 3 from other TMN chapters, and 4 were not affiliated with TMN. Our workshop trainer was Jessica Strickland from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Our local expert, Monique Reed, gave a talk on invasive plants and their identification. Our chapter member, Mike Conner, also gave a talk on eradication of invasive plants. Our chapter spent \$89.28 in support of this workshop. I would like to thank

- 1) Joyce Conner for her help in organizing food, lunch, and drink for us throughout the day
- 2) Heather Prestridge for allowing us to use the BRTC facility
- 3) our chapter members who brought food and drinks to the workshop
- 4) our chapter members who volunteered their time at the workshop
- 5) Copy Stop Print and Postal at Blinn College and USDA Forest Service for contributing workshop materials

Click the link below to the Picasa Web album for this workshop:

https://plus.google.com/photos/102956140998253694839/albums/5895258077749449777?banner=pwa&authkey=CMvPx-2S_aiQxQE

Program: Jim Balthrop-Now has speakers lined up through the remainder of the year. Tonight's speaker is using a Mac. We don't have an adapter. Betty has one for her Mac, but the chapter needs one. Jim moved and Bruce seconded that the chapter authorize up to \$100 to purchase an adapter for Macs for the chapter computer. The motion passed. Betty knows what to get, so she will purchase and be reimbursed.

Committee Reports

Training: Bruce Neville-Classes will start on September 10. All speakers are now at least tentative. The notice to change the name of the committee was not sent out, so we will not vote on that at this meeting.

Membership: Betty Vermeire-turn in hours!

Advanced Training: Mike Connor-Efforts to identify and filter distant advanced training events and identify them as such in the subject line seem to be working. A Fall Vegetable Gardening Workshop sponsored by Texas Master Gardeners would probably not qualify as advanced training, as it is too gardening-oriented and not sufficiently natural.

Volunteer: Mike Connor-Lots of upcoming opportunities.

Outreach: Olivia reported that Dwight Bohlmeier led a Junior Naturalist trip to the Millican Reserve on June 22. Three children and 6 adults were present. A good time was had by all (except maybe the hordes of grasshoppers). The Reserve looks promising for Chapter activities, including perhaps a chapter day sometime in the fall, if it ever cools down.

Cheryl Lewis, Olivia and Elray Ash, Greg Pitts, and Sue McBeth Welfel staffed a table at First Friday in Bryan on July 5. The emphasis was on water conservation and AgriLife's 40-Gallon Pledge to conserve water. They reached approximately 150 adults and 47 children and had good feedback, but Cheryl has learned that there have been no new pledges since the event. The Director for the program at AgriLife suggests that they need to get pledges in paper or online at the event.

Jim Balthrop participated in a TPWD Fishing Clinic on July 5 that reached approximately 80 youth and 40 adults.

Boonville Days are upcoming on October 5.

Social/Host: Joyce Conner was unable to attend. She sent an email prior to the meeting noting that the membership will be asked to provide refreshments for four upcoming events: the first new member training class on September 10; the fall social on September 21, which is also the date of the training class Sugarloaf field trip; the new member graduation class on November 12; and the annual meeting on December 7. The annual meeting will be at Ferguson Enterprises Showroom. Emails with further details will be sent prior to the events.

Historian: Terry Junek-No report.

Web: Amanda Chau-No report.

Old Business

1. Storage Unit:

The cost of a commercial storage unit proved to be too prohibitive. Olivia approached Heather Prestridge about storage space at BRTC. They have a 16x20-foot storage building in which we can have space for free, but it needs some cleaning. Olivia will arrange for a cleaning day. Bruce volunteered to donate a shelving unit for the space.

New Business

1. Displays:

Olivia mentioned the need for displays to draw attention at various outreach events. Terry has purchased an insect display case and is preparing a display of the insect orders. Olivia has purchased an aquarium and is preparing an aquarium of fungi and dead insects that will not require feeding. Other displays and ideas are welcome.

2. Brazos Valley Expo and Fair:

Olivia was approached by the organizers of the Brazos Valley Expo and Fair asking if we would participate in the Expo this year. The Expo runs Sept 5-8 (Thurs-Sun) for a total of 24 table-hours, plus set-up and tear-down. If we break it into three-hour shifts, with two people per shift, we would need volunteers for 16 time slots. We would also need a variety of activities and displays. There was much discussion. It was decided to bring it before the chapter meeting and send out an email to judge interest before committing.

Bruce moved and Jim seconded to adjourn the Board meeting. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

The Chapter Meeting began at 8:00 pm.

Present at Chapter Meeting: those listed for the Board meeting, plus:

1. June minutes were postponed

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

- a. Membership: Betty Vermeire-The quarterly report is due to State by July 15. Turn in hours, please!!! Twenty-six people turned in hours for June, totalling 343 hours of volunteer service and 104 hours of advanced training. Year to date, 38 members have submitted 1915 hours of volunteer service and 295 hours of advanced training. Two members of the Class of 2012 have certified, Katharine Cupps and Sue McBeth Welfel. Congratulations! Ten members have recertified: Jim and Kitty Anding, Mike and Joyce Connor, Sarah Laughlin, Charlene Manning, Bruce Neville, Jay Pritchard, Betty Vermeire, and Mary Dabney Wilson.
- b. Volunteer: Bruce mentioned that the NABA Fourth of July Butterfly Count on Saturday the 13th would count for volunteer hours.
- c. Program: The August program will be on Urban Wildlife.

3. Old Business. Olivia reported on the storage arrangements.

4. New Business. Olivia discussed the Brazos Valley Expo and Fair. It was decided to send out the email and see what response was generated. In particular, we hope a coordinator will be forthcoming.

5. Drawings were held for native plants brought in by the Andings and for a dragonfly-themed wind chime made by Amanda Schwede. The wind chime was won by Rick Laughlin. The plants were won by Greg Pitts, Jay Pritchard, Janet Quiram and Mary Dabney Wilson.

Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:40 pm.