



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter  
Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2014  
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

Attendance: Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Molly Harris, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, Cheryl Lewis, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermiere

Sarah Laughlin brought meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

**I. Officer and Committee Reports**

- A. President - Sarah Laughlin –
- B. Vice President - Bruce Neville –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of July 2014 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau –
- E. Committees
  - 1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
  - 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – submit your July hours
  - 3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair –
  - 4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
  - 5. Host/Social – Melissa Kamerbeek and Jim Balthrop, Co-Chairs –
  - 6. Historian – TBD, Chair –
  - 7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair –
  - 8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –
  - 9. New Member Training – Olivia Ash, Chair –

**II. New Business**

- A. Continued from last month... "Web" Committee/"Technology" Committee, technologies-Mike Connor-Amanda C. constructed a survey and has gotten the data back. Haven't met with the committee on the data yet. People didn't seem to be interested in the training. BVTMN Facebook and BVTMN Blog. Few changes and recommendations. Changing home page so that it is not password protected but will have a members-only section that is password protected. Easier access to the calendar. Will try to use BVTMN Blog as a report on activities. Will

provide archive of our activities. Decided to keep name as “Web Committee.”

- B.** Renaming Carter Creek Trail for Jay-Sarah Laughlin-Been talking to Deborah about it and she can't do anything until Boonville Days (Oct. 4) is over. Molly said the Audobon Society will contribute \$50 toward it and will send to the Museum. Will schedule a work day to put mulch out and clean up branches once cools down.
- C.** Status report on the Greens Prairie Elementary School nature garden. I also want to announce to the group that my presentation, "Creating a Backyard Habitat," was accepted for the 2014 TMN State Meeting.-Molly Harris and Sarah Laughlin-Meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Sent to check out four school gardens. The one she looked at...? Contact at Greens Prairie Elementary has left and Denise Harmel-Garza is new contact with TAMU and has contacted a fourth grade teacher to do it. (St. Thomas has a certified classroom habitat.) Flat roof, get blueprints, drain water.
- D.** 10 year anniversary of the Chapter is next year... Are we doing anything?-Sarah Laughlin-2015 is ten-year milestone for the chapter. Maybe a party. Good opportunity to make the community aware and get involved.
- E.** Boonville Days-October 4, 2014-Has BVTMN signed up for this year? Craft ideas for kids/people from the past. Native plant display and invasive plants. Need volunteers for the day, not just for our table. Training sessions. Will have a live buffalo this year. Need volunteers for Buffalo Stampede prior to Boonville Days. Joyce will send an email to the Outreach Committee to see who is interested in meeting.
- F.** First training Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Social Committee provides food the first night. Three trainees registered and 55 interested. Joyce will send out to public service announcement group. Betty will put on Facebook too. Olivia has been putting brochures in the store and they've been continuously taken. She will put a note on the brochure holder that states that registration is open. Speakers verified and reserved except for Oct. 14 Botany class. (Needs a coordinator for the Sugar Loaf field trip on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Olivia will not be there.) Olivia will send out an email to the group to ask for experts in plants, grasses, trees, etc.
- 1.** Outside chapters, such as El Camino Real, that don't have a large enough training class to make can have potential trainees register and get certified with our chapter. Betty will check to make sure they don't have to move their membership then to their chapter.

Sarah adjourned meeting at 6:21 PM.