

Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, April 12, 2007

Attendees: Kitty Anding, Jim Anding, Dwight Bohlmeier, Mary Ann Cusimano, Lucy Deckard, Susan Fox, David Gwin, Ginger Hamilton, Ken Hasson, Lourdes Hasson, April Hatfield, Phillip Kronforst, Leo Lombardini, Mark Ojah, Heather Prestidge, Stephanie Sale, Mary Strauss, Jessica Taylor, Jerry Taylor, Manuelita Ureta, Jim Waldson, Ginny West.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm.

Program

Takesha Henderson gave a presentation entitled, "Ground Dwelling Spiders at Lick Creek Park."

After her presentation, her offer to conduct a field trip to Lick Creek Park was discussed. It was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 19th.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Volunteer Activities

Mary Strauss reported that the Texas Trash Off will be held this Saturday, April 14th and those who would like to participate should meet at the Bed, Bath and Beyond parking lot. We will clean up the area behind the shopping complex, which feeds into Wolf Pen Creek, then we'll move to Wolf Pen Creek. Afterwards, everyone will meet at the Brazos Center, where they will have pizza. They will be supplying boots this time.

Those who won't be at the Trash Off this Saturday are invited to join Jo Anne at our booth at the A&M Horticultural Gardens plant sale. Garden members can come at 7:30 am; the general public can come at 8:30. The sale is usually over by 1 pm.

Dwight reported that the Texas Bioblitz will be in the Big Thicket this summer. There will be a presentation by the various researchers involved in the survey on June 16th. This will be a good volunteer opportunity.

We will have a booth at the Planet Earth Celebration in Bryan on Saturday, April 21st and Jean Paul is looking for volunteers.

On Friday, April 20th, around 2 or 3 pm they will be spreading mulch at the TCWC gardens and could use newspapers and help supervising students.

Mary reported that a group went out to the Bryan Recreational and Athletic Complex (BRAC) to look at the trail that they asked for help in developing. The group will go out with a GPS and mark the trails. April will contact someone who knows about marking trails.

Mary Ann reported that Mussel Watch and Amphibian Watch training has been completed, and they will soon start on surveys. Equipment will be given to us. The Amphibian Watch team will need to decide what kinds of surveys will be conducted. The Mussel Watch team will decide which stream they will survey.

Mary Ann is working on arranging tours of bird rescue and mammal rescue facilities to determine possible ways we might help.

On April 28th there will be a fishing tournament in Cameron, Tx sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Volunteers can earn about 8 hours of volunteer time.

Jim Waldsen is working on a Wildlife Management Association event in southeast Milam County where they may need speakers.

Other

Heather Prestidge announced that the Wildlife and Fisheries Graduate Students will be giving a game barbecue at the Brazos Center at 6 pm Saturday, April 14th.

The Brazos Valley Museum is planning an invasive species exhibit and is looking for a mounted feral hog. If anyone knows someone who has one, they would like to arrange a loan until about October.

Kitty reminded everyone to be sure to send in their advanced training and volunteer hours as soon as they earn them so they don't forget.

Heather reported that Bioblitz had very good attendance on Friday night. Saturday was a bit hampered by poor weather and competing events.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2007.