



**Brazos Valley Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
Executive Board and Chapter Meetings
September 12, 2013**

Present at Board Meeting: Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Bruce Neville, Betty Vermeire, Sue McBeth Welfel, Elrey Ash

Present at Chapter Meeting: Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Jo Anne Bates, Laura Biddle, Amanda Chau, Joyce Conner, Mike Conner, Jim Cramp, Carolyn Cramp, Jackie Girouard, Molly Harris, Melissa Kamerbeek, Madge Luquette, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, Charlene Lusk, Sue McBeth Welfel, Bruce Neville, Jane Packard, Janet Quiram, Cynthia Stephens, Betty Vermeire Sandy White, Mary Dabney Wilson

Minutes of Board Meeting

Discussion before meeting – Betty stated there are 19 trainees signed up for the Fall class but only 14 trainees attended the first class. More had considered class but dropped out for different reasons. Ten is the breakeven point on attendance. Betty will canvas her archived emails to see what the interest in a spring class might be.

Olivia shared an email from the Red River Chapter on ways to keep up member involvement. That Chapter's solutions are: assign a mentoring person to each trainee; maintain a list of pre-approved projects; monthly luncheons with ½ hr AT; only 3 business meetings a year; two socials with attached AT; and put on at least 4 separate AT events. Board members were encouraged to review and comment via email.

Olivia reviewed our calendar of scheduled events so that we could have a better understanding of our commitments through the end of the year. Her calendar was missing several obligations which were added but it was noted that the web calendar was up-to-date. She wanted to know whether the web calendar was easy to copy out.

President: Olivia Ash called the Board meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Treasurer: Amanda Chau reported that we have \$2384.03. More checks from training registration are coming. She encouraged members to submit reimbursable expenses that had been paid out of pocket.

Committee Reports

Training: Bruce Neville: Someone needs to get a gift card for the speakers at Sugarloaf Mountain New Member Trainees' field trip is on September 21.

Membership: Betty Vermeire reported that 16 people had submitted hours for August for a total of 185.5 volunteer hours and 21 AT hours. A question was asked and answered that trainees begin receiving AT and volunteer hours beyond their basic hours from their first class forward. She encouraged trainees to begin submitting hours monthly immediately.

Advanced Training: Joyce and Mike Conner: No new business.

Outreach: Dwight Bohlmeier: was currently leading a Junior Master Naturalist event at Crompton Park with Terry Junek and Cheryl Lewis. There was speculation that cost and commitment might be reasons for low turnout. Only two children had been signed up.

Olivia brought up a request from Navasota that is below.

Name Tiffany Abel

Email tabel@navasotatx.gov<<mailto:tabel@navasotatx.gov>>

Message The City of Navasota received a grant for a Native Plant Demonstration Garden at our Community Center. Our grand opening is October 19th and I would like to have a mini eco fair that day and encourage the community to come out and learn how to be more environmentally responsible. Would your organization be interested in having a booth? There is no charge and the hours would be from 9-12 that morning. Please let me know if you have any questions and I hope you will join us!

There was concern expressed that we were spreading our resources too thin. Joyce volunteered to look into the event, especially to find out whether there might be AT opportunities. Bruce noted that the event was on the same day as the trainees' Little Brazos River field trip to be led by Dwight Bohlmeier and hosted by Terry Junek.

Social/Host: Joyce Conner reported on the Fall Social Potluck on September 21 at Cedar Hill Ranch. She would pass around a sign-up sheet for foods during the regular meeting. She will send out reminder emails with a map to members and trainees closer to date. Trainees had been given an insert in their packages that told about the Social with map. Attendees will meet at the River parking area around 9 am, leaving B/CS around 8 am.

Historian: Terry Junek was absent. She was attending the Junior Master Naturalist Class.

Old Business

Storage Unit: Olivia and group of members had cleaned an area of a storage unit behind the BRTC for BVTMN supplies. Our area is marked on floor with blue tape. Olivia has put up a check-out notebook that must be used to take and return items. She recommended that all items be placed in plastic boxes because the shed has a broken window that could let in rain. She has 6 keys (three assigned one each to Joyce, Cheryl, and Olivia; others are available). Board approved that the President would manage all Chapter keys (post office and storage shed) and would pass them to new President at the end of term.

Amanda Chau will put a note about the storage shed on the web and the person to contact for entry.

New Business

Table modification: Mike was given permission to modify the tables so that our banner could be hung on them.

Shirts: Joyce has asked for a lighter weight summer shirt for the Chapter. Jay P. has asked for patches. The Board agreed to ask Molly and Joyce (mini committee) to research CCCreations' available materials for another Chapter shirt. Betty has the catalog and will give to Molly but we may want to visit the company to actually feel the fabric. Discussion about last year's order included 3 styles (polo, short sleeve chambray, long sleeve chambray) and 3 colors (green, blue, maroon). If we want a discount, we must order 49 shirts and must research timeline for ordering. Discount did not appear to concern Board members (~\$2.50 each) in light of the likelihood that we would not reach the minimum number. A suggestion was made to make two orders – one for trainees and one later for membership. Betty has sizes for trainees already.

Motion of Process: Mike made a motion for the approval of outreach activities but withdrew the motion after brief discussion. It was unknown whether the Outreach Committee had rules on web. Jim Balthrop would review guidelines and look through State of Conduct and Code of Ethics. Mike will draw up a motion and send via email for vote of Board and Committee Chairs.

Nominating Committee for New Officers: Olivia explained the nomination process for new officers who would be announced in December. The Vice-President, Past President, and one other person are the Nominating Committee. The Committee Chairs would be announced at the January meeting.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The Chapter Meeting began at 8:05 pm

Olivia reviewed committee reports from Board Meeting. More details are contained in the Board minutes and the following were added.)

Membership: Betty reminded members to turn in their time sheets. She read out the names of everyone who had turned in their sheets.

Advanced Training: Olivia reminded everyone that they received 1 hour of AT credit for attending the talk and asked who from the Training class were in attendance that evening. Rick Laughlin and Elrey Ash raised their hands.

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 14 - Bruce reminded everyone about the Shorebird Training taking place on Saturday. They would be meeting across from the old fire station. He would determine the amount of AT credit after the day.

Sept. 21 – Everyone was reminded about the Bird Survey, Sugarloaf Mountain Field Trip for Trainees, and Potluck Social at Cedar Hill Ranch, Gause.

Oct. 5 - Hazardous Waste Collection and Boonville Days are both looking for volunteers. Jay said that a volunteer training meeting for Boonville Days would be on Tuesday evening at Museum of Natural History. No time was given. Bruce reminded members that the volunteer meeting was on the same night as the New Member Training Class.

Joyce reminded Olivia that she had mentioned getting together prior to Boonville Days to learn how to make shriveled heads and other pioneer crafts. Olivia said she would send out an email regarding that.

Oct. 12 - Olivia – told members about the Zombie Run to be held Sept. Oct. 12 at the Texas World Speedway from 9-12. It is a fundraiser for BRTC, maybe for booths also. It is a Halloween family race in which volunteers jump out in costume to scare the race participants. She will send out email looking for volunteer sign-ups.

Oct. 12 - New Members Training Field Trip to BRTC (9 am-12) on Mammals. Current members who did not have this training are welcome to attend for AT credit.

Drawing: A drawing was held for home crafted and painted hanging planter brought in by Olivia and won by Charlene Lusk. Also, Rick Laughlin and Janet Quiram each won a book, Almanac of Sand County, donated by Jim and Kitty Anding.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.