



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter  
Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2012  
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

**I. Welcome**

**II. Officer and Committee Reports**

**A.** President – Lisa Davenport-Brought the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

**B.** Vice President – Janet Quiram-Still needs 5 more future speakers

**C.** Secretary – Amanda Schwede

1. Sign in

2. Approval of March 2012 meeting minutes – Approval motioned by Betty Vermeire, seconded by Amanda Chau. Passed unanimously.

**D.** Treasurer – Charlene Lusk-\$4949.60 in account. Thirty five members have paid dues. Still need remaining members to pay. Steve Simcik mentioned paying for cost of gas and travel for speakers. Janet Quiram said she would ask and otherwise, we could make a contribution to Nature Conservancy, if we are allowed to. J. Pritchard motioned to approve paying travel expenses for out-of-town speakers. B. Vermeire amended the motion that if they can't take money from us, we will give it to the department they represent. Olivia Ash seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Olivia Ash moved to permit three (3) executive board members to make the decision independent of full board approval. A. Chau seconded. Passed unanimously.

**E.** Outreach – Cheryl Lewis, Chair ([cheryl77845@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl77845@yahoo.com)) - Will keep track of the information required for outreach events. Needs clarification on the meaning of "direct" and "indirect" outreach events. Do we have to report the number of people attending the event, or just the number of people we had contact with?

**F.** Training – Bruce Neville, Chair ([b2neville@gmail.com](mailto:b2neville@gmail.com))

1. I got us a PO Box today. As of now, we can use the address: PO Box 9126, College Station, TX 77842-9126. I put all of the officers, Betty, and Amanda C on as authorized to pick up mail. It's \$38/year. Charlene, I have a receipt for you. No great hurry, so I can wait till the meeting to get that. I have one key. Lisa Davenport has taken responsibility for the other key. Amanda Chau has changed all our mailing addresses on the bottom of all web pages as well as the "Contact US" page to this PO Box address.

2. BVTMN Training Committee Report  
April 2012

First, I need to thank the Committee. Alphabetically, they are: Kitty Anding, Laura Biddle, Dwight Bohlmeyer, Ray Frisbee, Sarah Laughlin, Bruce Neville, Barb Pritchard, Janet Quiram,

Misty Rice, Betty Vermeire, and Mary Dabney Wilson. Everyone is highly engaged and participating, and all have provided excellent ideas.

The Committee has met three times. We sent out a survey of the membership for suggestions on training schedule and content, and we received excellent feedback from 15 members. After considering the survey results, we have a schedule and tentative speakers. The overwhelming response from the survey was to keep the training schedule much as it was: ten 3-hour Tuesday evenings and five 3- to 4-hour field trips. The schedule will be Tuesday 11 September to Tuesday 20 November, with no class on 6 November, election night. Field trips are tentatively scheduled for Saturdays: 22 September; 6, 13, and 20 October; and 3 November. Survey respondents were less consistent about the venue of the training, so we will continue the current practice of splitting the classes between the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History (BVMNH) and the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (TCWC).

With regard to the subjects, we have decided to change the “Soil and Plant Interactions” to a “Soils Wet Lab” at TCWC. We have proposed changes in speakers for Geology and for Native Plants and Ecosystems. Since we have had trouble getting a mammalogist, we decided to make that subject part of a field trip. Alejandro Calixto is no longer available to do spiders, so we are changing that half-session to “Marine Systems,” and it will be combined with Mollusks. For field trips, we are keeping the popular Sugar Loaf, Aquatic Systems, and Habitat Reclamation field trips. We are hoping to get Barron Rector to do grasses again, but will have a back-up plan, in case he is not available. We are hoping to do a mammal tracking and general nature walk around TCWC for the final field trip. We felt that Rio Brazos Audubon Society (RBAS) provided enough opportunities for additional work on field birding that we did not need to have an additional bird walk for the Master Naturalist class.

We have begun approaching speakers to confirm availability and a tentative schedule. When we have more confirmations, I will circulate a draft schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Neville

Chair, Training Committee

- G.** Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair ([bavermeire@suddenlink.net](mailto:bavermeire@suddenlink.net))-March hours, 28 members have submitted hours, 149 Volunteer hours, 58 Advanced Training hours. Needs everyone to turn in hours so she can turn in quarterly report to state.
- H.** Advanced Training –Jim Anding, Chair
- I.** Volunteer Service Project – Jay Pritchard, Chair ([MoPWatcher@aol.com](mailto:MoPWatcher@aol.com)) – El Camino Real’s Chapter Nature Festival in Rockdale, Earth Day, and BioBlitz, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection coming up. Household Hazardous Waste is the same day as BioBlitz. Time of year when school kids, day camp, volunteer experience automatically approved. Dwight has more things coming up. H. Prestridge has Project Aquatic Wild planned soon (automatic Advanced Training Approval).
- J.** Host/Social – Olivia Ash and Kara Rosch, Co-chairs ([eandoash@msn.com](mailto:eandoash@msn.com); [kara.rosch@blinn.edu](mailto:kara.rosch@blinn.edu)) – Last social event only Kara Rosch went (no one else showed up). Committee will discuss having them less frequently or require an RSVP. April social is the same day as BioBlitz, so will probably not have a social in April. Olivia Ash said the committee is considering having natural and handmade items (such as plants) as give-aways as an incentive. Board is okay with her doing so. Will include a door-prize announcement in future emails. Food sign up list is posted to website for review.

- K. Historian – Terry Junek, Chair – See attached form to keep track of the information required for outreach events. Form is now complete. Forms will be filled out at vents and turned in to Terry Junek. Terry will keep up with forms. Amanda Chau will post forms to the website. Easier then for president to report statistics to state at the end of the year. Cheryl Lewis is working with Terry Junek on a scrapbook with photos and details of events to be made available at outreach events.
- L. Web – Amanda Chau, Chair ([amanda.chau@blinn.edu](mailto:amanda.chau@blinn.edu)) – In the process of updating committee pages; each page is slightly different and specific to the particular committee. Goal is to have the pages updated by August first for new training class. Please send her pictures. When asked, please let Amanda Chau know what you want your page to include. Terry asked if it is legal to post photos of children. L. Davenport responded, per last meeting’s discussion, that we have to get a signed release form to post any photos of children on web. Terry asked about pictures in a hard-copy scrapbook with photos of kids. Probably not allowed for same reason, and a release form would still be allowed. Olivia Ash asked about class emails prior to 2010. Betty Vermeire has those (new member emails). A Chau envisions having these on Membership webpage. B. Vermeire suggested not because everyone can have access, even non-members. A. Chau said they could be placed in a “members only” page, where no one can access if not a BVTMN member with a password.
- M. Program – Janet Quiram, Chair ([janetqm@suddenlink.net](mailto:janetqm@suddenlink.net))

### III. Old Business

- A. I will give a brief update on committee pages and purposes of these pages. When we received requests or questions from our txmn.org/brazos site, who should I send those requests or questions to. I would like to have 5 minutes at our general meeting to talk about the web pages if we have WiFi access.
- B. If you are interested in working directly with kids or at public events that involve kids, you need to submit to a background check before you are permitted to volunteer at these events. There are a number of exciting events coming up such as Earth Day, BioBlitz, and Milam County Festival. If you are interested in volunteering at these events, please complete your background check form by March 31 if possible. The chapter will pay for the \$10 background check fee for you. Please download and complete the background check form from AgriLife Extension (see link below). Mail this form to: Betty Vermeire, 2503 Antietam Dr., College Station, TX 77845  
Background check form-  
[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/files/2011/12/membership\\_vol\\_background\\_check.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/files/2011/12/membership_vol_background_check.pdf)  
More information on Youth Protection Standards-[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/agent\\_yps](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/agent_yps)  
If you work or attend school at the Texas A&M College Station Campus, you can drop your form (in a sealed envelope) off to Bruce Neville at the Evans Library  
If you work or attend school at the Blinn College Bryan Campus, you can drop your form (in a sealed envelope) to Amanda Chau, Natural Science.

### IV. New Business

- A. We received the request below via our txmn.org/brazos site from Wendi Owen, [Wendio@suddenlink.net](mailto:Wendio@suddenlink.net): I am a parent at Brazos Christian School and we are looking for someone to do a presentation on spiders for our 2nd graders. They are reading Charlotte's Web and studying spiders. They will present their own spider reports next week. Thank you I'm advance for your help.
- B. Link to the Officer page (<http://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/tmn-officers/>) whenever you send out agendas or meeting minutes to the Executive Board and our TMN

Google Group. Let them know agendas and minutes, past and upcoming, are available to them online as well.

**V. Announcements**

- A. Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items**
- B. TMN Spring Meeting Schedule: (Second Thursdays at 5:30 PM Exec Board Mtg (open to all) and 6:30 PM Monthly Meeting, BVMNH)**
- C. May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13**
- D. 2012 TMN State Conference**
- E. Monthly Meeting speakers (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)**
- F. 2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series (count as Advanced Training credit)**
- G. Spring 2012 Applied Biodiversity Science Seminar Series (Approved for AT credit.)**
- H. Master Naturalists sought for assistance and support of Scout Programs**
- I. Milam County Nature Fest scheduled for April 14th, 2012, from 9-3, at Rockdale Fair Park, 200 Walnut Street, Rockdale, TX 76567.**
- J. Brazos Valley Earth Day Committee invites you to participate in 17th Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival April 21st.**
- K. TMN Chapters needed as TPWD Texas Nature Tracker Partners!**
- L. BioBlitz will be April 27 & 28 The 15th annual BioBlitz is coming in April!**
- M. Spring Beauty and the Bees - Volunteer pollinator monitoring**
- N. (Note: This is a trip designed for TMNs for leisure, not a sanctioned AT trip... although we might determine that some components provide AT at a later date.) At last, the dates are set: the much-anticipated, purely-for-fun TMN trip to Fort Davis and the Davis Mountains will be May 4-8, 2012.**
- O. Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency, Inc. (BVSWMA) needs volunteers!**
- P. Jan-Feb Reverchon Naturalist News from TX NRCS-requesting interesting photos of native plants and stories within the North Central Texas area**
- Q. Flora and Fauna of Central Texas Certificate Series Starts April 21st (These hands-on classes held on the LBJWC Campus could possibly serve as Advanced Training or make-up classes for some initial training sessions for some chapters. Additionally, this may be a good resource for people who contact your chapters wanting training but not wanting to volunteer. In that case, instead of taking up one of your class spaces, you could direct them toward this resource instead.)**
- R. Hummingbirds: facts, stories, and lore, presented by Jeanette Larson set for April 28 at 11:00 at the Clara B. Mounce Public Library. (approved AT credit)**
- S. What's all the buzz about bees, birds and butterflies? June 23, 2012 10:00 - 1:00 Conroe, Texas (AT credit approved)**
- T. Rain Harvest Event at McKinney Roughs April 28**
- U. List of Plant Walks and Fieldtrips across north Texas**
- V. Public input sought on coastal and marine efforts**
- W. Status of the Monarch and Plan milkweed!**
- X. Year of the Bat Resources for 2012**
- Y. Sentinel Pest Network & Invasive Species Workshops (approved for AT credit)**
- Z. TPWD Seeks Volunteers to Seek Reptiles and Amphibians**
- AA. The Wildlife Conservation Professional Development Grants**
- BB. RIPARIAN WORKSHOP May 5th-- Cleburne/North Texas Area**

- VI.** Motion to adjourn made by Amanda Chau, seconded by Olivia Ash. Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 PM.