Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2011

**Attendees:** Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Jo Anne Bates, Dwight Bohlmeyer, Amanda Chau, Andrew Chou, Lisa Davenport, Connie Flickinger, Jackie Girouard, Terry Junek, Cheryl Lewis, Madge Luquette, Charlene Lusk, Kathy Nemec, Jackie Palmer, Brenda Pearson, Kara Rosch, Steve Simcik, Jan Stallone, Randy Williams

**I. Call to Order**

First general business meeting of 2011 was called to order, followed by an announcement of the upcoming BV Museum of Natural History's Bison Exhibit. Scheduled for Jan. 29, Alston Thoms and Fred Smeins will present talks beginning at 2 p.m. A wine social continues 4-6 p.m.

**II. New Business**

New Officers and all members introduced themselves. In attendance were three new people who had read about the meeting in the Eagle's calendar section. (Apparently this is a benefit of our new affiliation with the BV Museum, which has a standing publicity post in the paper.)

**A. Committee Changes**

Discussion ensued regarding three committees: Newsletter, publicity, and web.

* Newsletter: 2010 co-chairs have recommended no longer publishing the newsletter in its previous form. Rather, in light of the way it has now been incorporated into the new WordPress site (and the fact that a show of hands revealed only a single person in attendance actually read the latest online issue), discussion ensued about replacing it (at least temporarily) with an online blog. This venue would allow those who want to publish articles to do so in their own timeframe, as well as more informal discussions on topics any member cares to raise--plus members could freely engage in comments regarding posts.

A motion was made to create an online blog. The motion carried

* Website: President Steve Simcik noted that according to the chapter Bylaws, the creation and maintenance of a website falls under the jurisdiction of the Outreach Committee. However, the website has now become the repository of virtually all information regarding the chapter (e.g., newsletter, membership list, calendar access, list of upcoming events, minutes, volunteer and advanced training project listings, forms, and descriptions, as well as archives of past officers and committee members and a photo gallery). The amount of effort required to keep it current has become unrealistic to be undertaken by a single person. Previous members of the Outreach Committee concurred that adding this task to that committee's duties was not optimal.

A motion was made by Dwight Bohlmeyer to form a separate Web Committee consisting of at least 3 people. The motion carried.

* Publicity: Discussion ensued as to actions taken by various committees over the past year (particularly, the Outreach, Training, and Advanced Training Committees) in lieu of a Publicity Committee. Because of the intimate relationships between these committees and the type of publicity required as well as the new “free” publicity resulting from our official affiliation with the Museum, the purpose of a separate Publicity Committee was questioned.

A motion was made by Jackie Palmer to disband the Publicity Committee. Seconded by Amanda Chau, the motion carried.

* Historian: While handled previously by a single individual, the chapter has now developed enough "history" for this task to be covered by committee.

**B. Committee Formation**

The following committee chairs and members at the time of the meeting have agreed to serve for 2011:

Advanced Training – W. Randy Williams

Members:

Historian - Joanne Bates

Members: Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Madge Luquette, Terry Junek

Membership - Betty Vermeire

Members: Kitty Anding

Outreach - Jean Webster

Members: Jackie Girouard

Social - Jackie Palmer

Members: Brenda Pearson, Kara Rosch

Training - Amanda Chau

Members: Lisa Davenport, Dwight Bohlmeyer, Kitty Anding, Bruce Neville, Brenda Pearson, Ray Frisbie, Betty Vermeire, and Jodi Sheridan

Volunteer Services - Jay Pritchard

Members: Jan Satllone, Mary Dabney, Terry Junek

Website - tba

Members: Dwight Bohlmeyer, Amanda Chau, Jackie Girouard, Jackie Palmer (Consultant Only)

Members began the committee sign-up process. Note that the Website Committee still needs a chair!

**C. Annual Repor**t

Jackie Girouard presented the annual tally of volunteer hours to be reported to the state, both for the quarter and year:

* Total annual volunteer hours: 2,732
* Total annual advanced training hours: 619

**D. Certification/Recertificati**on

* Patches were awarded to members of the 2010 class (and to selected member of 2009 and 2008 classes who had not yet received them).
* Certification pins were earned and awarded to the following six members of the 2009 class:

Andrew Chow, Liz Crompton, Lois Eisenstein, Steve Simcik, Randy Williams, and Marilyn Yeager

* Recertification was earned by 22 members of 2005-2008 classes as listed. Pins will be awarded in the February meeting.

Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Jo Anne Bates, Dwight Bohlmeyer, Mary Ann Cusimano, Madge Luquette, Jane Packard, Jean Paul, Lourdes Hasson, Jimmie Killingsworth, Jim Waldson, Jackie Girouard, Terry Junek, Charlene Lusk, Jackie Palmer, Betty Vermeire, Dabney Wilson, Amanda Chau, Angela Dedrickson, Marianne Dent, Molly Harris, Jay Pritchard

* Betty Vermiere earned a 500-hour pin (to be awarded in February).
* Jane Packard and Jackie Palmer each earned 250-hour pins (to be awarded in February).

**III. Old Business**

**A. Carter Creek Trail Project**

With the move of Lois Eisenstein to Arizona, Marilyn Yeager is now acting project leader. Work this month has been deferred due to permits needed to remove weeds (non-native species) from native wetlands. Work will resume in February.

Dwight has contacted Jim Manhart who has an extensive collection of native species of grasses and forbes who is willing to donate them to the BVTMN for plantings, perhaps at Blinn, the TCWC, and the Carter Creek Trail. He will follow up on this.

**B. Membership Committee**

Jackie Girouard indicated that although the reporting of volunteer hours has shifted from monthly to quarterly over the past year, the cumbersome process of posting and processing those hours is not a productive use of TMN volunteer time. Rather, perhaps it is time to activate a direct online reporting mechanism. Dwight has been researching electronic options and will report back in February.

**C. Report on BVTMN Activities**

Dwight Bohlmeyer represented the BVTMN at the 2010 Elected Officials Luncheon at Briarcrest Country Club in Dec. As requested, he presented a report on specific BVTMN activities, including the Bluebird Nesting Box project, the Junior Naturalist program, and the Carter Creek Trail project. In attendance were local politicians, including U.S. Representative Bill Flores and the mayors of both Bryan and College Station.

**IV. Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.