



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for November 14, 2013
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A. President – Olivia Ash –
- B. Vice President – Jim Balthrop –
- C. Secretary – Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of Aug and Oct 2013 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer – Amanda Chau –
- E. Outreach – Dwight Bohlmeier, Chair –
- F. New Member Training – Bruce Neville, Chair – Of 19 who began the 2013 class in September, 11 graduated on 12 November, and 2 more (starred) will make up one course and graduate shortly. This class is very engaged and will be a great addition to our chapter. The 2013 class is: Elrey Ash, Susan Barba, Melissa Brown, D. Bruce Dickson, Rick Laughlin, Alberto Manterola*, June Manterola*, Mark McDermott, Teri Metcalf, Bob Presley, Sue Slowey, Michael Stecher, Karen Weir

We had two new speakers this year, Dr. Hugh Wilson on botany and Novalene Thurston on entomology, both of whom were well received. We had one new topic, Butterflies, which was taught by Bruce Neville. We piloted a new evaluation system with a brief online survey by email after each class or field trip and received better feedback than in previous years.

I would like to thank my committee, Jackie Girouard, Melissa Kamerbeek, Sarah Laughlin, Janet Quiram, and Betty Vermeire for all their work. I would like to thank Kitty Anding for arranging sign-up sheets and monitoring attendance. I would like to thank Joyce Connor and the Outreach Committee for arranging the socials for the first and last classes and the members who came to meet the class and provide refreshments. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to host speakers and field trips.

I would like to thank the presenters: Jane Packard, Sarah Laughlin, Dwight Bohlmeier, Bruce Neville, Betty Vermeire, and Dave Cunningham of the Brazos Valley Chapter, and Christine Morgan, Hugh Wilson, Toby Hibbits, Novalene Thurston, Larry Hysmith, Alston Thoms, Monique Reed, and Jan Horbaczewski. We literally could not have done this without them. I would like to thank the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History and the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections for allowing us to use their facilities.

Based on the response for the fall, we do not propose a spring class.

New Member Training is certainly one of the most challenging, but at the same time, one of the most rewarding, activities in the Master Naturalist program.

- G. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair –
- H. Advanced Training –Mike and Joyce Conner, Co-Chairs –

- I. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair – discussion of volunteer insurance requirements.
- J. Host/Social – Joyce Conner, Chair – Upcoming events - report on catered meat for Holiday Party. **Dec. 7**, Holiday Day Party and Potluck at Ferguson Showroom, Bryan. Please save dates (more information to come later).
- K. Historian – Terry Junek, Chair –
- L. Web – Amanda Chau, Chair –
- M. Program – Jim Balthrop, Chair –

II. Old Business

- A. A. Chau-Operating Handbook- As we discussed at our 10/10 meeting, we decided to add the Web Committee as one of the standing committees into our TMN BV operating handbook. We also decided to delete the web duty (7e) from the Outreach Committee. Amanda C. will notify the membership 10 days before the Christmas social (12/07) and request the Board to have a short meeting that day to vote on this.

Proposed changes to TMN BV Operating Handbook:

E: STANDING COMMITTEES

Addition:

10. Web Committee

- a. Provide a seamless and fun web experience and up-to-date information for our TMN group as well as the general public.
- b. Update and maintain our BV TMN Google Calendars.
- c. Assist Membership Committee with updating and maintaining our BV TMN Google Group.
- d. Update and maintain our txmn.org/brazos site.
- e. Create and maintain training class, committee, outreach, and resources pages on our txmn.org site.

Deletion:

7e. Builds and supports a chapter web page- delete
from the Outreach Committee list of responsibilities.

III. New Business

- A. 2014 BVTMN officer elections
- B. Joyce Conner and Olivia Ash- discussion of sharing Chapter resources with other Chapters Request for the List of Common fish, etc. from our website. This request for the files is from the President of El Camino Real Master Naturalists in Milam County. Unless you are a BVTMN member you cannot access the list from our website.
If this was our intent (prohibit public from accessing the list), then I would need Board's permission to send this information to her (which is almost certainly for the use of their membership).

IV. Announcements

Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items

- 1. **TMN Fall Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)
November 14
- 2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)
Nov 14-Jaime Gonzales, Katy Prairie Conservancy-**TBA**
- 3. Ongoing activity- Public educational presentations on TV, radio, or group settings that members give on the Texas Master Naturalist Program, or on the following naturalist

topics: Texas native plants; water conservation and fresh water management in Texas; Texas invasive plants; Texas wildlife; Texas wildlife habitat management; and endangered or threatened species in Texas. Members would receive credit for time actually presenting and for work such as preparation and travel, that supports the presentation. (V approved)

4. Project FeederWatch (V approved) More info is available at <http://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>.

5. Training & seed collection day Nov. 15th, 10 AM-12:30 PM at TNC Sandyland Sanctuary near Silsbee - need volunteers - a Prairie Seed Council event

6. The AT Committee has added a list of pre-approved advanced training activities on the BVTMN website at <http://txmn.org/brazos/members-area/membership/2013-committees/advanced-training-committee/preapproved-at/>. You can also find this list by going to the Advanced Training Committee webpage. Please check it out. It may give you some new ideas for advanced training and also help reduce your need to request approval for activities.

We did this to reduce the amount of email sent out to the membership about advanced training and reduce the load on next year's AT committee.

Note that any AT opportunity that is NOT on this list, must still be submitted for approval.

7. Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop – Carters Creek Watershed Nov 21st, College Station Wastewater Treatment Meeting Facility, 2200 North Forest Parkway, College Station (AT approved)

8. Identifying winter hummingbirds December 6 at 10 AM (AT approved) Sumita Prasad will instruct us in the finer points of identifying hummingbirds. On the Upper Texas Coast winter often brings eight species of hummers to spend the winter.

Identification can often be a challenge with molting and immature birds. She will present a good deal of information not found in field guides especially regarding the separation of Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds.

Before the program from 8-9:30 AM, she will attempt to catch some of our wintering hummingbirds. If we are successful you will get to see some of the key identification elements on these live birds.

9. TMN AT: NAI Certified Interpretive Guide Training (AT approved)

10. Using Social Media for natural Resource education and outreach (AT approved)

11. Water quality monitoring (AT approved)