

Balcones Canyonlands Chapter TXMN  
Chapter Meeting  
July 9, 2019  
Concordia University  
Room C-238

Attendees: Amy Robertson, Joanna Lewenthal, Mary Ann Robalino, Deborah Holle, Collette Pierce, Tania Homayoun, Larry Root, Karen Yates, Twla Grace, Michelle Ely, Julian Yates, Ruthann Panipinto, Michael Lewis, Steve Brockway, Erick Zubay, Alex Curtis

Started at 7:00 pm

### **Old Business**

Larry announced that we are planning a picnic and bonfire with the Goodwater chapter in November at Berry Springs Park. Heather will post the details when we receive them from Charles Grimes.

### **Field Trip and August Chapter Meeting Update**

Julian Yates said there are three openings for Friday's field trip to Chaetura Canyon on July 12. If chapter members do not sign up, we will open up to friends and relatives. Heather will send out another signup email.

The August 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting's speaker will be Hans Landel of the Ladybird Wildflower Center on invasive plants.

### **Membership**

Joanna provided a handout of the 2019-2020 Class Roster (as of 7/09/19) which included 16 confirmed students with profiles.

### **Training Class of 2019-2020**

1. Speaker Schedule: Amy provided handout of the Basic Training Schedule with the dates and speakers for the spring and fall. See attached. On weeks when there is a Chapter Meeting, there will be no training class Thursday night. There are two Saturday classes:

11/2/19 – Geology, Avery Ranch Cave Tour, Dinosaur footprints with Dr. Nico Hauwert  
3/7/20 – Aquatic/Wetlands Ecology The Meadows Center, Dr. Weston Nowlin

First Class Agenda: Amy provided a handout of the first class, 8/29/19. See attached.

2. Class Coordinator role and sign ups/AV Training: Amy requests we have a class coordinator volunteer for each class for back up in case she, Collette, or a board member cannot be present. A signup sheet was passed around. Dr. Sam Whitehead said he will provide AV training; Heather said she will create written instructions for AV.
3. Mentor Role: A signup sheet was passed around for volunteers to be mentors to the new students. Mentors should meet with students at least once during the fall to help with VMS, help with volunteer opportunities, or answer any questions.
4. Handbook: Amy suggested that we give each new student a copy of Austin Naturewatch. She will contact Texas A&M for a group discount.
5. Tote bags/Swag: Each student will receive a canvas tote bag with our BCTXMN logo and salamander graphic. They cost \$20 each.
6. VMS – Students will be asked to watch the VMS video prior to attending the first class. In the first class, there will be an overview on how to enter hours. In the second class, there will be a speaker with additional detail.

### **Scrapbook**

Stephanie requests that members start sending her photos of volunteers working on projects, attending field trips, etc. Heather will help her get setup on Flickr.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Twyla asked about receiving Board Meeting minutes. Approved Board minutes will appear in a password protected area of our website. Chapter Meeting minutes will appear in the Newsletter.

### **Brochures and Flyers**

Joanna brought **NEW** BCTXMN printed brochures and flyers to promote our chapter. Great work, Joanna and the Communications Committee. Members are encouraged to distribute to the community. The chapter will be able to use the brochures and flyers when we set up a table at events to promote the chapter.

### **Store**

We need to create a committee to decide on which promotional items will be offered on the website for sale to members such as hats, jackets, etc.

## **New Business**

Special thanks to Amy Robertson, Stephanie Putnam, and Joanna Lewenthal for training and taking over the VMS for our chapter.

Special thanks to Amy Robertson for organizing the training for the 2019-2020 class.

Ruthann suggested that we contact former members who have not paid their dues. Heather said she will edit the membership list and send out a blast.

Volunteer Day – Mike suggested that we schedule a volunteer day so that new students don't have to go out on their own to find a volunteer opportunity.

Meeting Sites for Board Meetings – Karen suggested the Board meet on Tuesdays at Concordia as Dr. Whitehead has C-238 reserved for Tuesdays and Thursday evenings throughout the semester.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.