

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter
Chapter Meeting November 21, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Officers Present were President, Vice President and Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President Betsy Palkowsky. The September 21, 2020 chapter meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Update - Betsy Palkowsky:

Betsy thanked everyone for their continued support and volunteer efforts.

If you have questions regarding state or chapter issues, please contact a board member before contacting AgriLife or TMN state employees. In most cases a board member can assist.

TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair 2021:

Another virtual fair will be held February 3 and 4.

TMN Tuesdays 2021:

Virtual Advanced Training will be offered the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Sessions will be one hour in length and the events will be hosted via Webex and will also be recorded. The events will be open to all current TMN members. If you have ideas for topics please submit those to Mary Pearl Meuth or Michelle Haggerty.

Return to Service:

AgriLife rules for face-to-face meetings and workdays are 75% capacity of space with a maximum of 50 people and applies to both indoor and outdoor gatherings. The person organizing the event must keep a list of all attendees with contact information and provide it to the site manager. In addition a copy should be sent to Gideon Lincecum Chapter Secretary Linda Esco for our chapter file.

2020 Against All Odds Pins:

Members with a minimum of 8 hours advanced training and one volunteer hour during 2020 will be awarded an "Against All Odds" pin. The pins are scheduled to be shipped to chapters in January 2021.

Chapter Virtual Fair Project:

Jaci Elliot is heading the project. She will be working with board members and project leaders to create an online project/position fair to be presented in late January or early February.

Miscellaneous President News:

The state will continue to have monthly virtual chapter president meetings. Betsy will continue to update the board and chapter as necessary.

Texas Parks and Wildlife VMS interface will continue to utilize the same link chapter members are currently using to record volunteer and advanced training hours.

Please remember that any hours recorded must be from an approved project.

2021 certification guidelines remain the same for 2021 - eight hours of advanced training and forty hours of volunteer time.

If you are interested in becoming an officer in 2022, please let a board member know. Our chapter will be replacing the President, Vice President and Secretary positions. Expressing interest now will allow you to work with the current officer and gain insight and training.

If you are a current project director please begin to find someone interested in becoming your replacement.

Vice President - Mark Brown:

Advanced training topic for the January meeting will be white tail deer. March is set to be information on CoCoRaHS and May will be Ducks Unlimited.

The Coastal Prairie Native Seed Project is going well with two workdays completed and one additional anticipated.

Chapter members will have the opportunity to join the recently formed Fayette Prairie Chapter of the Native Prairie Association of Texas. NPAT membership is statewide and you pick your chapter affiliation. The counties included are Lee, Fayette, Bastrop, LaVaca, Austin, Colorado, Washington, Dewitt, Gonzales and Caldwell. The chapter mission is to promote the preservation and restoration of the Fayette Prairie ecosystem. The chapter has approved these cooperative work days as reportable volunteer hours when you are working on property other than your own.

Director Reports:

Marketing - Ken English:

Information regarding our upcoming January training is being sent to our chapter prospects. Publicity magnets have been ordered. Ken will be representing our chapter at a meet and greet for the new Austin County Ag Agent on December 3.

Membership - Chris Morrison:

Initial certification is awarded to Norbert Dittrich

Recertification for 2020:

Barbara Boucher
Jan Hughes
Ellen Morris
Terry Rooney
Tom Shaughnessy
Charles Winker

Since January 1, 2020 there have been 7 initial certifications, 34 annual recertifications, four 250 hour milestones and four 500 hour milestones.

There is a new AT Opportunity Title on VMS. AT: Archaeology. Please use this category for any advanced training presentations on archeology or archeological sites in Texas. Also use this category for recording hours for TXDOT, Texas Historical Commission or any other sponsors on archaeology topics.

Training - John and Karen Gardner:

Plans for the upcoming 2021 training session are well under way. Subject to COVID guidelines, in person classes may be possible. Speakers will have the option of in person or virtual presentations.

The Gardners introduced the concept of a “Buddy Program” in which a volunteer from the chapter would partner with one or two trainees to provide support and be a resource for questions. The trainees would be able to choose if they wanted to participate in the program. If you are interested in signing up to be a buddy please contact the Gardners.

The January board meeting will be January 8, 2021 and will be virtual. The chapter meeting will be moved to January 23, 2021 and will include volunteer appreciation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Esco
Chapter Secretary