

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter
Board Meeting January 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Officers in attendance: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

6 Board Members and 15 chapter members attended

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Betsy Palkowsky.

President Report - Betsy Palkowsky:

Betsy welcomed all attending. The November 6, 2020 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

State guidelines for Texas Master Naturalist meetings and volunteer activities continue to be no in person interaction allowed.

TMN Tuesdays: Beginning January 12, 2021 a TMN Tuesday virtual presentation will be offered. This will be a one hour training session on various topics and will begin at 12:00 and is open to all. Advanced training hours will apply for our chapter. This activity will be added to our chapter calendar.

Vice President - Mark Brown/Betsy Palkowsky: The January chapter meeting AT presenter is Clint Faas a TPWD biologist for Wharton and Fort Bend Counties. He will present information on white tail deer. The March presentation will be on CoCohRas.

Secretary - Linda Esco: Conflict of Interest forms are being mailed to each board member for signature. The forms are to be returned to Linda Esco for filing.

Treasurer - David Hessel: David went over each line item for the 2021 budget. After discussion and changes/corrections the proposed budget was approved by the board and will be presented to the chapter for approval at the January 23, 2021 meeting.

Members still owing dues will be contacted next week via either phone or e-mail.

The board discussed the Bill Deaton Scholarship Fund. A motion was made and approved to change the name to The Gideon Lincecum Chapter Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor deceased members. A committee will be set up to look at expanding the award to non-first time TMN Meeting attendees. This will be presented to chapter members at the January 23, 2021 chapter meeting.

Projects:

Scholarships - Donna Mueller: Ag Safety Days are currently on hold. Scholarship forms for 2021 will be the same as 2020 and will be sent to candidates. Candidates will include FFA members.

Communications - Lori Buffum: An additional newsletter will be sent which will honor chapter members achievements in 2020.

Membership - Chris Morrison: Volunteer hours entered on VMS for 2020 are only slightly down from prior years. Total volunteer hours for 2019 were 6,569 and for 2020 the hours were 5,634. 46 members re-certified for 2020.

Training - Karen and John Gardner: Classes are set to begin on January 25 in a virtual format. Field trips and in person class sessions will be re-evaluated as the training progresses. The buddy system to enhance the training experience by providing a current chapter member as a resource contact for the trainee was discussed. Buddies have volunteered and the opportunity will be shared with trainees at the first training session.

Gideon Lincecum Virtual Project Fair - Jaci Elliott: Project leaders please contact Jaci with your proposed presentation. This is a great opportunity to spread the word about your project to chapter members. Each virtual fair presentation will last an hour and will showcase several projects.

Outreach/Marketing - Ken English: Refrigerator magnets are in. Ken will continue to send our newsletter to all prospects.

Miscellaneous:

Julie Itz advised she has seed packets if any projects can benefit from them. A packet and a Gideon Lincecum magnet will be added to the training class welcome bags.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Esco
Chapter Secretary