

Texas Master Naturalist - Gideon Lincecum Chapter  
Chapter Meeting May 20, 2021  
Cotton Gin Pavillion Burton, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by President Betsy Palkowsky. March 20, 2021 chapter meeting minutes were approved as written. There were 37 members present. Officers in attendance were President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**President Report - Betsy Palkowsky:**

**State Information:**

- There are no updates to the current Covid restrictions
- 2020 stats - 770 new trainees, 375,000 hours served, 65,000 virtual AT hours, 12 new acres worked and TMN has reached 58,000 adults and children
- TMN Listserve is an open service - please have a board member approve items before posting
- TMN Tuesday and Be The Change programs are ongoing
- The 2021 Annual Meeting will be a hybrid with both virtual and in person opportunities. The date is the weekend of October 21 in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. More information to come.
- TMN license plate is scheduled to be available in June. You can consult the state website for updates
- Nature Reflections - "What Nature Means to Me" contributions are due by May 31, 2021 and can count for up to 30 minutes of volunteer time under chapter administration

**Chapter Information:**

Remember board members are a resource if you need clarification on chapter decisions. Please discuss any questions or concerns regarding chapter issues with a board member in lieu of outside chapter contacts.

A memorial service for chapter member David Butler will be held May 23.

Chapter Needs: A new training director(s) needs to be identified so planning for the 2022 class can begin. In addition Membership needs some volunteers to learn the VMS system and provide backup to Chris Morrison. The chapter will also need someone to replace Jamie Lee Manning on the newsletter by the end of this year. If you have interest in any of these positions please let Betsy know.

**Vice-President - Mark Brown:**

Future Advanced training topics are:

July - Jean Ponzi on Building Green

September - Rebekah Dobrasko from the Texas Department of Transportation

November - Ducks Unlimited on duck and water fowl habitat

If you are interested in assisting with or utilizing a prescribed burn please contact Mark.

Mark is also the contact to participate in the grass seed collection projects.

**Treasurer - David Hessel:**

Chapter bank balance as of May 7, 2021 was \$16,987. There were 116 chapter membership renewals. Our tax return has been filed with the IRS.

**Membership - Chris Morrison:**

Since the March 20, 2021 meeting:

**Initial Certification** – Green Dragonfly Pin and Certificate (40 volunteer & 8 AT hours since graduation)

Patti Brown

Catherine Nolte

**Recertification for 2021** – Side Oats Grama pin

Peggy Cadenhead

Julie Itz

B.R. Koehler

Charlene Koehler

Chris Morrison

Betty Scardino

Jon Watkins

Belinda Weatherly

Jim Weatherly

Ginny Welch

**1,000 Hours** - All-time – Gold Dragonfly

Belinda Weatherly

**500 Hours** – All-time – Pewter Dragonfly

Julie Itz

B. R. Koehler

Jennifer Prihoda

**250 Hours – All-time – Bronze Dragonfly**

Annette Holdeman

Jamie Lee Manning

**Special Recognition 2020 Pins – Service Against All Odds –** at least 1 Vol. and 8 AT hours were earned by 59 chapter members.

If you earned a pin last year or this year and did not get it or need a replacement pin please see Chris.

**Outreach/Marketing - Ken English:**

The New Ulm Honeybee Jubilee is scheduled for June 5. There are several opportunities to assist with the AgLife New Land Owner Programs. June's topic is Pond Management, August is Bees and Trees, September is Fruit Trees and October is Wildlife. Please let Ken know if are interested in working our outreach table at one of these events.

**Education - Donna Mueller:**

A scholarship recipient has been identified in each of our five counties. The presentations will be virtual. Ag Safety Day in Austin County is scheduled for May 20.

**Newsletter - Jamie Lee Manning:**

Member highlights are always needed for the newsletter. Jamie would especially like to recognize new chapter members. Send your information to her and let other members get to know you!

**Training - John Gardner:**

Graduates of the 2020 and 2021 classes were recognized.

A huge thank you to Karen and John Gardener for their outstanding leadership with the past two training classes.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2021. The meeting will have a virtual format. Advanced training will be 9:30 - 11:00 followed by presentations by our scholarship recipients. Our chapter business meeting will follow AT and scholarship presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Esco  
Chapter Secretary