

## GMN Board Meeting

May 17, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Mark de Kiewet. All board members were in attendance, except for Jennifer Ehlers and Rebeca Leininger

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Craig Sagebiel reported

1. A reimbursement was given to Marilyn Anderson for name tags in the amount of \$70.
2. Net loss for the month was ~\$80.
3. Still making progress on the name change on the GMN bank account.

Reports of Committees:

*Chapter Programs:* Chris Dyess reported

1. May chapter meeting program will be presented by Pauline Tom on Texas Bluebirds.
2. Should we continue to pursue virtual speakers? Mark agreed that it allows for greater diversity in our speakers since they can join us from anywhere.
3. Can we do a few summer field trips to the Bat Cave? MARK and Michelle will work with Chris to get this scheduled in August or September. Michelle recommended the ILSOLC for a field trip as well. Michelle will work to get that scheduled.

*Training Class:* Pam Sagebiel reported.

1. Three people have now signed up for the training. One trainee is a City of Seguin employee, Erica Taft. Her role is Assistant Director of Parks and Rec for the City of Seguin and she was awarded the scholarship.
2. Training Class should be marketed on the Facebook pages. Michelle will make sure the information is pinned to the top of the Facebook page.
3. All speakers are confirmed for the 2021 training class, except for the TLU professors. Pam will call them to follow up and get that session confirmed.
4. Trainee field trip is currently planned for the Cibolo Nature Center; Michelle offered to help schedule a trip to the Bat Cave as well. Pam also proposed to have Jim Dyess host a trip to Walnut Creek for the trainees.
5. It would be great to have current members to come talk to the trainees about the different things we do individually to get them thinking about what they can do.

*Nature Education:* Nancy Masterson reported

1. May Discovery Series numbers; in Seguin there were a total of 10 participants, counting adults and children and in Schertz there were 11 participants total. So far this year we have reached 35 people in Seguin and 44 in Schertz, adults and children, with the Discovery Series.
2. Six month review of the nature education program is scheduled for May 26th from 2-4 and Nancy will also be sending out a questionnaire for those who cannot attend that meeting. Numbers are still low likely due to COVID but we will see how things pick up the next few months.
3. Kim and Jennifer are working with the Schertz YMCA and currently they have 6 volunteers helping with that program.
4. Next Discovery Series program is with Tom Hardaway leading Clues and Traces in June. Parents love to takeaways from the program and they love the increased parent engagement. Families love learning together with a master naturalist to guide them.
5. Mark posed the question of how to get more people to attend our nature ed programs, this will be discussed during the meeting on May 26th. More than likely the issue is COVID and not marketing.
6. Pam mentioned that Seek is an app kids can use to track observations because it doesn't track your location.

*Citizen Science:* Tom Hardaway reported

1. Due to bad weather the Crescent Bend BioBlitz had very low attendance on Sunday. Roads to the park were closed until noon; about 12 people came to the table.
2. Forest health at Park West is on hold for the summer, and will resume in the fall. Right now there are 5 regular volunteers, contributing 60 hours a month for forest health. Nancy has been giving this report to Jeff every month.
3. Sandy Wheeler talked to Lauren Shrum about the Crescent Bend Forest Health program and Lauren said now is not a good time for that program.

*Advanced Training:* Cinde Thomas-Jimenez reported

1. 1. May - Virtual and Physical at Agrilife. Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time - Pauline Tom
2. 2. Agenda to reflect 15 minutes "Everybody Contributes"

*Communications:* Michelle Darnell reported

1. If you want something posted, please send it to Michelle or Adrienne exactly the way you want it posted.
2. A parent in Seguin was interested in sharing the Discovery Series program info. Anyone can share content from the GMN Facebook page with their friends on their own pages.

Facebook users can also invite their friends to any of our GMN events posted on our Facebook.

*Hospitality:* No report at this time.

*Other Discussions:*

1. Members will be encouraged to “Share a Minute” with the group to allow other members to learn what everyone is doing as a master naturalist.
2. We will begin to use Google Workspaces to archive all GMN documents, resources and files. QuadMN.org will be our domain and each board member has been given an email address to use for communications and documentation.
3. Palmetto State Park has a new superintendent and they are not doing the summer camps this year. Craig will share details about upcoming volunteer opportunities at the next meeting.
4. Poteet Strawberry Festival was a success with many master naturalists from all around volunteering for the event.
5. Sandy Wheeler is our support with Friends of Crescent Bend and Warbler Woods.
6. Michelle Darnell is our support with ILSOLC.

Next board meeting will be Monday, July 19th at 6:30 pm.

Michelle moved and Nancy seconded that the meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Rebeca Leininger, secretary