

Minutes of STMN Meeting 10/20/2020
ZOOM format, 6:30 pm

Meeting commenced at 6:35 pm – Chuck Blend introduced the speaker.

SPEAKER: Paul Silva, Natural Resources Specialist, TPWD & TMN

Title: **Dagger Island Restoration, Rebuilding the Past and Protecting the Future**

Attendees:

Silva, Paul	Hoekstra, Leslie
Ainbinder, Janice	Hollenshead, Melanie*
Alvarez, Michelle	Huckabee, Chad
Bissell, Dawn	Ogden, Kimberly
Bissell, Randy	Plank, Rosemary
Blend, Charles	Sanders, Kathy
Blend, Christy	Siebert, Arthur
Casiano, Adel	Singleton, Carol
Connolly, Michele	Smith, Karen
Dalrymple, Birgitta	Smith, Suzanne
Edwards, Jason	Tilley, Bryan
Edwards, Lari Jo	Valdez, Sr., Carlos
Emmons, Thomas	Walker, Gary
Frank, Cindy	Weathered, Brenda
Gabehart, Amanda	Wenzel, Mike
Garces, Ricardo	Wenzel, Veronica**
Gardiner, George	Woods, Philip
Gonzales, Rylee	

*Cradle of Texas Chapter

**Visitor

Call to order – 7:45 pm by Bibi Dalrymple

Introduction of guests and visitors (see above).

Review and approval of September minutes - Minutes are available online at www.txmn.org/st. Approved as amended.

Reports of standing committees, liaisons, and officers – Bibi

Treasurer's report – Rosemary Plank (see appended details)

- Presentation of budget report.
- Underused categories were moved to contingency fund.
- We have an annual surplus of approximately \$2200.
- Chapter can maintain savings and preserve non-profit status so long as we do not engage in politics, lobbying, private benefits, and file our returns.
- Budget is being developed for 2021.
- Ad Hoc review committee is beginning their work on audit.
- Encourage others to step up to Treasurer position.

Initial Training – Philip Woods (see appended details)

- First in-field day went great at Hazel Bazemore.
- October 10th was at PINS – nice presentation by Justin Baker.
- October 24th at MISP with Ranger Eric Ehrlich and Julie Brandon.
- Planning on interns and trainers.

VMS Admin 1 -- Cindy Frank --Recognitions and service awards

- Janice Knezek got her certification on 9/29
- Bob Ward got recertified.
- Randy Bissell achieved 250 hours.
- Bibi Dalrymple achieved 500 hours.
- Carol Singleton achieved 500 hours.
- Chuck Blend achieved 1000 hours.
- Cindy Frank achieved 4000 hours.
- Congratulations to all!

President – Bibi Dalrymple (see appended details)

- Conducted poll on TMN Virtual State Meeting attendance. About half those present attended the TMN Virtual State Meeting and most liked it.
- PPP Committee met and we will migrate to State Office guidelines and structural recommendations.
- Chapter Committee Chairs will become directors and build their own teams.
- Board of Directors will include the 5 officers, 2 Advisors, Class Representative, and Directors.
- Using the State template will align us with the ByLaws.

- The focus of the Chapter should be:
 1. Education.
 2. Volunteerism.
 3. Membership.
- We have 58 members at present, plus 13 in training.
- Email suggestions to Bibi anytime. bibidalrymple@gmail.com

Outreach/Communications – **Randy Bissell (see appended details)**

- Facebook going great with over 330 Groupies.
- TXMN/ST website improving as site for hosting important information.
- Moving to VMS system for consistent email.
- Testing the effectiveness of the placement of brochures at our partner sites.
- Encourage members to use the TXMN Listserv for the latest opportunities.
- Gave an online tour of the Facebook Group page and the TXMN/ST website.

Bib Reminded all that our meetings will be:

- **Board of Directors Meeting on Nov. 4**
- **Chapter Meeting on Nov. 17**

These meetings are open to all members. Zoom invites and agendas forthcoming.

Membership – **Michelle Alvarez**

- **Busy!** Married.
- Encouraged by annual meeting session on retention, diversity, and inclusion.
- Effort to call every inactive member and get them moving towards recertification.
- Idea about an End-of-Year digital social.
- Suggestion of outdoor distanced social meeting.

Reports of special committees - Nominating committee – **Bibi Dalrymple**

- Chuck indicated that no one had stepped forward for VP.
- Rosemary was encouraged by things happening.

There was NO NEW BUSINESS

Announcements

- **Karen Smith** will be recognized with the 18th Annual Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards. The Coastal Steward Award winner.
 1. She is President of the Audubon Outdoor Club

2. The leader of the Blucher Bunch
3. From the STMN Class of 2016

Social Time: Break-out rooms – Michelle Alvarez – social activity

- Break out in groups of 3 or four to discuss fitting symbol for South Texas Chapter
- Results
 1. Serge the Opossum
 2. Some combinations of various plants and animals.
 3. Glyptodont
 4. **No** consensus was reached.

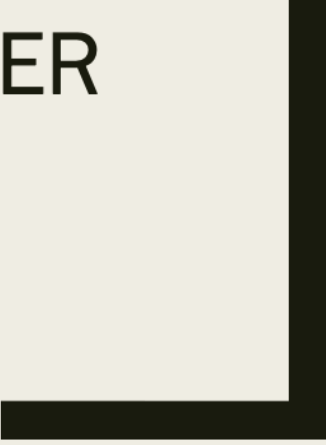
Reminder to Adjourn – Randy to Bibi – 8:40 pm

AT 1 hour/Administration/chapter meeting 1.25 hours



STMN CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, October 20, 2020



Agenda

- SPEAKER: Paul Silva, Natural Resources Specialist, TPWD & TMN
Title: Dagger Island Restoration, Rebuilding the Past and Protecting the Future
- Call to order
- Introduction of guests and visitors
- Review and approval of September minutes
- Reports of standing committees, liaisons, and officers
 - Treasurer's report - **Rosemary Plank**
 - Initial Training - **Phillip Woods**
 - VMS Admin 1 - **Cindy Frank** - Recognitions and service awards
 - President - **Bibi Dalrymple**
 - Communications/Outreach - **Randy Bissell**
 - Membership - **Michelle Alvarez**

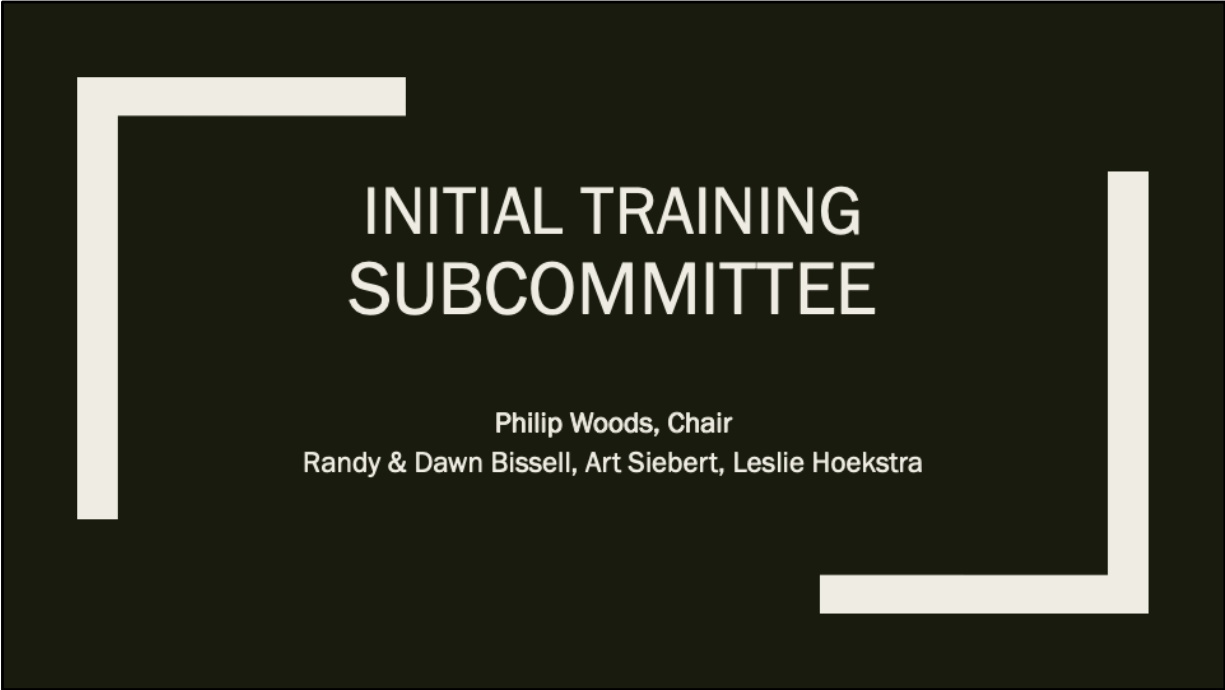
I call this meeting to order at _____

The minutes of our last meeting on September 15 were emailed on September 17 and they are available on our website. Are there any new corrections to the minutes? The minutes will stand as emailed and corrected.

Treasurer's report – Rosemary Plank

Treasurer's Report 21 October 2020
Texas Master Naturalists: South Texas Chapter

21-Jan-2020	2020 Budget	August 17 Report	BUDGET APPROVED AS AMENDED	Sept.16, Report	Oct. 21 Report	NET Budget
Bank Statement Date		July	MINUTES 9/15/2020	August	Sept.	
Please NOTE: Bank Statements Received Reflect Previous Month						
Projected Income						
Membership Dues		DEPOSIT 50.00				Total Paid \$1,106.00
Inters. Classes		DEPOSIT/WITHDRAWAL 455.00		\$1,495.00	-125.00	\$3825.00
SERVICE: Curriculum Texts						\$6.49
Total Dues Income/Amount Collectable						
Expenses Allowed based on Projected Income						
			Expenses	Expenses	Expenses	Expenses
State of Texas MN Foundation	\$100.00	\$300.00				0
South Texas Botanical Gardens	\$350.00	PAID				0
Committee Expenses	\$500.00	0.00	500.00			500.00
Membership Education	\$575.00	0.00	575.00			575.00
State Conference Attendance Support	\$250.00	\$0.00	275.00	\$55.00	\$110.00	110.00
State Meeting Auction	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00			0.00
FAMU University Press	\$4000.00	\$0.00	2000.00	189.64		806.49
Name Tags	\$250.00	\$0.00	0.00			250.00
Op. Exp., Office Supplies	\$300.00	\$0.00	300.00		\$39.27	300.00
Contingency Fund	\$250.00	\$0.00	575.00			575.00
Youth Support	\$300.00	\$0.00	300.00			300.00
SERVICE:					195.51	
TRANSFER FROM CHECKING TO SAVINGS						
				1,500.00		
Actions Taken: 1,500.00 transferred from checking to savings						
Action to be taken: Provide 5 scholarships for \$55.00						
Motions Required: Finance Committee meeting Aug 7, 2020						
1. Name tag budget; will not be used due to intern training process. Move \$25.00 to State Conference Attendance support and \$225.00 into Contingency fund.						
2. State Meeting Auction funds will not be used; move to contingency fund. No auction at state meeting						
			BANK ENDING BALANCE			
	12/31/2019	7/31/2020	8/31/2020	9/30/2020		End of Period
Share Act Total:		9,931.04	10,287.42	Share Total:		10,205.43
\$7,838.82				10,205.43		
Share Act Total:		316.50	1,816.50	1,817.24		1817.24
\$3,360.60		4,471.60	4,216.09	\$4,121.82		4,121.82
2 YR CD: \$4,162.12	4,242.94		4,254.83	\$4,266.37		4,266.37
Maturity 11-14-2021	11.86		11.89	11.54		YTD \$104.25
						Asset Summary: 18% savings 42% CD, 40% Checking



INITIAL TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE

Philip Woods, Chair
Randy & Dawn Bissell, Art Siebert, Leslie Hoekstra



RECOGNITIONS AND SERVICE AWARDS

Cindy Frank, VMS 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

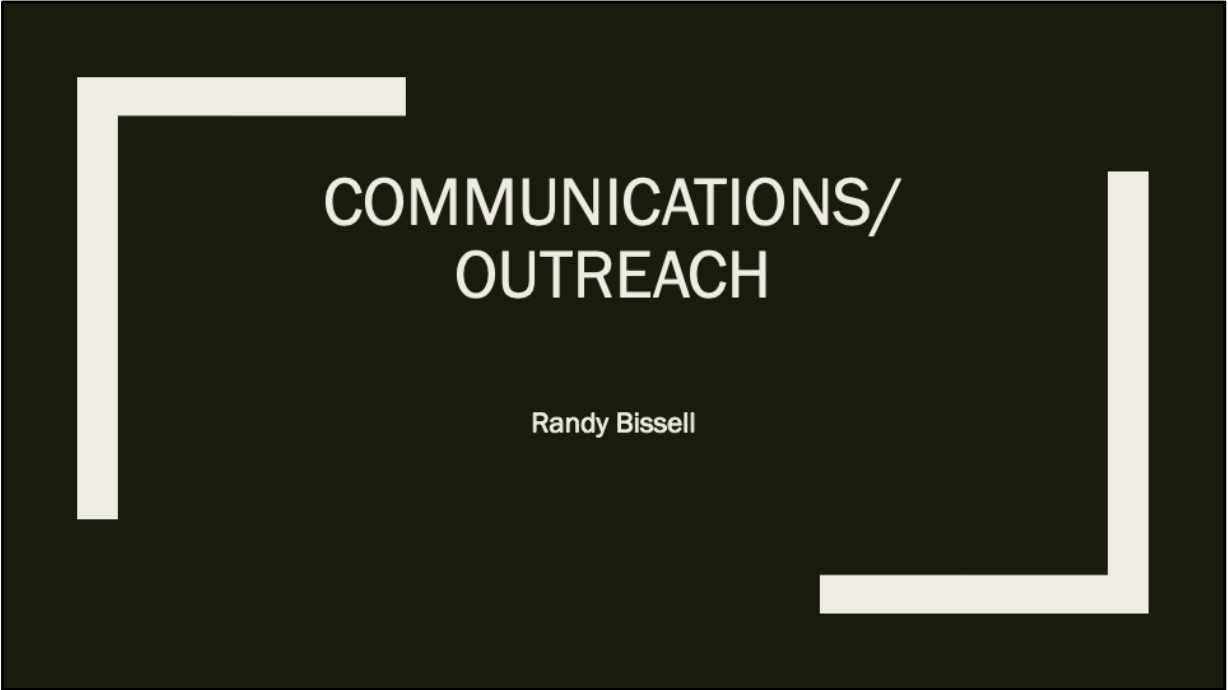
Bibi Dalrymple

Annual meeting last week

Met several times with the PPP committee. I have proposed restructuring our chapter's board of directors so that we are more closely aligned with the state's suggested structure. The board will be composed of the elected officers, the new class representative, our two advisors, and 5 directors: Membership, New Class, Communications, Advanced Training, and Volunteer Service Projects. In January they will recruit chapter members to serve on committees that they form and lead to fulfill their duties as described in the state's Chapter Operating Handbook template. We will use this template as our operating handbook since it is written in accordance with our bylaws.

As of today we have 58 active members and I think our focus should be volunteering as Master Naturalists. The administration of our chapter is important, but we can only do so much. We'll start with the essentials and as more members are willing to work on committees, we will be able to do more.

So if you see something lacking in our chapter's administration, bring it to my attention, but know that I may ask you to take on that task!



COMMUNICATIONS/ OUTREACH

Randy Bissell



MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Alvarez

Agenda (cont.)

- Reports of special committees
 - Nominating committee – ~~Byth Swartzfeger~~
- Announcements
 - Karen Smith – Coastal Steward Volunteer award winner !
- Break-out rooms – social activity – **Michelle Alvarez**
- Adjourn
- Administration/chapter meeting - hour; AT - hours



Blyth is leading the nominating committee to replace two officer positions: Vice-President & Treasurer. The election will be held at our last meeting of the year - November 17

By-laws, p 7

Nominating comm

Election Process

Nomination. The Officer Nominating Committee, chaired by the Past-President with a minimum of two additional ad-hoc members who are selected by the President with Board approval, shall submit a slate of candidates for Officers to the President. The President must publish the slate to the Chapter membership in writing 15 days prior to the last General Membership Meeting before the end of each calendar year. (That will be Nov 2, since our last meeting is Nov 17.)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

18th Annual Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards

November 19th, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Virtual Event Hosted on Zoom



Karen Smith – winner of Coastal Steward Volunteer award

President – Audubon Outdoor Club

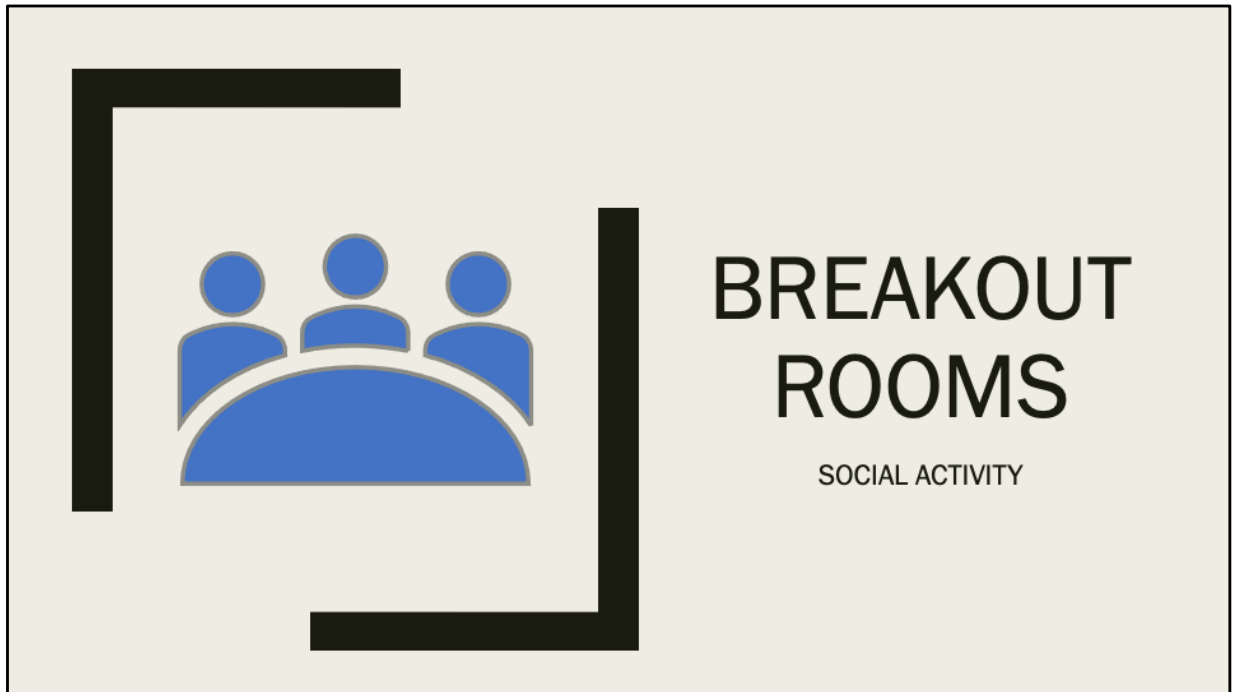
Indefatigable Leader – Blucher Bunch

STMN class of 2016

Past award winners: Ed K-12- Janice Ainbinder, Kimberly Ogden, Lari Jo Johnston; Coastal Steward Professional – Chad Huckabee,

President of AOC for last several years, joined mid-90s

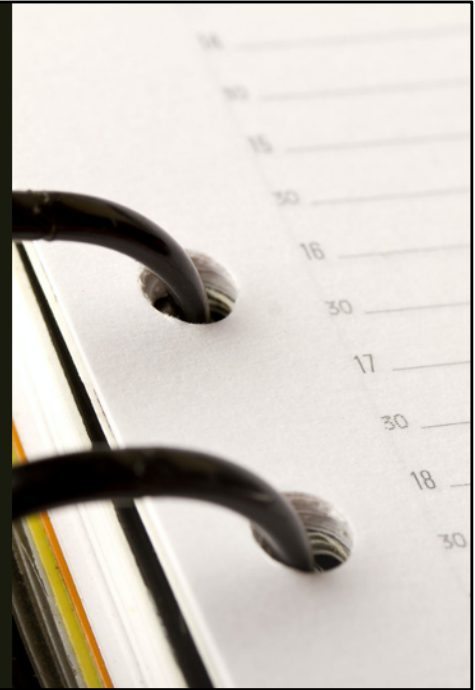
The AOC was organized in 1957 to encourage and perpetuate the observation and conservation of wildlife, and to further its mission it owns three sanctuaries – Held-Moran Sanctuary, Packery Channel Oak Motte Sanctuary, Louise Trant Sanctuary – and serves as steward to two city nature sanctuaries – Blucher Park and Pollywog Pond Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary.



Discussion topic idea: Texas has a state flower, state small mammal, state small mammal, state reptile, etc. What flora or fauna best represents our chapter area of Nueces, Kleberg, and Kenedy Counties? Assign each group a different topic: insect, reptile, small mammal, flower, etc. 15 or so minutes to discuss in breakout rooms. Reconvene to present group choices and reasoning.

Adjourn

- Administration/chapter meeting: 1.25 hours
- AT: 1 hours



Is there any further business? Then the meeting is adjourned at _____.

Board of Directors

1	Bibi Dalrymple	President
2	Chuck Blend	Vice President
3	Rosemary Plank	Treasurer
4	Randy Bissell	Secretary
5	Blyth Swartsfager	Immediate Past President
6	Paul Silva (TPWD)	Ex Officio
7	Kevin Gibbs (Agrilife Extension)	Ex Officio
8	Leslie Hoekstra	Intern Class Representative
9	Michelle Alvarez	Membership Committee chair
10	Rosemary Plank	Finance Committee chair
11	Philip Woods	Education Committee chair
12	Chuck Blend	PPP (Operations/Bylaws) chair
13	Chad Huckabee	Historian/Archivist
14	Randy Bissell	Outreach/Communications chair
15	Cindy Frank	VMS 1
16	Chad Huckabee	VMS 2

10-21-2020 Verbal Report

- Overview of Sept Bank Statement
- Review of current status:
 - Projected Income in 1/2020 = 3,975.00; 2,475.00 & 1,500.00 respectively
 - actual income = 2,931.00 Total Paid \$1,106.00 \$ 1825.00 respectively
 - Covid reduced expenditures
 - Group tour not done eliminating expenditure of 575.00
 - State meeting virtual reducing registration to 55.00 (4 scholarships for 220.00) rather than 5 as planned
 - Intern class virtual with increase in time for completion; name tags will be provided in 2021 rather than 2020: 250.00 unspent this year.
 - Committee's fairly inactive – no request for funds.
 - Geological Society paid for Zoom account
 - No requests for Youth Support; 300.00 in account
 - Op. Exp. Reduction due to all of the above and donation of materials used
- Approximate dollar amount of funds not used = 2,200
- At this point in time we have 4,121.82 in our checking account at Navy/Army Credit Union.
- Approximately 2,000.00 comes from previous years beginning in 2008 – first records available

Question related to reduction of income because we are non-profit

“Nonprofit,” generally means we have successfully jumped through the proper state and federal hoops to receive the most favored, section 501(c)(3), tax-exempt status. It *doesn't mean* we have to spend every dollar taken in.

A nonprofit can make a profit. Though a nonprofit is not CREATED for a profit-making purpose, it is allowed to make profits along the way to fund its good works.

A nonprofit's purposes MUST be “public or charitable” rather than profit-centered for the benefit of private individuals. If we have the good fortune to collect more in donations than is needed in a particular year to cover expenses, that's good.

Federal Tax Law

Because we are a 501(c)(3), we had to complete IRS forms and pay fees first, then send the IRS documents to the Texas Comptroller's Office to demonstrate federal and state 501(c)(3) status. We demonstrated that we are formed for nonprofit purposes under federal law, thus under state law. Where our monies come from and what our mission is identifies us as being a 'charitable' organization; not for the benefit of private interests.

That *doesn't mean* though, that a nonprofit can never have a surplus of funds. It can receive grants and donations, and can have activities that generate income, so long as these dollars eventually are used for the group's tax-exempt purposes. If there is money left over at the end of a year, it can be set-aside as a reserve to cover expenses in the next year or beyond.

Spending Down all Income is Fiscally Irresponsible

Maintaining a financial cushion is good money-management and it's legal.

How can we lose our 501(c)(3) status?

- Private benefit/inurement,
- Lobbying,
- Political activity
- Excessive unrelated business income (UBI) and
- Not filing income tax for three years

Note for the chapter meeting from the Initial Training Committee 10/20/2020

Since the last meeting on Sept 15th The training Art, Dawn, Leslie, Cindy have been busy:

9/19 Full day at Hazel Bazemore with small groups Chad assisting with plant identification and other sage wisdom

10/5 Virtual meeting with the history of Padre Island and introduction of Mustang Island Ranger and volunteer staff.

10/10 Padre Island Beach, A wonderful, talk by the head interpretive ranger., Land forms, water quality, and beach creatures Small groups

Up coming

10/24 Mustang Island Ranger talk about interpretation and what he does and the need for volunteers, nurdles, water quality, beach stuff –seining etc, Dune walk –plants and animals, beach walk birds

10/27 Virtual meeting with Chad presenting Texas Reptiles and amphibians, then Matt Hendrix from NDP will show us some of the videos they have been making for virtual field trips as well as talk about his function at NDP

11/7 NDP Transact trapping of small mammals and Id, Chad to bring some animal ambassadors for us to be familiar with, Animal skulls and adaptation, land forms, Water quality and seining, Adult science sleuthing, and halophytes

We will be field tripping and virtual meeting through January.

We are having a great time. I need to repeat that we are restricting the attendance of members due to the small group restriction from Covid-

STMN Meeting 10/20/2020
Communications/Outreach Report

Web Presence

- **Facebook Group**
 - o 330+ members and great contributors. Going strong.
 - o Facebook is great resource for leads on volunteer activities and AT.

- **TXMN/ST Website**
 - o **Meeting documents hosted.**
 - **Chapter Meetings**
 - **Board of Directors Meetings**
 - **IT Training Meetings**
 - o **Building pages for Initial Training sites.**
 - o **To do:**
 - **Improve Archive/History of Chapter pages.**
 - **Improve Core Nature Site pages.**

Email Communication

- Moving to VMS for *all* Chapter-wide Emails.
 - o Training more folks to work with VMS
- Encouraging all to follow TXMN Listserv for AT opportunities.

Newsletter

- Chad's Newsletter is going strong and reaching members.
- Hosting links to the Newsletter and archive on the TXMN/ST website.

Outreachy Plans

- Tri-fold flyer holders at key Nature Sites for promotional flyers.



- Contact with Caller-Times for any TMN Nature-related articles like Chad's series.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Bissell