

Minutes for STMN Meeting 3/16/2021  
6:30 pm Zoom Virtual Meeting

6:33 pm meeting called to Order for AT Presentation.

Speaker: Dustin Baker – Ranger at Padre Island National Seashore

Meeting Attendees:

Dustin Baker\*, Melanie Hollenshead\*\*, Emma Mathis\*\*, Yalanda Jones\*\*, Ryan Hanisch\*\*, Stephen Cook\*\*, Caitlin Pyle\*\*, Michelle Alvarez, Janice Ainbinder, Ada Anderson, Lillian Bass, Randy Bissell, Dawn Bissell, Christy Blend, Chuck Blend, Adel Casiano, Michele Connolly, Bibi Dalrymple, Ann Flanagan, Cynthia Frank, Amanda Gabehart, George Gardiner, Darlene Garey, Wendy Hill, Matthew Hendrix, Leslie Hoekstra, Janice Knezek, Jean Meadors, Kimberly Ogden, Jennifer Pshigoda, Suanne Pyle, Amy Rivers Winifred Shrum, Art Siebert, Paul Silva, Karen Smith, Rebecca Smith, Suzanne Smith, Brian Tilley, Bob Ward, Michael Wenzel \*Speaker \*\* Guest

Call to Order at 7:39 Bibi Dalrymple, quorum established.

Guest AT Speaker – Dustin Baker, Interpreter, Padre Island National Seashore on “Brief History of the National Park System.”

Melanie Hollenshead – guest from Cradle of Texas Chapter.

Caitlin Pyle – guest from Elm Fork Chapter.

Ryan Hanisch, Yalanda Jones, Stephen Cook, Emma Mathis – prospective trainees.

Review and approval of January minutes – Bibi Dalrymple

- Minutes are posted on [www.txmn.org/st](http://www.txmn.org/st).
- No outstanding old business.

President report – Bibi Dalrymple

- Presented dates for TMN Tuesdays. Next date April 13.
- Presented dates for new program “Be the Change.” April 20.
- Attended monthly Presidents’ meeting, main topic was diversity, equity, inclusion.

Vice President report – Kimberly Ogden

- Katie Swanson from Mission Aransas NERR will be April guest speaker talking about their mission. Our meeting date will be April 20 at 6:30 pm.
- There will be AT this Friday afternoon on “Texas Nature Trackers – City Nature Challenge” and the upcoming BioBlitz. They are hoping that our Chapter will participate in nature observations through iNaturalist.

#### Treasurer Report – Leslie Hoekstra

- Savings \$1,818.39, Checking \$4866.09, CD \$4324.93 for total of \$11009.41
- Total paid membership is 65.
- Randy Bissell reminded everyone that they have to be paid members by end of March 2021 to be voting members for the remainder of the year.

#### Secretary/Communication Report – Randy Bissell

Communications Committee Report – (Last Meeting 8:45 pm, on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>).

Attendees: Suanne Pyle, Amanda Gabehart, Cindy Frank, Jean Meadors, Mike Wenzel.

- Chapter swag (bumper stickers, key chains, temporary tattoos).
  - Looking at getting stickers printed up based on the image above.
  - Also, other versions of smaller stickers.
- Earth-Day Bay-Day opportunity (April 17 at Blucher Park).
  - Offer walk-n-talks for visitors on birds, landscape, history.
  - Maybe a fun photo workshop.
  - Nature journaling.
  - Table of goodies.
- Working towards the AT event for Arachnids.
- Facebook and Website updates.
- 450 Facebook Groupies.
- Email address updates to Committee Members.
- The StoryCorps initiative.
  - Membership Committee & Chad.
  - Communications will manage recordings on our webspace.
- Equipping the Initial Trainees 2021
- Trainee letter and invite for this meeting.

#### Membership Report – Michelle Alvarez

- We will be participating in Earth/Day Bay Day on April 17 at Blucher Park. Events are spread across Corpus Christi because of COVID.
- Michelle is working on a multimedia project on the history of our chapter. She needs TMN for interviewees and interviewers.
- Survey for ideas for socials is still open.
- Next social will be on Tues, March 30 from 6-8 pm. The topic will be Art Night (Correction, because of conflict with AT on Arachnids, Social is moved to April 6).

#### Training Report – Randy Bissell in Phil Woods' absence.

- The training calendar is now up on the website.
- There will be a training kickoff for the whole chapter at Bissell house in August.

#### Volunteer Management Report – Cindy Frank

Awards and recertifications from January 19, 2021 – March 16, 2021

Volunteer Service Recognition.

- Adel Casiano – 250 hours
- Michele Connolly – 250 hours

Recertifications.

- Amanda Gabehart
- Tom Kieber Emmons
- Phil Woods
- Art Siebert
- Bibi Dalrymple
- Randy Bissell
- Cindy Frank
- Michelle Alvarez
- Adel Casiano
- Carol Singleton
- Chuck Blend
- Michele Connolly

New Training Class Representative Report – Michele Connolly

- Nothing new lately.
- TMN is supposed to update COVID regulations, check TMN website for latest regulations.

General Announcements

- Next BOD meeting will be May 3 at 7 pm.
- Next general meeting will be April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Kim Ogden introduced Melanie Hollenshead. She will be doing an AT on “Spiders of the Coastal Bend” via Zoom on March 30 at 7 pm.

Membership activity – Michelle Alvarez

- Break Out rooms, play 20 Questions. Pick a natural noun!
- Drawing for door prize supplied by Bibi Dalrymple for 2021 – won by Christi Blend!

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 pm

**.75 hour of AT, 1.0 hour of Chapter Business**

*Minutes compiled and respectfully submitted by:*

*Suanne Pyle – Communications Committee*

*Randy Bissell – Secretary*

## **Summary of Upcoming Dates for the South Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists**

**March 30**, 7 pm, **Spider Biology** (AT) Melanie Hollenshead, Cradle of Texas Chapter via Zoom. Watch for the announcement.

**April 6**, 7 pm, **Membership Social**, hosted by Michelle Alvarez via Zoom. Watch for the announcement.

**April 13**, Noon, **#TMN Tuesdays** with State TMN Coordinators.

**April 17**, 10 am to 2 pm, **Earth Day – Bay Day in Blucher Park**, hosted by STXTMN, Audubon Outdoor Club, and Youth Odyssey. Outside in the PARK!!! Details coming.

**April 20**, Noon, **“Be the Change”** Presentation on Chapter diversity and inclusion.

**April 20**, 6:30 pm, **South Texas Chapter Meeting** via Zoom. Watch for the announcement.

**April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, **City Nature Challenge BioBlitz, San Patricio and Nueces Counties**, more information at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-corpus-christi-area> or contact Kimberly Ogden.

**May 3**, 7 pm, **Chapter Board of Directors Meeting** via Zoom. Watch for the announcement.