



South Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program™

Minutes of the Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

6:30 pm, Via Zoom

SPEAKER: **Justin LeClaire**, CBBEP Bird Biologist; *Coastal Avian Conservation*

- Justin's email address is jleclaire@cbbep.org

Attendees:

Karen Smith, Kevin Gibbs, Lari Jo Edwards, Leslie Hoekstra, Lillian Bass, Mary Grace Lopez, Matt Hendrix, Amy Rivers, Mike Wenzel, Michele Connolly, Nancy Gettelfinger, Paul Markey, Paul Silva, Philip Woods, Ricky Rodriguez, Suanne Pyle, Wendy Hill, Randy Bissell, Bibi Dalrymple, Justin LeClaire, Michelle Alvarez, Amanda Gabehart, Ann Flannagan, Art Seibert, Bob Ward, Brenda Weathered, Bryan Tilley, Carol Singleton, Chuck Blend, Christy Blend, Claude Smith, Suzanne Smith, Rebecca Smith, George Gardiner, Jacqueline Jones, Janice Knezek, Jason Edwards, Jean Meadors, Jennifer Pshigoda, Joan Wolfe.

Call to Order – 7:41 pm.

Introduction of guests and visitors

- Justin LeClaire, presenter.
- TMN Trainees – Nancy Gettelfinger, Paul Markey, Ricky Rodriguez, Joan Wolfe.

Review and approval of last meeting's minutes

- Shared in chat.
- Available Online at www.txmn.org/st

Reports of Officers and Directors

President – **Bibi Dalrymple**

- Calendar Items
 - Next Chapter Meeting on August 17th.
 - Next Board Meetings on Aug 2nd and Oct 4th.
- President/Secretary Terms expire in December, Election in November.
- Candidate names will be published for Nov. 16 mtg. by Nov. 1.
- A nominating committee will be formed in September.
- Next Presidents Meeting next Monday, May 24.
- No new guidance on COVID-19 protocols.
- License plates available in June.

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- Note that all items on TMN Listserv are not AT approved. Chapter approval is needed for all content except #TMNTuesday and Be The Change series which also may be seen for AT credit via recorded video.
- State Meeting will be Oct. 21-24 at DFW Marriot Airport hotel. Format to be determined.
- Reminder about elections in November.

Report for Kim Ogden, Vice-President

- City Nature Challenge was a Success.
- 991 Local Observations
 - Ada Anderson
 - Kim Ogden
 - Michelle Alvarez.
 - Janice Ainbinder
 - Amanda Gabehart
- Gulf Coast Toad was the most observed species.
- First year for Corpus Christi – believe it will become more popular.

Treasurer – Leslie Hoekstra

- 15 Fall Trainees have paid.
- Treasurer's Report

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Savings | |
| Balance as of 5/17/21 | \$ 1,819.06 |
| | |
| Checking | |
| Balance as of 5/17/21 | \$ 7,100.76 |
| | |
| 2 YR CD | |
| Balance as of 5/17/21 | \$ 4,348.81 |
| BANK TOTAL 5/17/21 | \$ 13,268.63 |

- CD matures in September.

Secretary & Communications Director – Randy Bissell

- Giving out books to Fall Trainees.
- Over 500 Facebook Groupies
- Calendar of upcoming events now on the website.
- Encourage folks to think about running for Secretary in the Fall.

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**Membership – Michelle Alvarez**

- Working with Kim on June Social at NDP.
- Developing more NatureCorps audio stories.
- Working with Michele Connolly on mentoring.

New Class Director – Philip Woods

- 15 members paid.
- Looking at venues for orientation meeting.
 - TAMU AgriLife Robstown
 - CC Library
 - TAMUCC
- Round 1 mailout to first 20 offering training. Round 2 will go out Monday, May 24.
- Please consider being a mentor.
- A reading list was developed for the Curriculum and its being given to trainees as they receive their books.

Advanced Training Director – Chad Huckabee (no report)**Volunteer Service Projects Director – Cindy Frank (actually presented following Mike below)**

Receiving special awards for hours.

- Art Siebert – 2500 hours
- Ada Anderson – 500 hours
- Leslie Hoekstra and Jacquelyn Jones – 250 hours

Recertifications:

- Suanne Pyle
- Ada Anderson
- Elaine Tiller
- Chad Huckabee
- Lillian Gasca
- Leslie Hoekstra
- Wendy Hill

New Class Representative – Michele Connolly

- Welcome to the new trainees.

Announcements / Opportunities**Adopt a Trail / Paddling Trail project – Mike Wenzel**

- Idea from Volunteer Fair
- Texas has paddling trails, two in our area.

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- Mustang Island
- Lighthouse
- Volunteers needed to attend to the trail.
 - Maintain condition.
 - Improve/repair signs.
 - Resource management.
- Coastal Birding has over 40 sites, not all maintained.
- Amanda raised a concern regarding another Chapter project. Mike clarified that this was a coordinated individual effort for interested people.
- Randy suggested Mike pull together material for an email solicitation of volunteers.

Special announcement by **Bob Ward**, longtime member.

- Bob is moving from Corpus Christi to League City.
- Moving the end of June.

(Supplement to the minutes: Bob became a Master Naturalist in 2013. He was known to our Chapter as that quiet, smiling, guy at our meetings who never spoke up much. Those who knew him well learned of his good humor and artistic abilities. As a Master Naturalist, Bob did a LOT of volunteering with the ARK (Amos Rehab Keep) in Port Aransas and looking diligently along the beach for nesting Kemp's Ridley turtles. He also spent many, many hours assisting with nature walks at the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve. Bob exemplifies the mission and meaning of Texas Master Naturalist and he will be so missed by our Chapter and our Community. Thank you, Bob!)

Break-out-rooms – **Michelle Alvarez**

Fun activity – Plan for a Group Zoom Picture

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AT 1 hour. Administration/chapter meeting 1 hours.

Adjourn

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