

**Texas Master Naturalists  
South Texas Chapter  
Meeting Minutes**

**Chapter Meeting Aug. 17, 2021  
Via Zoom**

Meeting opened at 6:32 pm

Speaker: Dr. Dale Gawlik, Harte Research Institute at TAMUCC, Endowed Chair for Conservation and Biodiversity. Presentation on the Everglades, South Florida development, and bird populations. "An Evolving View of Food Limitations in Wading Birds"

1 hour with Q&A

On YouTube Here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM\\_aljAxMWA&t=1705s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM_aljAxMWA&t=1705s)

Q&A: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THJLOEDHRUM&t=4s>

Call to Order at 7:37 after short break.

Meeting Attendees

Kim, Ogden *VP*, Randy Bissell *Sec*, Ric Garces, Nancy Gettelfinger, Teri Gettelfinger, Dave Gawlik (speaker), Leslie Albrecht, Adel Anderson, Ann Flanagan, Chuck Blend, Christy Blend, Marie Kieber-Emmons, John Hardie, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Wenzel, Janice Ainbinder, Steve Cook, Art Siebert, Holly Grand, Janice Knezek, Claude Smith, Suzanne Smith, Michele Connolly, Kevin Gibbs, Winnie Shrum, Matt Hendrix, Lari Jo Edwards, Jason Edwards, Jean Meadors, Leslie Hoekstra *Tres*, George Gardiner, Jon Brandt, Lillian Bass, Becca Maestas, Carol Singleton, Cindy Frank, Suanne Pyle, Ricardo Rodriguez, Katilyn Parker, Philip Woods, Dawn Bissell, Charlie Ogden, Jennifer Pshigoda, Amanda Gabehart, Tom Kieber-Emmons

President was absent.

Welcome to visitors, a number of new Trainees were in attendance.

Review and Approval of Last Months Minutes. Minutes are always available on our Chapter website. [www.txmn.org/st/Documents](http://www.txmn.org/st/Documents). Minutes were approved by motion and floor second.

Presidential Notices – Kim for Bibi

- TPWD Advisor Paul Silva is being replace by Holly Grand who will also be our speaker for the September Chapter Meeting via Zoom on Sept. 21.

- Officer Nomination Committee is forming soon. Kim Ogden VP will chair the committee with Art Siebert and Cindy Frank serving as members.
- Nominations will be brought forward by November 1 for election/affirmation at November Chapter Meeting scheduled now for November 16.
- #TMN Tuesdays will count as AT in 2021.
- The TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair is upcoming on Aug. 31 to Sept. 1
- The TMN Annual Meeting will be Hybrid and in-person in the DFW Marriot Airport Hotel on October 21-24. Early registration closes Sept. 1.

#### Treasurer Report – Leslie Hoekstra

- No Formal Report
- Membership numbers in reconciliation with VMS
- Balances will be reported in minutes attachment.

#### Secretary & Communications Report – Randy Bissell

- Please note the updates and utility of our website.
- Quick demo of function.

#### Membership Report – Kim for Michelle Alvarez

- Great social.
- Mentoring program going.
- Ideas for next social?

#### New Training Class Report – Philip Woods

- Most Trainees have mentors.
- Mustang Island training on Aug. 28.
- Orientation on August 14 was successful.
- We have five trainers.
- Calendar for our Training is hosted on our [www.txmn.org/st](http://www.txmn.org/st) website.
- Make up orientation short-version coming.

#### AT Report/VMS Report - Cindy Frank for Chad Huckabee

- Chad on the road.
- 8 hours of AT needed annually.
- #TMN Tuesdays qualifies for now.
- Other opportunities through agencies such as the Bays Foundation.
- Chad continues his AT Training for Plant ID at Flour Bluff.
- Please cycle through Chad and Grace to make sure your AT time is approved.
- Details on awards are attached to the minutes.

#### New Class Representative – Michele Connolly

- Participated in orientation.

- Positive on new class.
- Working with mentoring program.

Due to technical difficulties, Break Out Room discussion was open for all.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:28 pm. by motion from Floor.

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TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS  
SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
AUGUST 18, 2021  
AS OF 8/18/2021

SAVINGS	\$ 1,819.74
CHECKING	\$ 7,489.56
2 YEAR CD	\$ 4,385.09
TOTAL	\$13,694.39

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS  
57 Paid Members  
13 2020 Trainees  
21 2021 Trainees  
91 TOTAL

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Awards and recertifications from May 19, 2021 until August 17, 2021

Recertified:

Jon Brandt – 7/24/21  
Rebecca Smith – 6/8/21  
George Gardiner – 7/3/21  
Dawn Bissell – 8/5/21  
Karl Dirksmeyer – 8//15/21  
Marie Kieber-Emmons – 8/5/21  
Mike Wenzel – 6/26/21  
Jennifer Pshigoda – 6/26/21  
Ric Garces – 6/26/21  
Janice Ainbinder – 6/26/21  
Janice Knezek – 6/26/21  
Grace Lopez – 5/19/21

250 hours:

Jon Brandt – 6/8/21

Dawn Bissell – 8/15/21

500 hours:

Randy Bissell – 8/9/21

Adel Casiano – 7/26/21

Claude Smith – 7/24/21

Suzanne Smith – 8/6/21

1000 hours:

Bryan Tilley – 6/8/21

2500 hours:

Amanda Gabehart – 5/29/21

*Minutes prepared by Randy Bissell, Suanne Pyle with help from Cindy Frank and Leslie Hoekstra*

Respectfully submitted 8/25/2021