



South Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program™

Chapter Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:30 pm, Via Zoom

Meeting started at 6:33 pm.

Attendees*: Bibi Dalrymple, Randy Bissell, Paula Baker, Jean Meadors, Mary Grace Lopez, Winifred Shrum, Chuck Blend, Christy Blend, Chad Huckabee, Leslie Albrecht, Sue Barley, Philip Woods, Michelle Alvarez, *Donald Ganer*, Jon Brandt, Michele Connolly, Cindy Frank, Marie Kieber-Emmons, Tom Kieber-Emmons, *Helene Harris*, Lorrie Pierce, Nicole Garcia, *Melanie Hollenshead*, Karen Smith, Mike Wenzel, Leslie Hoekstra, Claude Smith, Suzanne Smith, Art Siebert, Matt Hendrix, Amy Rivers, Ann Flanagan, Holly Grand, Janice Ainbinder, Bryan Tilley, Janice Knezek, Nancy Roberts, Lillian Bass, Steve Cook, Becca Maestas, Suanne Pyle, Maggie Taylor, George Gardiner, Amanda Gabehart

*Non-chapter members *italicized*.

SPEAKER: Dr. Chuck Blend

PRESENTATION: *Meet Me in the Astrometric Lab: We Can Explore the Fall Constellations Over South Texas*

Art Seibert did a special presentation on the Texas Lightning Whelk, the selected pin for 2022 Texas Master Naturalist Recertification.

- 1987 designated State Shell by the Texas Legislature.
- Lightning Whelk has a left twist which is unusual amongst gastropods.
- Native Americans valued the whelk for tools.
- Whelk egg casings are commonly found on our beaches.
- 2nd marine invertebrate pin.

1.25 Hours AT

Call to Order – 7:50 PM by Bibi Dalrymple, President.

Introduction of guests and visitors

- Melanie Hollenshead and Donald Ganer were introduced.

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Review and approval of last meeting’s minutes.

- Minutes of all meetings are available on the chapter website. www.txmn.org/st
- Minutes were corrected after last meeting.
- Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Reports of officers and directors

President – **Bibi Dalrymple** (detailed notes attached)

- Kim Ogden VP has lined up speakers for January and February.
- Board of Directors Meeting on December 7 at 7:00 pm.
- Chapter Meeting on January 18th. Hybrid meeting with details forthcoming.
- State Meeting Recognition
 - o Cindy Frank, 4000/5000 hour service milestone.
 - o Michele Connolly, 500 hour Service Milestone.
 - o Paula Baker, photo contest winner.
 - o Randy Bissell and Michelle Alvarez presented talks.
- Next Year’s State Meeting
 - o Format still being determined.
 - o Houston Galleria area.
- State CMOP and COH have been updated.

Treasurer – **Leslie Hoekstra**

- Treasurer’s Report

AS OF 11/15/2021

SAVINGS	\$ 1,820.43	
CHECKING	\$ 7,118.19	
Check 1025	570.00	Name badges
Check 1024	21.00	State Meeting Donation
Check 1022	500.00	2021 Annual Meeting Fees & Accommodations
TOTAL	\$ 6,027.19	
2 YEAR CD	\$ 4,409.31	
Interest	12.36	
Interest	5.20	
TOTAL	\$ 4,426.87	
TOTAL	\$12,274.40	

- The membership numbers likely need revision.

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57	Paid Members
2	Advisors (no membership fee required)
13	2020 Trainees
19	2021 Trainees
91	TOTAL

Secretary & Communications Director – **Randy Bissell**

- Facebook and website are being maintained.
 - o Lots of participation by members on Facebook content (thanks).
 - o Website is getting a planned refresh in early 2022.

Membership – **Michelle Alvarez**

- Upcoming B4 Naturalist Chapter Event Bioblitz at Blucher and Beers with Bibi (or something like that!)



- o Thursday, Dec. 2 - Introduction and orientation on Zoom.
- o Saturday, Dec. 4 - Activities in the park.

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- Use the Google Form to opt in for the Member directory. **Link to form:** <https://forms.gle/76Bm6XghU4pN7TwM7>

Initial Training Class Director – Philip Woods

- Six students have completed their certification.
- Weather has been great with no field day cancellations.
- Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on December 11.
- Crane presentation on December 9.
- Oso/Pat Suter last weekend, Nov. 13. Lots of Black Skimmers at Suter.
- 19 Trainees this year, great group of interesting people.
- Let us know if you want to be on the Training Committee.
- Thanks so much for the Chapter’s help in so many areas.

Advanced Training Director – Chad Huckabee

- AT Programs for 2022 have been posted in the Newsletter with dates.

Date:	Program:	Time:	Location:	TMN Hours
Feb 12	Spring Plankton	9 am-11am	FBHS Science Lab	AT ONLY
Feb 25	Class A Plant ID	5:15 pm-715 pm	FBI Nature Garden	AT ONLY
Feb 26	Class A Plant ID	9 am- 11am	FBI Nature Garden	AT ONLY
Mar 5	Native Plants & Adaptations	8:30 am-11:30	Bot. Garden	AT & VOL
Mar 12	Lake CC SP Plants	8:30 am-12:30pm	Lake CC SP	AT & VOL
Mar 25	Class B Plant ID	5:00pm-7:18pm	FBI Nature Garden	AT ONLY
Mar 26	Class B Plant ID	8:30 am-1030am	FBI Nature Garden	AT ONLY
Apr 8	Class C Plant ID	5:00pm-7:18pm	FBI Nature Garden	AT ONLY
Apr 9	Class C Plant ID	8:30 am-1030am	FBI Nature Garden	AT ONLY
Apr 23	Hazel Plant ID	8:30am-12:30pm	Hazel Basemore Pk	AT & VOL
May 6	Class D Plant ID	5:30pm-7:30pm	FBISD Wetlands	AT ONLY
May7	Class D Plant ID	5:30pm-7:30pm	FBISD Wetlands	AT ONLY
May 28	Fish & Macroinverts	8:00am-1:00pm	Indian Pt & Fin&Feath	AT & VOL
June 11	Jetty Flora & Fauna	8:00- am-noon	Port A Jetties	AT & VOL
June 25	Birding & Plants	8:00am-Noon	Bayside of Port A	AT & VOL
July 9	Sea grasses & Algae	9:00am-11am	FBHS Science Lab	AT ONLY

Volunteer Service Projects Director – Cindy Frank

- Initial certifications: Matt Hendrix, Nancy Gettelfinger, Teri Gettelfinger, Kati Parker, John Hardie, Paula Baker, Amy Rivers, Becca Maestas
- Recertifications: Nancy Gettelfinger, Teri Gettelfinger, Kati Parker

New Class Representative – Michele Connolly

- Lots of fun people in the current class.

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- Seeking Class Representative for 2022 with email solicitation.

***Election of new officers: Presidential comments:**

- Elected offices are two-year terms.
- Appointment Process for Board Members other than New Class Director.
 - o Recommendation of Candidates. The incoming President must recommend candidates for the appointed positions to the newly elected Officers following the last General Membership Meeting.
 - o The President may use the Officer Nominating Committee or may appoint a separate ad hoc committee to recommend candidates for his/her consideration.
 - o **Selection.** All appointed positions must be confirmed by a majority vote of the newly elected Officers, Past-President and Advisor(s) prior to the end of the calendar year in which they are elected.
 - o **Assumption of Office.** The newly appointed Board Members shall assume their duties within the month of January of the following calendar year.

Nominee for President: **Michele Connolly**

Introduced by Bibi: "She was born and raised in Austin, Texas...she lived in Austin, Texas for 30 years. She's been married to Matt Connelly for 23 years. They have two rescue pups Bonnie and Frankie. And they moved to North Padre Island full time in January of 2020. She has a PhD in sociology from UT Austin...In December 2019. She retired from the state of Texas. She worked for the state for 30 years as a social scientist, research director and in Data Management. She spent three years at Texas Department of Agriculture...and the office of the Attorney General. 10 years with the Legislative Budget Board and 14 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice...she joined the Master Naturalist with the class of 2020...she became the new class representative. In that capacity she has been on the board all this year to serve on the training committee. Volunteer sites are White Cap Beach, North Padre Island, and Padre Island National Seashore, in the division of sea turtle science and recovery...She is perfect for the job of President...I'm just delighted that we have somebody that is so capable and organized and responsible, has agreed to be nominated to be president."

No other candidates were nominated from the floor.

Voting was conducted via Zoom Chat vote. No objections to the nominee. Michele Connolly was elected as President effective January 1, 2022 (for a two-year term) by Chapter Acclamation, verified by the Secretary.

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Nominee for Secretary: **Suanne Pyle**

Introduced by Randy: “Suanne...she has been the nicest, sweetest greatest person to help me in the last several months with my duties as secretary...she takes impeccable minutes and most often the corrections that are made to my minutes come from her. Suanne was in the class of 2020...she was one of our most extremely enthusiastic students and has been such as a Master Naturalist. She's a small-business owner there in Port A with the Fly It kite shop. Suanne has helped me...immeasurably in my communications duties with the Facebook page, watching what's going on and helping keep that in order. I think she'll serve the board as a great level-headed officer. And I think she brings a tremendous amount of life experience and personal business experience and will add great decision making to the board of directors. So, I heartily recommend Suanne as our secretary.”

No other candidates were nominated from the floor.

Voting was conducted via Zoom Chat vote. No objections to the nominee. Suanne Pyle was elected as Secretary effective January 1, 2022 (for a two-year term) by Chapter Acclamation, verified by the Secretary.

Restated by the Secretary and verified by the President, Michele Connolly and Suanne Pyle were declared the elected officers unanimously by members in attendance and by the acclamation of the Chapter. They replace Bibi Dalrymple and Randy Bissell as President and Secretary, respectively, and effective 1/1/2022.

Announcements / Opportunities

- **Phil Woods** was nominated and selected to be the CBBF Volunteer of the Year Award Winner for 2021. Phil is the tenth award winner from our chapter and joins a list of worthy South Texas Master Naturalists who have received CBBF Annual Environmental Awards. Among the past recipients are Chad Huckabee (K-12 Educator & Stewardship), Blyth Swartsfager (Organization -STMN), Lilian Gasca (Stewardship), Janice Ainbinder (K-12 Educator), Karen Smith (Stewardship), Peggy Sumner (Industry), Kim Ogden (K-12 Educator), Lari Jo Edwards. Phil is the most recent of a nice list of STMN Chapter Members honored in various categories.
- **AT Opportunity** On a Silver Thread – Thursday, Dec. 9th at 7:00 pm. More info coming via email.
- **Volunteer Day at CC Museum of Science and History** Nov. 20th. Talk to Chad.
- **NDP Bird Count** Dec. 18th.
- **Phil Woods** won a photo contest for TNM State Meeting in 2020.
- **Paula Baker** won this year for her coyote photo. She shared several beautiful pictures.

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T E X A S



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Break-out-rooms – **Michelle Alvarez (no breakout rooms this meeting).**

No further announcements or business.

Adjourn at 8:34 (.75 hrs. Chapter Business).

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