**TxMN Chapter Presidents meeting**

**April 27 2020**

New security measures for joining Zoom meetings

 -pre-registration to attend

 -participants must wait for host to admit them

 -participants enter muted and with video turned off

Week 5 – how is it going?

**-SurveyMonkey survey sent out**

 27 out of 48 chapters responded

-what platforms are you using for online conferencing?

-who is doing spring training?

-what are you using for Board meetings?

**-New projects from Michelle and Mary Pearl**

 -Nature Reflections Project (What Nature Means)

 -idea from Oregon to connect with OMN

 -video diary project to capture a snapshot in time

-TMNs are keenly positioned to engage in outdoor activities at a time when nature means so much more than it normally does

-<one-minute video compilations from members

 -submit by May 15

 -how have you engaged with nature as stress relief?

-will be shared via email to chapters

 -WILL count towards volunteer service hours (code will be sent)

**-new TXMN website launched!**

 -two main audiences

 -potential members interested in joining

 -current members who are looking for info/forms

-Naturalist News

 -meeting notes

 -spring/fall training schedule

 -projects

 -interesting updates/awards/projects/stories from chapters

 -events calendar

 -submission form on the website

 -will be rolled out to all chapters who use AgriLife template

 -WordPress format

 -includes password-protected “members-only” pages

 -will check on listserv capabilities (might be a plug-in)

 -2 week windows of regional roll-outs include training

 -presidents will receive emails letting them know when their window is

 -all content from old site will be copied and pasted to new site

 -txmn.org will still link to previous web address (now listed as txmn.tamu.edu)

 -allows web search optimization and follow protocols for A&M

 -chapters NOT required to use this template, BUT for new sites…

 -monthly trainings will continue to be held

 -includes helpdesk services for troubleshooting

 -security and accessibility updates

 -stay tuned for repairs to existing AgriLife-hosted chapter websites ☺

 -txmn/help and txmn/apply are still working

-request for AgriLife IT to have beta testers from individual chapters before making major platform migrations

**-iNaturalist volunteer guidelines** coming soon (hopefully in a few weeks?)

 -draft version of guidelines is going through focus groups for input

 -being reviewed by TX Nature Tracker team and TMN Leadership

 -will contain guidelines for tracking volunteer service hours when using iNaturalist

**-Annual Meeting October 16-18**

 -session proposal deadline is May 31 (though may extend to June 15)

 -no current plan to change meeting format

 -still planning for all possibilities and will adjust format as needed

 -field session still happening

 -will send out survey to gather data on member attitudes towards travel

**-AgriLife Zoom Accounts**

 -stop using them now – regional accounts have been closed

 -working with AgriLife and TPWD to determine next steps and options

 -can still use your own personal Zoom (or any other videoconferencing) accounts, but…

 -must require registration

 -can use Google form, individual conferencing platform, etc

 -must have meeting ID

 -use “generate automatically” option

 -must require a password

 -email to participants separately (not social media)

 -should have 2+ hosts per meeting

 -suggest setting participant video and audio to be turned off upon entry

 -must unmute / turn cameras on individually

 -suggest enabling a waiting room

 -do NOT share links via social media

 -Zoom 5.0 has enhanced its security protocols as of this morning

 -cap on number of participants can be challenging for larger meetings

 -ZoomPro has been working well for some chapters

**Volunteer Service Opportunities**

-projects must follow local, state, and federal government safety protocols first and foremost

-follow TMN approval process second

-always consider volunteer safety

-TxMN Facebook page exchange for volunteer opportunity ideas

 -also email MP or Michelle with your chapter ideas

**Coronavirus Timeline**

 -AgriLife suspension of all face-to-face events through May 4

 -may be an extension or a slow release

-still having conversations about reducing volunteer requirements for 2020 re-certification

 -want to avoid if at all possible reducing requirements, but still in discussion

-suggestion to make those reductions available only for those who have contracted COVID-19 or have family members?

 -might be difficult to determine who qualifies (with 5000+ active volunteers)

 -might have HIPAA considerations

-log 1 hour of volunteer service for this meeting

**Next Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020**