**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**