

TMN – State representative meeting (annual spring meeting)

Thursday May 28, 2020 at 1:30 pm

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What Nature Means

- final request for entries - can still submit things until the 31st
- So far we have 29 videos and 12 written heartfelt and inspirational submissions
- Will be sharing these later on social media
- This will provide a time capsule for us to look back on in the future – so encourage folks to send something in

Social Media Takeover by chapters

- Hays County Chapter currently in charge of Facebook
- Can use more help after mid-July through end of year
- Can sign-up for multiple weeks
- Contact Addison Regennitter <a.regennitter@exchange.tamu.edu>
- IDEAS
 - o Personal posts
 - o Positive affirmations campaigns
 - o Knowledge Scrolling – share fun nature fact on their blog
 - o Virtual hikes
 - o Info about chapter and chapter members
 - o

Annual Meeting Survey

- Link sent out 2-3 weeks ago
- 1340 responses so far
- Open until this weekend
- Gathering data to help us decide what direction to go with the meeting having as much data as we can have
- Contract has cancellation fees – would rather not do this, but very aware of member safety
- Omni is closed right now. We are looking at a variety of options
- Looking at our planning timeline as there are so many things to consider
- Is there an 'act of nature' clause in our contract? Yes there is, because current idea is that things will be normal in the fall so no need to exercise this right now. We're aren't there yet, things are fluid. We will still may have charges if we cancel. No matter what we do there will be a cost we just don't know what the extent of these are: change in capacity of rooms, fewer people per room, what is cost to attendees, etc.
- If we shift to a hybrid we have new things to consider
- We don't want to cancel the meeting we are still planning to have one on the original dates (oct 16-18) – we just don't know what it will look like at this time
- Please encourage members to fill out survey (one time)
- Please ask for patience from the members as we try work to figure this out
- Thanks for all you have to do and consider the meeting
- What are you hearing regarding the annual meeting? Hearing a lot of uncertainty, Coastal Prairie waiting patiently for the plan as it will guide our Seaborne Nature Fest

Return to Service Guidelines

- Follow state, county, local guidelines
- You may choose to restrict projects at a higher level than prescribed in the guidelines But lower restrictions is not acceptable
- Three waves (may 18, June 1 (groups of =<10 if social distancing can be done, indoors wearing masks) July 1 – 25% capacity of space or fewer only if social distancing can be done
- Combining suggestions from presidents and will get this out to group next week

- Susan Montgomery: What happens if we have more than 10 folks at our board meeting in a large area can we still meet?
 - o Keep it =< 10 and use zoom or whatever to include others
- Gary Poole – it seems the number of people isn't the issue but the density
 - o Must follow guidelines- you can add folks after July 1
- Bob Cunningham – science indicates outdoors is lower risk
 - o That may be – however we will follow =<10 folks until July 1
 - o Some of this is interpreted differently
- Bruce – what is 25% capacity of an event – 25% capacity of space available
- MPM – review page 12 of document guidelines as they can be applied to most of our events, projects, programs
- Serving food? – no food at this time
- Are we sending out Agrilife guidelines – sent to everyone on Tuesday, available off txmn.org home page
- The 10 person limit is from governors orders? Yes. Will this document be updated as needed by our leaders and Agrilife extension policies
- Can we begin outdoor projects? You can begin now as long it follows the guidelines – follow local restrictions, our guidelines and members are comfortable with
- Please send questions by June 1 and leadership will see them June 2

Ideas: Volunteers at a distance

- Will have a form to be sent out this week
- Original list shared in slide
- New ideas
 - o Checking in on members
 - o Write chapter member profiles / guidebook (who's who with pictures),
 - o Translating past presentation and newsletters into other languages
 - o Photo contest
 - o Top Ten
 - o Bingo / Scavenger Hunts

Fall Training

- Drafted another survey to gauge what folks are considering for their training
- Sending out this week with 1-2 week turn around
- Many chapters are looking at some face-to-face, some zoom, some field work
- Michelle: we use VMS contact info to identify directors, state representative, please make sure officer contact info is up to date so that we are sending information to the correct folks
- Survey will go to training program directors and cc the president (who are always cc'd)
- Probably should have training directors (with president) zoom meeting after collating information from survey
- Need core curriculum to include technology use especially if we continue to use Zoom or other online tools for training and meetings

Can we order more TMN stuff?

- Maybe open later in June, getting access to facilities is a challenge right now.
- Would shipping out in August work for fall training?
- we'll have another open sale near the annual meeting, we will add a TMN mask to list

iNaturalist guidelines are still in the works – hoping to get these out in June