

From Elsa Roberts to Everyone: 12:49 PM

Elsa Roberts Hill Country Chapter

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 12:49 PM

Hear you here in Mercedes. Donna Otto, South Texas Border Chapter

From John Atkins to Everyone: 12:50 PM

John Atkins Central Texas Chapter

From Randy Beehn to Everyone: 12:50 PM

Randy Beehn Sabine Neches Chapter

From Martha Cray to Everyone: 12:50 PM

Martha Cray AAMN

From Terry Bartoli to Everyone: 12:50 PM

OTerry Bartoli - Highland Lakes Chapter

From Susette Mahaffey to Everyone: 12:51 PM

Susette Mahaffey Galveston Bay Area Chapter

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 12:51 PM

Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 12:51 PM

Welcome! If you are just joining us... please type your name and chapter you are representing today

From William Collins to Everyone: 12:53 PM

Bill Collins - CrossTimbers MN

From Larry Root to Everyone: 12:53 PM

Larry Root with Balcones Canyonlands Chapter in Austin

From Nelda Tuthill to Everyone: 12:54 PM

Hello from Nelda Tuthill, Piney Wood Lakes Chapter

From Susan Neill to Everyone: 12:55 PM

Susan Neill - Hays County Chapter

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 12:55 PM

Welcome! If you are just joining us... please type your name and chapter you are representing today

From Elizabeth Seward to Everyone: 12:56 PM

Beth Seward, Lost Pines Chapter

From Bibi Dalrymple to Everyone: 12:56 PM

Bibi Dalrymple, South Texas chapter

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 12:56 PM

Gary Sertich, Capital Area

From Ian Shelburne to Everyone: 12:56 PM

Ian Shelburne, Big Country chapter

From Tom Shackelford to Everyone: 12:57 PM

Hello from Tom Shackelford - Blackland Prairie Chapter

From Mary-Gail Hamilton to Everyone: 12:57 PM

MaryGail Hamilton, Good Water Chapter

From Bill Ahlstrom to Everyone: 12:57 PM

Bill Ahlstrom Cradle of Texas Chapter

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 12:58 PM

I may have to leave before the meeting ends, so probably not the best choice ...

From Carolyn Langlinais to Everyone: 12:59 PM

Carolyn Langlinais Heartwood

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Brenda Wellenreiter Elm Fork Chapter

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Welcome! If you are just joining us... please type your name and chapter you are representing today

From Bert Stipelcovich to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Bert Stipelcovich, Coastal Prairie Chapter

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Hello. Mary Jane Brown with Llano Estacado Chapter

From Paul Wick to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Paul Wick, East Texas Chapter

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Becky Gullette. Cypress Basin Chapter

From Margaret Avar to Everyone: 01:00 PM

Margaret Avar Bluestem Chapter

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:03 PM

We will send out the updated return to service document after this meeting

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 01:03 PM

Betsy Palkowsky from gideon Lincecum chapter says Howdy

From Kay Murphy to Everyone: 01:04 PM

Kay Murphy, Rolling Plains Chapter

From Donell Frank to Everyone: 01:04 PM

Donell Frank from Brazos Valley chapter

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:04 PM

Register the TMN Virtual Annual Meeting here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/d0012216-ad2d-4ae0-9e8b-195d8ad7884d/regProcessStep1>

Anyone can attend :-)

Registration cost is \$55

From Tessa Ownbey to Everyone: 01:05 PM

Tessa Ownbey, Rio Brazos Chapter

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:05 PM

Will newsletters be judged this year?

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:07 PM

Yes! there will still be a Newsletter contest this year with some updates

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:07 PM

Thanks, MP and Michelle!

From Sue Ann Kendall to Everyone: 01:07 PM

What about blogs?

From Addison Regennitter to Everyone: 01:07 PM

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-photo-art-and-media-contest/>

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:11 PM

Be pulling together photos of things your chapter has done over the past year for the Annual Meeting photo show

From Mary-Gail Hamilton to Everyone: 01:13 PM

will you be recognizing member milestones at annual meeting?

From Bill Ahlstrom to Everyone: 01:16 PM

I'm signed up for an iNaturalist presentation that is at the same time as the presentation on Diversity and inclusion (which I've also signed up to attend). I will attend the iNaturalist presentation real time. How will I be able to view the Diversity and Inclusion session?

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 01:20 PM

why not ask the chapter VMS admin for the milestone info

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:24 PM

Where do you pull the webmasters?

From Ian Shelburne to Everyone: 01:24 PM

There's confusion in our chapter how to find the VMS contacts webpage.

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 01:28 PM

Do you look for committee members when in that officer/director search?

From Me to Everyone: 01:29 PM

No @Gary, just the chairs/directors.

From Elizabeth Seward to Everyone: 01:30 PM

lost pines has a committee for d&i

From Carolyn Langlins to Everyone: 01:30 PM

Created committee

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:30 PM

It's on my board agenda for September. (Prairie Oaks) no other action at this point

From William Collins to Everyone: 01:30 PM

Discussion on how - no actions as yet. Outreach chair has take-in role of D&I chair

From Donell Frank to Everyone: 01:31 PM

Brazos Valley has discussed forming a committee.

From Kay Murphy to Everyone: 01:31 PM

Wrote an article for newsletter to begin the discussion.

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:31 PM

I like that idea, Kay!

From Susette Mahaffey to Everyone: 01:31 PM

My chapter is having a foundational meeting to form a committee to address diversity and inclusion. We plan to add articles about diverse naturalists, adding information for the new class and reaching to others through our AT and chapter meetings. We have several people who are very interested in leading this program forward.

From Paul Wick to Everyone: 01:32 PM

East Texas created committee.

From Ian Shelburne to Everyone: 01:32 PM

Couple of our members are exploring ways forward on this for our chapter, and at least one of them will attend the annual meeting session on diversity.

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 01:33 PM

Elm Fork Currently doing research and will create committee. Articles are a great idea

From Kay Murphy to Everyone: 01:33 PM

I also reprinted It's Time to Build a Truly Inclusive Outdoors from Audubon magazine

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 01:34 PM

Is there a list of DEI coordinators or committee chairs and their contact information?

From Bill Ahlstrom to Everyone: 01:34 PM

I've looked at the D&I message from the director of TPWD that was sent to Sea Center Texas (along other TPWD orgs). Does it also apply to TMN or is there a different message from AgriLife?

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 01:35 PM

Sue Ann, we had similar questions, and we relied on the mission: "to create a corps of well-informed volunteers". We interpreted that as being well-informed about all our audiences, about how all communities fit into environmental issues, and what role all people can play in environmental justice.

From Sue Ann Kendall to Everyone: 01:36 PM

Thanks, Emily.

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 01:37 PM

At latest South Texas Border Chapter Board meeting Diversity Information was derived from the created "diversity reports", which was put in graph form. Very informative. Encourage other chapters to utilize these tools.

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 01:37 PM

GLC is in the same spot as Becky - per our 5 county demographics we are about quite diverse in our chapter

From Bill Ahlstrom to Everyone: 01:39 PM

Will there be a VMS 'time' category under chapter business?

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 01:39 PM

Thanks Becky. Our chapter is pretty much like yours. We are small and are welcoming to ANYONE who wants to join our organization. We are a very small group, so welcome anyone who expresses interest.

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:39 PM

@Bill.. I'm not sure what you mean?

From Bill Ahlstrom to Everyone: 01:41 PM

which question?

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 01:41 PM

If you use Zoom, there is a poll feature that could allow voting for candidates. The "host" of the meeting would be the one to collect the responses

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:41 PM

Could you not just provide the link to a google form during the meeting?

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:42 PM

That is what I was thinking @Karen-- or a link to a Survey Monkey

From Martha Cray to Everyone: 01:43 PM

how does this provide for nominations from the floor?

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:44 PM

I think you will just need someone editing the survey during the meeting.

From Bert Stipelcovich to Everyone: 01:45 PM

Zoom has a private survey function. It could be used for voting.

From Bibi Dalrymple to Everyone: 01:46 PM

With Google form they can vote during the meeting

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 01:46 PM

What about members that would have been attending in-person meetings and voting, but may not have access to technology for virtual meeting and remote communication? D Otto, STBC

From Bert Stipelcovich to Everyone: 01:46 PM

Our current plan is to use Zoom for the year-end meeting.

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:46 PM

@Donna Otto: How extensive is that scenario for chapter?

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:50 PM

We have 3-5 people: some call into our meetings, some don't have phone service at their homes, two don't have email.

From Nora Schell - Heart of Texas Master Naturalist to Everyone: 01:50 PM

This is for the meeting tomorrow, since during the training we may not be able to visit local state parks, can you get us an updated list of State Parks representatives so we can contact for "virtual" tours of the parks

From Sue Ann Kendall to Everyone: 01:50 PM

I'd say around 20%. We elected a secretary who hasn't been able to attend a meeting since the crisis, because all she has is email. Our VP can't do anything online, either. We have many others who are elderly and do not have the technology, or mentally challenged (2).

From Larry Root to Everyone: 01:51 PM

0

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 01:51 PM

Cypress Basin has a number of members with inconsistent internet access or don't use internet beyond email

From William Collins to Everyone: 01:51 PM

CTMN has only one person without internet access.

From kat craft to Everyone: 01:51 PM

have 3 or 4 that have limited access

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 01:51 PM

Out of a training class of about 20, we had 3 to 4 who dropped out due to access to technology or unwillingness to complete training virtually.

From Bert Stipelcovich to Everyone: 01:51 PM

All CPC members have access.

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:52 PM

I have thought about doing some small "watch parties" where SMALL groups of master naturalists can attend a meeting together at a home with good service.

From Susette Mahaffey to Everyone: 01:52 PM

Out of over 200 members in our chapter, perhaps 12 members need help with access. They either don't have the technology available or don't have the internet. They often use their phones for Zoom meetings.

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 01:52 PM

How many in your chapters are unable to log hours in VMS?

From Nelda Tuthill to Everyone: 01:52 PM

Piney Wood Lakes - 6% do not have internet access.

From Sue Ann Kendall to Everyone: 01:52 PM

We have a couple who call in and tell the VMS person.

From kat craft to Everyone: 01:53 PM

library has been closed to inside visitors due to the virus

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 01:53 PM

what is the correct url for webex

From Tom Shackelford to Everyone: 01:53 PM

Blackland Prarie - Less than 2% access issue / 10% comfort issue

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 01:53 PM

I think we have 2 people right now who give their VMS hours to our VMS admin to submit on their behalf.

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 01:56 PM

Elm Fork has 5 or 6 who have VMS committee input their hours

From Sue Ann Kendall to Everyone: 01:56 PM

I'd like to point out that our technologically challenged members are among our most active volunteers, with well over 1,000 hours each.

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 01:56 PM

Good to know @ Sue Ann!

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 01:58 PM

This sounds fantastic!

From Martha Cray to Everyone: 01:58 PM

I agree

From Donell Frank to Everyone: 01:59 PM

We've had quite a few members drop out because they didn't know how to log hours in VMS.

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 01:59 PM

Will there be volunteer opportunities in conjunction with the Annual Meeting? Will members be able to help facilitate meeting rooms, etc?

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 01:59 PM

Will the volunteer opportunities be presented by region, since we can volunteer only within our specified counties?

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 02:01 PM

If members are traveling, it would be helpful to know of projects around the state outside our local area.

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 02:01 PM

When does Guidance Document go into effect?

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:02 PM

I'd suggest condensing this down to the Bad/Unacceptable / Better / Best type chart used for all other VO/AT.

From Carl Poldrack to Everyone: 02:02 PM

Will we be able to comment on the content of each document?

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 02:03 PM

good idea Gary - having examples will help everyone

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 02:04 PM

Our INat person is concerned that members need service hours this year. It appears that this will reduce their options

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 02:05 PM

Discussed at our board meeting and as above, it will reduce options, especially in relation to identifying all the projects and having those available.

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:07 PM

A rationale will help us explain this to our members, as I am sure that we will have questions!

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 02:14 PM

Developing new opportunities in VMS will also take some time.

From kat craft to Everyone: 02:17 PM

yes

From Carolyn Langlins to Everyone: 02:17 PM

Still limited projects

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 02:18 PM

We have a large project with a school district. A large number of chapter members participated for a large number of service hours. These are all canceled. Some of these members only work on this project.

From Donell Frank to Everyone: 02:18 PM

I'm not sure I would have to ask Betty, our VMS guru.

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 02:18 PM

Yes....it's still very difficult for our folks to get their hours. Better but still difficult..

From Carolyn Langlins to Everyone: 02:18 PM

What is the ratio of VMS hours from last year, year to date, compared to this year?

From William Collins to Everyone: 02:19 PM

Even in DFW area there are lots of opportunities to volunteer utilizing social distancing and masks.

From Kay Murphy to Everyone: 02:19 PM

Some community projects have been cancelled due to Covid concerns.

From Larry Root to Everyone: 02:19 PM

Most of the places in which we were working are not allowing us in. We are working on new ways to get the hours.

From Carolyn Langlins to Everyone: 02:19 PM

There aren't enough virtual projects.

From Margaret Avar to Everyone: 02:20 PM

Bluestem is really struggling because most of our volunteer opportunities are at Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Refuge and it is still closed. it sounds like it will remain closed at least until Nov.

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:20 PM

Capital Area has significantly fewer hours logged this year to date compared to 2019. A few areas are opening up, but some opened and then had to close after some volunteers (not ours) got COVID.

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 02:20 PM

In Austin, we are technically still being asked to avoid non-essential travel. Some volunteer projects have continued (with CoA permission), but most projects are not currently happening. Plus, many of our members are in the higher-risk categories.

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 02:20 PM

Volunteer opportunities very limited - almost none available and community now back to stay at home. None of our partner agencies have identified virtual service opportunities.

From Kay Murphy to Everyone: 02:20 PM

Thank you, Bill!!! Exactly.

From Martha Cray to Everyone: 02:20 PM

our partners are coming up with virtual volunteer opportunities--it's just beginning but I believe we are having people recertify

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 02:20 PM

Llano Estacado has been encouraging Citizen Science service opportunities.

From Carolyn Langlinais to Everyone: 02:21 PM

Would you be able to run a report on how hours this year compare?

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 02:21 PM

cypress basin also has so many older members that are having difficulty getting hours.

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:21 PM

Have the state VMS folks run a report on each chapter, comparing this year to last to date. It will be instructive.

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 02:21 PM

a COVID virus pin!

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 02:21 PM

looks like a buttonbush flower

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 02:21 PM

gold plated

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:21 PM

Right - a mask on the dragonfly!

From Carolyn Langlinais to Everyone: 02:22 PM

buttonbush flower!! YES!

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 02:22 PM

How would that make others who are elderly and concerned with getting out feel about that?

From Donna Otto to Everyone: 02:23 PM

Volunteer Hours easy to obtain if an officer, more difficult if relying on other volunteer opportunities.

From Carolyn Langlinalis to Everyone: 02:23 PM

30 hours

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 02:23 PM

agree with Donna

agree with no more than 30 hours

From Carolyn Langlinalis to Everyone: 02:25 PM

Please let them recertify at 30 hours volunteer and 8 AT

From Emily Hansen to Everyone: 02:25 PM

Can you also clarify WHY the requirements aren't being changed, even with these extenuating circumstances?

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 02:25 PM

what about the folks that have way more than 40 hours and they aren't an officer or committee chair

From Carolyn Langlinalis to Everyone: 02:25 PM

They want the bumblebee pin.

From Carl Poldrack to Everyone: 02:26 PM

What are the Master Gardeners doing for re-certification this year?

From Ian Shelburne to Everyone: 02:28 PM

Excellent input, thanks everyone. Have to bow out for another Zoom meeting.

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 02:28 PM

Perhaps give a COVID pin to everyone....as in "I survived a covid year" along with bumble bee pin. Then give covid pin to those who made half the required certification...20 hours volunteer and 4 AT.

From Susette Mahaffey to Everyone: 02:28 PM

I have another obligation. Thanks for the great information!

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:29 PM

Yes, major metropolitan areas are a special case.

From Betsy Palkowsky to Everyone: 02:31 PM

thanks for everything you do

From Carolyn Langlinalis to Everyone: 02:31 PM

Thank you, MP & M!

From Mary Jane Brown to Everyone: 02:31 PM

Thank you. Enjoyed your daughter making an appearance!!!!

From William Collins to Everyone: 02:31 PM

Thanks all

From Kay Murphy to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thank you!!!

From Karen Aho, Prairie Oaks Chapter to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thank you, MP and Michelle!

From Brenda Wellenreiter to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thanks Mary Pearl and Michelle

From Bibi Dalrymple to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thank you!

From Martha Cray to Everyone: 02:32 PM

THANK YOU!!

From Tom Shackelford to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thank you

From Michelle Haggerty to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thank you everyone!

From Elsa Roberts to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thank you everyone.

From Gary Sertich to Everyone: 02:32 PM

Thanks!

From Becky Gullette to Everyone: 02:32 PM

thank you both

From kat craft to Everyone: 02:32 PM

thanks