rom Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:47 PM

Hey Karen - can you hear us?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:52 PM

Good afternoon everyone! Please introduce yourself in the chat box here: Name and Chapter.

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:52 PM

We will start shortly-- close to 1:00 PM

from John and Karen Gardner to everyone: 12:52 PM

Karen and John Gardner - he is on the laptop and I am on the phone

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:53 PM

Great! Thanks Karen and John :-)

from John and Karen Gardner to everyone: 12:53 PM

Karen and John Gardner with Gideon Lincecum Chapter

from Janet Mason to everyone: 12:53 PM

Janet Mason, Galveston Bay Area Chapter

from sherl to everyone: 12:53 PM

Sharon Lamoreaux - Longleaf RIdge

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:54 PM

Good afternoon everyone... If you are just joining us please introduce yourslef in the chat box: Name and Chapter

from kathleen lester (privately): 12:55 PM

Kathleen Lester - El Camino Real Master Naturalist

from rena sutphin to everyone: 12:55 PM

Rena Sutphin Indian Trail

from Rick Corbell (privately): 12:55 PM

Hi.!! Rick Corbell with Lindheimer MN, Comal County

from Regina Dale to everyone: 12:56 PM

Regina Dale - Elm Fork Chapter

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:56 PM

Hi.!! Rick Corbell with Lindheimer MN, Comal County

from Debra Jones to everyone: 12:56 PM

Debra Jones, Red River Chapter

from Mary Jane Brown to everyone: 12:56 PM

Mary Jane Brown - Llano Estacado Chapter

from kathleen lester to everyone: 12:56 PM

Kathleen Lester - El Camino Real Master Naturalist

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:56 PM

Kathleen Lester - El Camino Real Master Naturalist

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:56 PM

Howdy y'all - this is Mary Pearl as one of the two TMN Program accounts in the webex today!

from Susette to everyone: 12:56 PM

Susette Mahaffey from Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Hello, everyone!

from Debra Jones to everyone: 12:56 PM

Happy Birthday, Michelle!

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:56 PM

:-) Thank YOU!

from Mary Jane Brown to everyone: 12:57 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MICHELLE.

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 12:57 PM

Bob Cunningham, Mid-Coast Chapter

from david to everyone: 12:58 PM

David Cook from Capitral Area Chapter

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 12:58 PM

Good afternoon everyone... If you are just joining us please introduce yourslef in the chat box: Name and Chapter

from Laura Gillis to everyone: 12:58 PM

Laura Gillis from Rolling Plains Chapter

from Anne Mayville to everyone: 12:58 PM

Anne Mayville South Texas Border Chapter

from Joe Finneran to everyone: 12:59 PM

Hi Joe Finneran with Lindheimer Chapter

from Wayne Rhoden (privately): 12:59 PM

Wayne rhoden good Water Chapter

from Randy Beehn to everyone: 1:01 PM

Randy Beehn Sabine Neches Chapter

from julia to everyone: 1:01 PM

I will. Julia Trimble

from Susan May to everyone: 1:02 PM

Susan May LETMN

from julia to everyone: 1:02 PM

I am here on behalf of Michelle Broussard

from Region 5 TMN to everyone: 1:04 PM

Carolyn Langlinais, Heartwood

from nancy phillips to everyone: 1:04 PM

nancy phillips good water

from Nelda Tuthill to everyone: 1:04 PM

Greetings from Piney Wood Lakes Chapter and Nelda Tuthill

from Region 5 TMN to everyone: 1:07 PM

We're up 68%, according to NYT

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:08 PM

txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-guidance

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 1:08 PM

Greetings from North Texas chapter--Dallas--Nancy Wislon

from Debra Jones to everyone: 1:10 PM

We are supposed to have our meeting this weekend and hold our elections. One of our counties is red. Are we cancelled?

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:10 PM

Orange = Yellow?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:15 PM

The list - https://txmn.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dashboard-Guideance-11.25.20.pdf

from Susette to everyone: 1:15 PM

You do not mention volunteer service in any of these level. What will be the policy for volunteer service for red and yello levels?

from Joe Finneran to everyone: 1:15 PM

Does it matter if the meeting is inside or outside?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:16 PM

Volunteer Service will follow the guidance for meetings or events.

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:16 PM

The capacity numbers are for BOTH indoor & outdoors

from Wayne Rhoden (privately): 1:17 PM

I do not see Williamson County but they went to red level on 19 November

from julia to everyone: 1:18 PM

Should a red level county immediately STOP all vol activity ??

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:19 PM

Julia - yes. At this time. A red county should stop all in person activitiy.

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 1:19 PM

There is only 1 "red" county in our 8 county area.What if our training program has no trainees from Vicgoria and no training is held in that county? Still restricted to Victoria red levels instead of green for allother counties where trinees live and training is conducted?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:21 PM

Great question @Bob - That should be the case where the red county dictates your chapters engagement territory wide.

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 1:25 PM

So even though nobody from a Red area is involved in actual training, the whole program is restricted even where veryone participatig is from a Green county? Seems like elevating buraucracy over common sense.

from julia to everyone: 1:26 PM

We have gone to small safe-disctanced and masked groups. Also outside....

from Susan May to everyone: 1:26 PM

what about volunteering for an approved project like Adopt-a-Loop on an individual basis?

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:27 PM

I presume the slides will be available after the meeting?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:27 PM

@bruce - yes!

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:27 PM

thx

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:27 PM

@susan - I will add this to our list of questions to pose to leadership

from Susan May to everyone: 1:28 PM

thx!

from julia to everyone: 1:30 PM

what does "small" mean ?

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 1:30 PM

To clarify again, the suggested Field Session options cannot be used if Chapter includes any Red county because all group activity is prohibited?

from david to everyone: 1:30 PM

Assuming that small group meet ups would not work in red counties

from david to everyone: 1:31 PM

The Botany field exercise discussed at the annual conference is a good example of this

from Anne Mayville to everyone: 1:32 PM

These back yard Field Sessions would be for Vol. hrs

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:32 PM

@ David: Yes! that is the same example we are citing here :-)

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 1:33 PM

Yes, we are implementing the “home field trips” as an option to our site visits.

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:33 PM

Tha backyard field session would be Training hours

from julia to everyone: 1:33 PM

no fields sessions could mean < 40 hours of basic

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 1:34 PM

Indiv outdoor public space option is much more challenging with widespread geography. Not very easy to require driving a couple hours to do session at same place to achive common education goal.

from julia to everyone: 1:35 PM

park recording session and live Q&A seems like a good alternative (for our chpter anyway)

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 1:35 PM

We have 34.5 hours scheduled on Zoom, and are proposing 6 hours via site visits in <10 in attendance, socially distanced strictly enforced.

from Debra Jones to everyone: 1:36 PM

I like the field sessions that Craig Hensley does on Facebook for Texas Nature Trackers. Seems like FB is an easy way for folks to participate.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:36 PM

If the guidelines are coming from TPWD, are they planning to keep the parks open?

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 1:36 PM

Does FB count S live discussion?

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 1:37 PM

\*as live discussion

from Anne Mayville to everyone: 1:39 PM

My Chapter is in a Red County and we have planned 10 one hrs Field Trip Virtual at different State and local Parks by the Ranger and Director there with Q & A after which topics are following the Text Book.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:42 PM

Some of us are philosophically opposed to Facebook.

from Laura Gillis to everyone: 1:42 PM

what is Slack?

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 1:42 PM

Shared calendar may be hard as some use Outlook, some don't, etc.

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:42 PM

Slack is a virtual workspace where files, chat and discussion can be held and captured for everyone to see.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:43 PM

#1

from rena sutphin to everyone: 1:43 PM

Slack

from Laura Gillis to everyone: 1:43 PM

thank you

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:43 PM

I'm familiar with Slack, and I HATE it.

from Regina Dale to everyone: 1:43 PM

Slack

from david to everyone: 1:43 PM

We will be using Google Classroom for our incoming class

from Debra Jones to everyone: 1:43 PM

Slack is a great tool if everyone would use it.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:43 PM

It's one more place to have to check.

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 1:43 PM

Last year, and this year, we are using Canvas which is the curriculum program through Texas State. Hays County chapter

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:43 PM

Yeah, a lot.

from julia to everyone: 1:44 PM

I think the shared calendar (or content in some form) would be better for people to use as needed - no meetings ! the classes already take up so much time

from Region 5 TMN to everyone: 1:45 PM

I like the idea of using a shared calendar because you could see all the resources in one spot.

from Regina Dale to everyone: 1:45 PM

Some of us have aalready been sharing on Slack and seems like better than starting something new.

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 1:46 PM

Unless or until TMN generally prepares & provides general subject topic presentations applicable across Chapter boundaries, seems like direct coordination between training directors of adjoining chapters is the most efficient solution to collaborating on ecoregion overlap.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 1:47 PM

We purposefully limited our class size to HALF our usual size so we could provide a better classroom experience. Having another chapter join our class would negate that goal. Perhaps shared instructor experience could be that the Instructor pre-record, but each Q&A would be for each individual chapter---no sharing in the Q&A part.

from julia to everyone: 1:47 PM

How can we monitor that members attend both ?

from Regina Dale to everyone: 1:48 PM

Nancy Wilson, I agree. We also limited out class this year as we wanted to be able to see ALL our class members on the screen.

from Regina Dale to everyone: 1:49 PM

They sign in through chat.

from julia to everyone: 1:49 PM

yes, but someone would have to keep track

from julia to everyone: 1:50 PM

honor system is good

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 1:50 PM

We reduced our class size as well, in the hopes that we could have more small outdoor sessions.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:50 PM

Put a keyword in the recording that they need to put in the VMS.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:50 PM

I hate to say it, but we have people who would game the system.m

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:50 PM

https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-chapter-project-fair-entries/

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 1:51 PM

@Bruce - We understand. Without adding additional work to our coordinators, there may not be another way beyond the honor system.

from Bruce Neville (privately): 1:52 PM

Unfortunately, I was speaking for my own chapter. :-(

from Regina Dale to everyone: 1:53 PM

Our awards committee changed our awards this year to be a "Team Challenge" and will be virtual.

from Bruce Neville (privately): 1:54 PM

Addison doesn't have enough to do. She can update the map on the TMN website by covid color code every week. ;-)

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 1:57 PM

We are planning to use polls during class. I'm told we can see which students participate in the polls, so we can know who is paying attention.

to Bruce Neville (privately): 1:57 PM

Ha! I wish! That will need to be led by the agency :-)

from Joe Finneran to everyone: 1:57 PM

will doug tallamy be live?

from Susan May to everyone: 1:57 PM

wow!

from Regina Dale to everyone: 1:57 PM

Nancy, we used polls during our class this year.

from Joe Finneran to everyone: 1:57 PM

that is great

from Bruce Neville (privately): 1:59 PM

If you need a panelist for the JMN panel, I'll offer up Andrea Howard from Brazos Valley Chapter. She got our program up and running, and she's super.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 1:59 PM

Regina: If you have suggestions re use of polls, please share.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 1:59 PM

DEI, please!!\

from Susan May to everyone: 2:00 PM

What about group book reading like Doug Tallamy's book with virtual discussions?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:00 PM

@Bruce - thats a must, just need to pull the right speakers together! :)

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:00 PM

Would love to know the class size each chapter is offering in 2021. Did you downsize to accommodate being solely online?

from Bruce Neville (privately): 2:00 PM

Wish I had one to offer for that. We need to work on ours.

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:01 PM

Our questions for polls were coordinated with the speakers for each day. We also had required Google Form Evaulations for each session which were sent two days after the class. We requied every trainee to have video on during the entire class sessions.

from david to everyone: 2:01 PM

We kept our class size the same (34). Our plan is to break the class into groups for field sessions if we get to have them

from Anne Mayville to everyone: 2:01 PM

We are keeeping out class size the same-25

from julia to everyone: 2:02 PM

we have our own account - still ok ?

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 2:02 PM

We downsized from our usual 40 to a cap of 30 for 2021.

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:02 PM

We will have a max of 24. We have Fall training and we may take less if the situation continues to be an issue.

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:03 PM

@Julia - yes, its fine for chapters to keep using their own chpater purchased webex/zoom accounts

from julia to everyone: 2:03 PM

thanks

from Susan May to everyone: 2:03 PM

We did follow up Google Docs Curriculum Reviews following our training sessions.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:04 PM

Thanks for feedback!

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 2:05 PM

General question: traiing programs traditionally have been compressed into a Spring or Fall period. Is there a prohibition against extending the program out over most of the year, instead? That may provide greater flexibility, and prospect that restrictions will relax asthe year goes on?

from Mary O'Hara to everyone: 2:07 PM

Bob: We have always run our classes from January thru October. In year’s past, roughly once a month on Tuesday evening. This year we’re going with every other Tuesday.

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 2:08 PM

Thanks Mary. We're worried about how frequently we're being hit with changes, and thinking about building in a longer timeframe to accomodate rescheduling, etc.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:08 PM

Julia: Do you typically offer two training sessions per year?

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:08 PM

@ Bob... Chapters can select training time lengths that fit their needs but we will say that year-long trainings do not have the best retention rates (in normal times)

from Janet Mason to everyone: 2:09 PM

Have outside noise so unable to unmute. Moving our spring training class to late summer/early fall in hopes in-person classes can be held. Maximum class size lowered from 24 to 22.

from Bob Cunningham to everyone: 2:09 PM

No, uully only offer in Spring. So would retain a single training program, just spread out over longer time period.

from julia to everyone: 2:11 PM

yes, we usually do two: spring and fall sessions

from julia to everyone: 2:11 PM

yes, we usually do two: spring and fall sessions

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:14 PM

TMN Curriculum ordering information:

https://txmn.tamu.edu/about-the-texas-master-naturalist-program/curriculum/

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:15 PM

Order your TMN Supplies—hand sanitizer, masks:

https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/category-s/1841.htm

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:15 PM

Note - we dont have hand sanitizer for sale . .. yet.

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:16 PM

ALL of the links we shared today all in one place:

from Texas Master Naturalist Program to everyone: 2:16 PM

ALL of the links we shared today all in one place: In order of appearance: Return to Service Guidelines:https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/2020 Project Fair Entrieshttps://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-chapter-project-fair-entries/Virtual Volunteer Fair 2021 https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-february-2021/Request for Winter/Spring Training information – reply ASAP!https://txmn.tamu.edu/winter-spring-2021-basic-training-classes-starting-soon/Other: Order your TMN Supplies—hand sanitizer, masks:

https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/category-s/1841.htm

TMN Curriculum ordering information:

https://txmn.tamu.edu/about-the-texas-master-naturalist-program/curriculum/

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:19 PM

We did the same--Field Trips were optional; limited to 10 people including instructor. Distancing and masks the whole time.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:22 PM

If we had not started live, I don't think our students would have stayed engaged--I''m concerned about 2021.

from julia to everyone: 2:23 PM

same her !!

from julia to everyone: 2:23 PM

here

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:24 PM

We have done a couple of tailgates set up in a park and invited students to stop by outdoors, masked, socially distant to come get their badges or tee shirts or just visit for a while.

from julia to everyone: 2:24 PM

face to face interaction is so important

from Mary Jane Brown to everyone: 2:24 PM

Same with Llano Estacado. We started live, so had a couple sessions in person allowing a good connection with training class. We will probably wait unitl Fall to determine if we will host a training class.

from Janet Mason to everyone: 2:27 PM

Same for Galveston Bay Area. We completed 3 in-person classes and completed the rest on ZOOM. Successful, but missed the face to face interation. We canvassed the class a few months ago and their suggestion was to postpone the next class until the fall in hope in-person classes could be held.

from Region 5 TMN to everyone: 2:28 PM

We did a pin pickup with three times to come in and get pins and cookies.

from Bruce Neville (privately): 2:31 PM

I note that Brazos is listed as a known hotspot (which it is), but it's not on the TMN page.

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:31 PM

We have been under the "10 or less" since February. Just last week, our chapter canceld the drive thru pickup of pins because of Denton County guidelines. All service has been canceled.

from julia to everyone: 2:33 PM

we canceled our pin pickup too..... members are getting impatient

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:33 PM

Same here Julia!!!

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:34 PM

We did a show and tell during our last two classes. Helped us get to know a little more about the trainees.

from Betsy Palkowsky to everyone: 2:34 PM

we mailed our gideon lincecum chapter pins/certificates to our graduates and recertified members

from nancy phillips to everyone: 2:34 PM

I've been involved in other groups that has had socials on Zoom. Its worked great.

from Bruce Neville to everyone: 2:34 PM

We've done "Birds and Beers" by zoom, not for TMN, but socially.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:34 PM

Maybe we could invite students to arrive at class early for a social chat until class starts

from Betsy Palkowsky to everyone: 2:34 PM

you just have to organize the order of getting folks to talk

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:35 PM

Nancy, we started 15 minutes early each class to just chat.

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:35 PM

Have 3 students per week introduce themselves to the class

from Regina Dale to everyone: 2:35 PM

Correct, they were not counted as training hours.

from Mary Jane Brown to everyone: 2:36 PM

Good idea to start meetng early for a relaxed chat.

from Joe Finneran to everyone: 2:37 PM

thank you all

from Betsy Palkowsky to everyone: 2:37 PM

we're also asking chapter members to step

from Nancy Wilson to everyone: 2:37 PM

thanks Michelle and Mary Pearl. You guys do an awesome job through all of these challenges!

from Laura Gillis to everyone: 2:37 PM

Thank you for all the information.