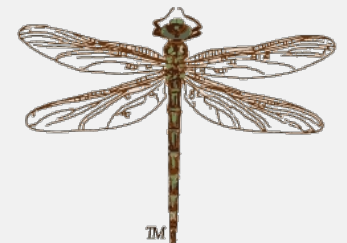


# March 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter Presidents & Advisors Meeting

- Introduce yourself & your chapter in the Chat Room
  - Share video (if your bandwidth allows)
  - Michelle will be monitoring the chat room
  - Will share slides, chat room and notes
- 
- We'll get started at **1:00pm**
  - Volunteer Note Taker – Sharon Hamilton, Cross Timbers

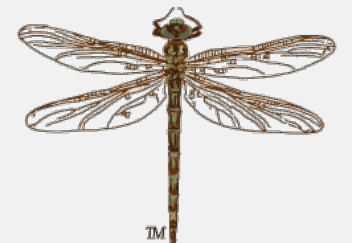


**March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Chapter Presidents & Advisors**  
**Monthly Meeting**



# Agenda

- Return to Service Guidelines
- Regional WebEx Accounts
- Pins Update & Ordering
- VMS Updates
- Chapter Advisors
- What Nature Means
- TMN Tuesdays
- Be The Change Diversity Series
- TMN License Plate
- Annual Meeting
- Website Changes
- AgriLife Bookstore Update
- Looking Ahead



# Introducing

eee

Cameron Kelly  
Student Assistant



B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries

eee

M.S. Business Student

Bucket List country  
is Australia!

eee

Favorite season is  
summer!

# Cameron Kelly

- Texas A&M Wildlife and Entomology double major graduate, December 2020
- Will be helping Addison transition with state website, social media, Annual Meeting, TMNTuesdays & so much more . . . .

# Return to Service Guidelines

**The following guidelines will direct how the Texas Master Naturalist Program will operate for the foreseeable future.**

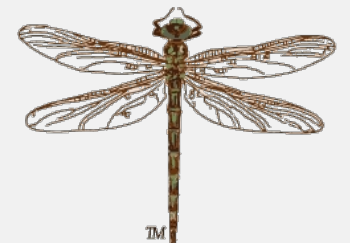
## Guidelines for all TMN Activities:

It is very important to know and follow all federal, state, county and local COVID guidelines/restrictions before conducting TMN Activities. Beyond these the TMN program will have the following guidelines:

- Virtual meeting platform tools should be used whenever possible.
- For any indoor activity that does occur in-person, both volunteers and public participants **are strongly encouraged to** wear masks. The occupancy limit shall not exceed one person per 100 square feet of indoor public space to allow for 10 feet of social distance.
- For outdoor activities, both volunteers and public participants **are strongly encouraged to** wear masks and social distance by at least 6 feet.
- All multi-county TMN Chapters must consider each of their county's health ordinances when scheduling in person ('face-to-face') events or meetings, the ability/inability for chapter membership to attend, and the equity of scheduling events in certain counties to the exclusion/inclusion of certain segments of the chapter.

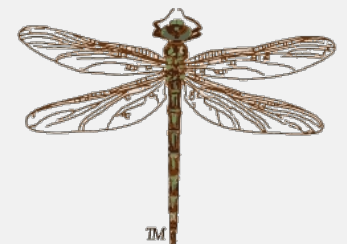
Effective  
until  
further  
notice

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/>



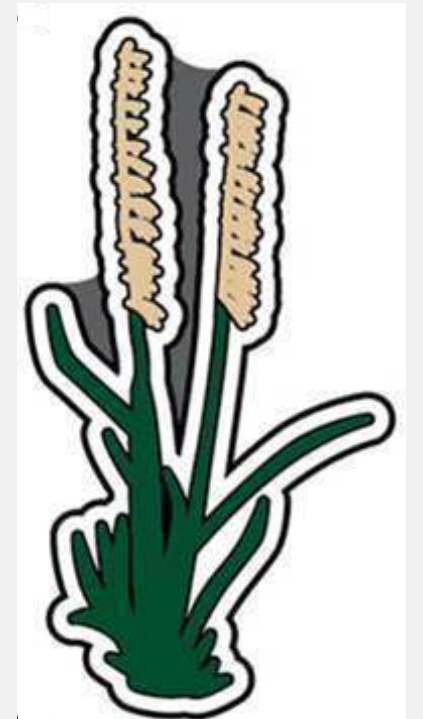
# Regional WebEx Accounts

- Request that chapters using account better label their meetings/events with the following in the meeting/event title:
  - A. Chapter Name,
  - B. Event (such as chapter meeting or training),
  - C. First Letter of first name and Last Name of the individual setting up/running the webex meeting (so everyone knows who to contact when there are questions about the webex mtg.)
- End Result Example looks like:
  - Alamo Area Ch. June Monthly Meeting (J. Smith)
- End Result Example looks like:
  - Alamo Area Ch. Weather & Climate new class training (L. Johnson)
- Encourage chapters to VIEW and USE the WEBEX Calendar to schedule and post meetings/events in the WebEx account. Check those calendars as far out as you can and then again monthly to ensure there are no conflicts.



# Pins Update

- **2020 Against All Odds PIN**
  - Remaining pins will go out in the morning.
  - These will have to be shipped to business offices of the chapter as shipments sent to homes has tripled in costs.
- **Presidential Volunteer Service Pin update - (4,000 hr)**
  - Shipping delays
  - New certification training & process . . .
- **2021 Recertification Pin**
  - Shipments go out as our Agency's reopening plan allows.





# Pins Ordering

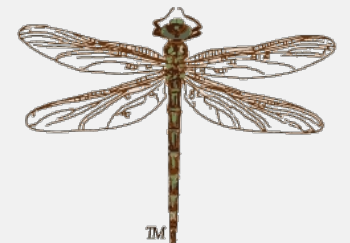
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-supplies/#pins>

- Please email Olivia Schmidt ([olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov)) with the approximate number of pins your chapter will need for the year, along with mailing information.
- **All pins through 2021 are now available to order with the *updated order form*!**
- Fill out the form below that best meets your pin needs and email the completed form to the address below. We cannot express ship pin orders, so please, plan your orders accordingly.
  - To order certificates, 250 hr, 500 hr, 1000 hr, 2500 hr, Friends, current year re-certification, or previous year re-certification (replacement) pins, please fill out the **[2021 Revised Texas Master Naturalists Pin Order Form](#)** and send to Olivia Schmidt ([olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov)).
  - To order 4000 hour, 5000 hour, and 10,000-hour pins, please fill out the [Texas Master Naturalist Pin Orders Special](#) and send to Michelle Haggerty ([michelle.haggerty@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:michelle.haggerty@tpwd.texas.gov)).



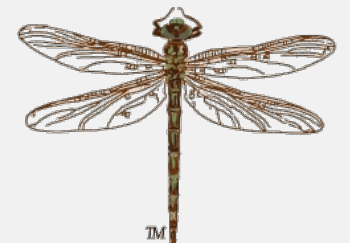
# Pins Ordering

- Beginning in 2021 – will be sending out only **limited issue of pins** in first shipment to each chapter . . .
- Need your Input:
- Traditionally – Chapters bulk ordering Recert. Pins in early spring
  - Causes stocking issues by mid to late summer . . .
  - Have had to re-order pins while pins already sent out to some chapters sit unused . . .
- How do we handle this to be better economical stewards of the pins?
  - Quarterly send outs . . .
  - Pulled historical averages of chapters recert totals?



# VMS Updates for Leadership & Committees Contact List

- Please verify that your new 2021 Officers and Committees are updated on your Chapters VMS Directors List
  - Advisors too!!
- Please make sure to “archive” your 2020 Officers and Committees lists in the VMS too.
- Chapter Presidents Email Addresses . . .
  - Many have additional email address (i.e [President@TMNChapter.com](mailto:President@TMNChapter.com)) – This is ok... But...
  - State Office will be sending all Presidents emails to VMS user email addresses.
  - If you want the State Office to use your Chapter Presidents Email – please send us an email:
  - Subject Line: “Presidents Email Address Change”
- **April 5<sup>th</sup>** – CONTACT List Report Export Deadline



# Advisors

- **What is the role of Chapter Advisors?**
  - To support the chapter and program objectives at the local level.
- **Who can be a Chapter Advisor?**
  - An appointed TPWD –AND- AgriLife Agent. You CAN have multiple!!
- **How do Chapters work with Chapter Advisors?**
  - Share all Chapter Board Meeting and Membership Meeting minutes with your Advisors
  - Encourage Chapter Advisor to attend AT LEAST one chapter board meeting a year. . . Hopefully more if available.
  - As a resource for speaker suggestions. . .
  - Help solve discipline/management issues. . .

The Chapter Advisor relationship is not a one-way street, in that the Chapters and their leaders also have responsibilities. These responsibilities include an appropriate level of communication, providing opportunities for Advisor interaction and a commitment to the success of the organization as a whole.

# Advisors

1. Give advice, make recommendations, vote in Chapter Board motions, inform and notify the Chapter Board on appropriate business in a professional way.
2. The Advisor should not be the manager of the Chapter business or activities. They are to be a Chapter supporter and available to advise, recommend, inform and notify the Chapter Board of appropriate and professional matters.
3. Be familiar with the goals, activities and mission of the organization.
4. Be willing to meet with the Officers and Directors of the Chapter to discuss expectations for roles and responsibilities.
5. Assist the organization in maintaining the original goals, mission, vision, and operational framework set forth by the organizers of the Chapter as well as assist in further developing realistic goals with the Chapter's Executive Board that are within the parameters of the statewide TMN Program.
6. Facilitate opportunities for Texas Master Naturalist volunteers to exercise initiative and judgment within proper measure of autonomy when coordinating Chapter events and activities. In keeping with this approach, Advisors should participate in event planning and attend events when possible or when identified as necessary through the planning process.

# Advisors

7. Be aware of the Chapter's financial status via review of financial statements and approval of expenditures.
8. Be aware of the TMN State documents, including the Chapter Bylaws and Chapter Management and Operations Protocols; also, relevant documents of the State sponsoring agencies, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, that establish expectations for volunteer requirements, behavior and activities. Ensure that the Officers, other Members of the Board and the Chapter Members know where these documents are published, their significance and the consequences for choosing to operate outside their parameters.
9. The Advisor should be ready to assist the TMN State Program Coordinator and TMN State Committee as needed, as the Advisor may be called upon to implement regulations or policies from time to time.
10. The Advisor is responsible for notifying the Chapter Officers and the TMN State Program Coordinator regarding Chapter concerns. The Advisor is expected to report violations or potential violations to the TMN State Program Coordinator. The Chapter Officers are responsible for notifying the TMN State Program Coordinator regarding Advisor problems or concerns.
11. Also see: Chapter Advisors, Article V, B, Chapter Bylaws

# TMN Chapter Advisor Award

***The Chapter Advisor Award recognizes the exceptional work by the advisor or a team of advisors in one or several of the following areas...***

- Overall exceptional work of chapter advisors
- Exemplary contributions to the organization's mission and goals
- New initiatives and accomplishments supported by the advisor
- Advisor participation in the chapter
- The advisor's ability to empower members
- Resource management knowledge and activities



**Javier De Leon**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
Department

**Rio Grande Valley  
AND  
South Texas Border  
Chapters Advisor**

**John O'Connell**  
Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Agent,  
Brazoria County

**Cradle of Texas Chapter  
Advisor**





# Save the Dates for #TMNTuesdays

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**January 12**  
**February 9**  
**March 9**  
**April 13**

**May 11**  
**June 8**  
**July 13**

**August 10**  
**September 14**  
**November 9**  
**December 14**



T E X A S





# TMNTuesday

## APRIL 13th

- **Impacts of Winter Storm Uri on Texas Fish & Wildlife**
- Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
- 12:00pm – 3:00pm – LONGEST yet . . .
- WebEx 3,000 Account . . .
- Registration Open SOON
- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>
- All past events still online.





- **Overview of Winter Storm Uri**
  - John Nielsen Gammon, Texas A&M State Climatologist
- **Overview of Winter Storm Uri Project**
  - Tania Homayoun, TPWD Texas Nature Trackers
- **BREAK - Q&A**
- **Wildlife/Flora & Fauna**
  - Birds
    - Cliff Shackelford, TPWD Ornithologist
  - Bats
    - Nate Fuller, TPWD Bat Specialist
  - Fish and other Aquatic species
    - Dakus Geeslin, TPWD Coastal Fisheries Science & Policy
  - Sea Turtles
    - Tony Reisinger, RGV SeaGrant Agent
  - Plants and Insects
    - Craig Hensley, TPWD Texas Nature Trackers
- **What can we do? Going forward with conservation.**
  - Jonah Evans, TPWD Non-Game and Rare Species Program Leader (Interim) and Mammalogist

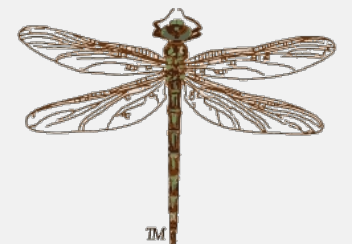


# Be The Change Diversity Series



Coming Soon!

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** - tentative next seminar





# VMS - TMNTuesday & Be The Change

- “Be The Change” is a SUB-seminar mini series of the #TMNTuesday event!
- Some Frequently Asked Questions answered:
- As a Master Naturalist, can I count attending a #TMNTuesday or the “Be The Change” seminars as Advanced Training (AT) hours?
  - Yes! Attending a #TMNTuesday or “Be The Change” seminar as a live attendee or watching it recorded post-event can count for AT Hours under **AT: TMN Tuesday** in VMS. Please work with your local chapter’s VMS Admin to log these hours. Please add EITHER “TMNTuesday” OR “Be The Change” seminar title in description of VMS Log.
- What is the 45 day rule with watching the recordings of #TMNTuesday or “Be the Change” seminars?
  - You can watch the recordings of #TMNTuesday or “Be the Change” seminars anytime in the year 2021 and count them for Advanced Training – just log the date that you watch the recording and log the VMS hours within 45 days of watching.

# What Nature Means?

Will re-open  
for insight in  
April 2021!

**From 2020 - “In this unprecedented moment of pandemic, reflect upon what nature means to you and what benefits it provides you, especially in times like these.”**

- Video diary project that was shared on the Texas Master Naturalist website
- 31 videos, 12 written submissions
  - Including 3 poems! And one original song.
- **For 2021 – “Reflect upon how nature and specifically– the Texas Master Naturalist Program has given you refuge or provided benefits in this global pandemic and year of civil disruption.”**

How would  
you suggest  
we match/add  
a Be The  
Change series  
too?



<https://txmn.tamu.edu/nature-reflections/>

# License Plate



## What we know . . .

- Will be released soon . . .

## What we don't know . . .

- Exactly when???
- How to order. . .
- What we think . . .
- <https://www.myplates.com/>



# **Save the Date for 2021!**



**Texas Master Naturalist**  
—— 2021 Annual Meeting ——

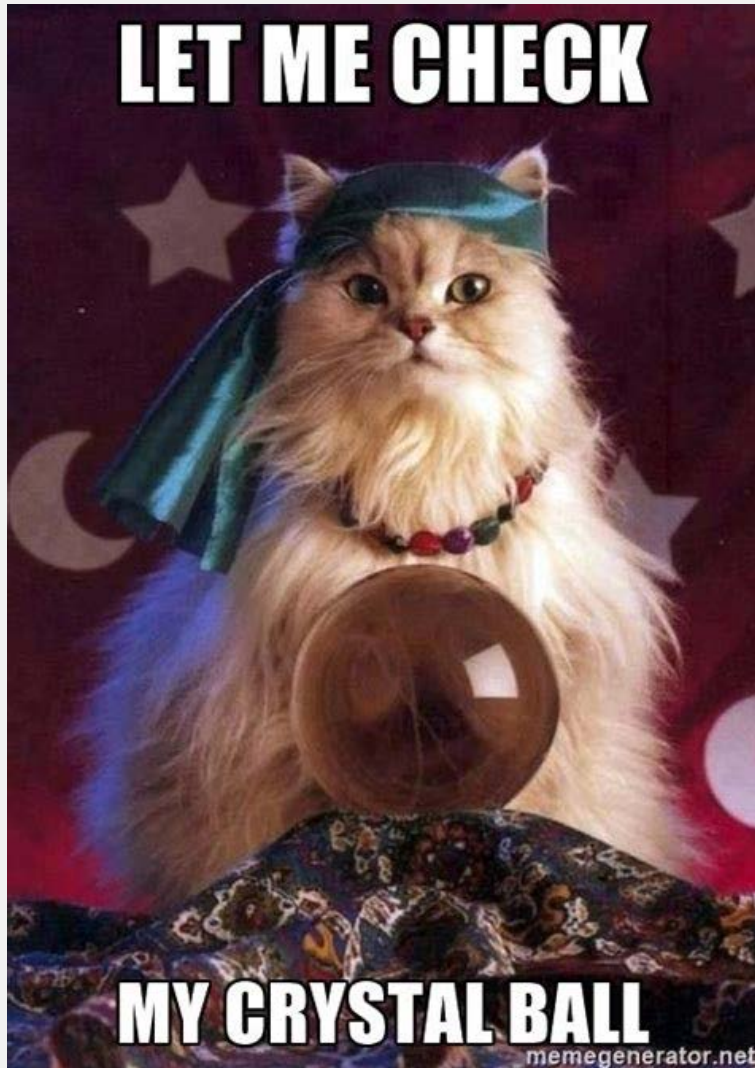
**October 21-24, 2021**

**Dallas/Fort Worth Airport  
Marriott**





# So what are we doing?

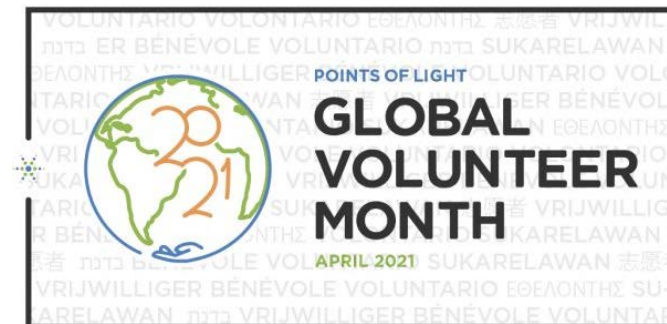
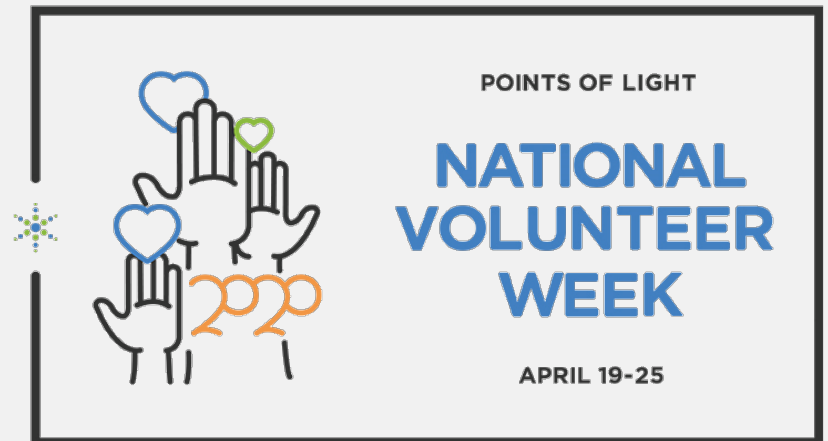


- Completed Tasks:
- Meeting Format Survey closed March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Hosted Informational Mtg with Hotel
- Hosted Informational Mtg with Cross Timbers Chapter
- Upcoming Tasks & Dates:
- April – State Office Budget & Agenda Analysis
- End of April – Open Call for Proposals
- May – HOPE to have Format Decision Announced
- June – Official Decision Deadline for Annual Meeting Format
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – Open Registration & Awards Nominations



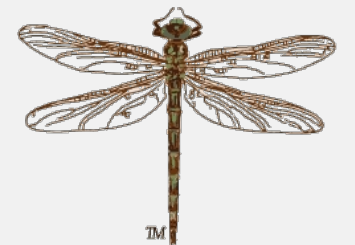
# National Volunteer Week & Earth Day Events

- What are y'all doing?
  - National Volunteer Week – April 18-24, 2021
  - Earth Day – April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Would like to highlight Earth Day Events with AgriLife Today –
- Please email Mary Pearl short blurbs AND/OR
- Add events to our TMN State Events Calendar



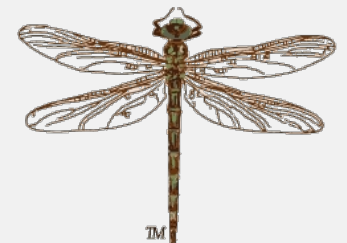
# TMN Chapter Websites

- AgriLife Website team in transition – no designated ‘go to’ person anymore
- All requests – [first-call@tamu.edu](mailto:first-call@tamu.edu)
- HOWEVER –
  - Video Tutorials online - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/wordpress-trainings-recordings/>
- Mary Pearl can help:
  - Promote users to Administrators
  - Fix small issues



# TMN @ AgriLife Bookstore

- **NEW:**
- Customer Service Phone: (979) 803-1372  
Customer Service Email: [learnonline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:learnonline@ag.tamu.edu)
- <https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/category-s/1841.htm>
- Will be restocking t-shirts this spring. . .
- Need a redesign . . .
- Options:

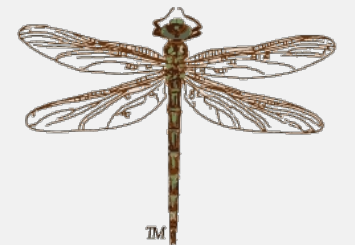


# T-Shirt Design Options

A



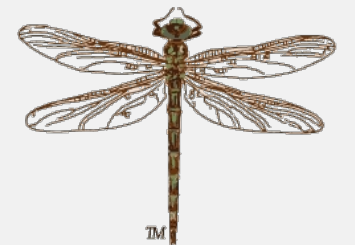
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# Monthly Presidents Meetings

2021 Monthly Chapter Presidents Meeting – last Monday of Month

- ✓ January 25<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ✓ March 29<sup>th</sup>
- April 26<sup>th</sup>
- May 24<sup>th</sup>
- June 28<sup>th</sup>
- August 9<sup>th</sup> (summer meeting)
- September 27<sup>th</sup>
- October - @Annual Meeting
- \*\*November 15<sup>th</sup>
- \*\*December 13<sup>th</sup>



# The End

