

February 28th, 2023 – Chapter Presidents and Advisors Meeting @ 12pm

Representation included: Bluestem, Cradle of Texas, Blackland Prairie, Prairie Oaks, Indian Trail, Cross Timbers, Balcones, Rolling Plains, Lower Trinity, Mid-Coast, El Camino, Central Texas, Rio Brazos, Gideon, Hays County, Highland Lakes, and Denton County

February has similar content to the January meeting.

Notes taken by Kelley Mundy.

2023 Planning:

- Adoption Process for Governing Documents – ensures everyone is on the same page, under the same protocols
- Requested March 1st as the deadline for documents to be adopted and in place.
- Documents: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>
- Chapters are all in the process now.

(Comments from chat discussing stages – chapters will be emailed/contacted about the process – 2nd email will be sent to those who have not completed)

- Documents are reviewed on a 3 year cycle. (2023-2025)
- Feedback can be given through the website.
- Summer 2025 – review feedback/edits
- Fall 2025 – completed updates will be made/sent
- 2026 – New Documents start Year 1
- (Feedback link was dropped in chat.) <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/governing-documents-feedback-form/>

Other Documents:

- Marketing and Brand ID Guide
- Review Chapter Documents
- Governing Documents
- Feedback Form

2023 Training Hours Policy:

- NOT using temporary policy from COVID anymore.
- Following CMOP Guidelines, no longer a cap for AT hours
- **TMNTuesdays are based on the CALENDAR year, (live or recording, must be 2023 to count for AT)**
- 2022 Annual Meeting – allowed AT for recordings up to 90 days post event, log hours based on date/year when recording is viewed, post 90 days ended on Jan. 23rd
- 2023 – will change conflicting policy for 2023 annual meeting

Pin Ordering:

- Recertification Pin and Milestone Pin System
(<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/pins-and-certificates/>)
- Orders will be collected monthly to be sent out
 - o **Exception is Sept./October – hand delivered to annual meeting or mailed after in October**
- Pins for 4,000 hours or more – may take around 6 weeks due to long processing

Introduced the 25th Anniversary Logo!

- Used for this year's activities for this milestone
- Created by Audrey Taulli – TAMU
- Represents 11 ecoregions of Texas, many of previous year's recertification pins in their ecoregions
- Image will be shared on website to be used in celebrations.

25th Anniversary:

- **Storytelling project to highlight our members and their work across the state.**
- Link to submit: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/>
- Can also share stories from partner views and resource connections.

#TMNTuesdays:

- TMN current webinar series
- February covered ecoregions of Texas.
- Typically serves as 1 hour of AT
- Event calendar can be found on website.

FAQs:

- Are 2022 TMNTuesdays available for 2023 AT? No, calendar year based series for AT.
- Open to the public!
- All are recorded each month and shared on the website.
- Make sure to register for each webinar! You'll receive the link and password. (NEW for 2023, you can register for the whole series with one page)
- 45 days after watching, you MUST log hours.

March #TMNTuesday:

- Melissa Felty (Alderson) – covering Texas Waters
- March 14th @ 12pm

April:

- National Volunteer Recognition Month
- April 22nd is Earth Day
- April 16th – 22nd is National Volunteer Week
- April 28th – May 1st is the City Nature Challenge
 - o May 2nd-7th – Identification Period – could use help from members

Plans in the works to develop template to share with all chapters to share strategies. (Will be free on Canva)

Virtual Volunteer Fair – May 2nd – 3rd

- Share proposal calls with project leads, partners, and organizations
 - o Statewide Focused
- Save the Date! Encourage members to attend and volunteer with these projects.
- Deadline for Proposals: March 24th
- Registration is not open yet.

24th Annual Meeting:

- McAllen Convention Center
- Save the Date: October 12th-15th, 2023

Other Resources:

- State Website
 - o Naturalist News - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/>
 - o State office shares events – NOT all are automatically approved for AT
 - Check with local chapter
- Event Calendar - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/events/>
- Listserv - <https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=TMN&A=1>

Regional WebEx Accounts:

- Keeping for 2023!
- Contact Michelle for login questions or over the use of account.
- Check on calendar before scheduling to avoid chapter overlap.
- Michelle manages storage of recording, DO NOT forget to download if wanted, otherwise it will be DELETED after a month
- Avatar/profile and account name does NOT change

WordPress Web Accessibility training – March 7th @ 12pm

- Via Google Meet – 45 minute training on website design for better accessibility – will be recorded – open to all

AgriLife Learn Store:

- New items and shirts coming in March/April 2023

TMN License Plate:

- Via DMV website
- \$30 non-personalized, \$70 personalized
- \$22 of each goes to TMN
- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmn-license-plate/>
- There will be an update next meeting about how many have been sold, given the quarterly total – 800 so far

Endowment:

- Started in 2016 as a perpetual funding source, for future planning
- <https://masternaturalistendowment.org/>

President's Corner:

- Don't sign contracts over \$5,000 without review/approval from TMN state office.
- Update us with grants or awards have been won!

Questions:

- Renewals do not count toward the count for the total license plates sold.
- Which Chapters do 2 trainings or over per year?
 - o Bluestem – 40 hours +, Gideon Linecum – 55hours, Good Water – 2 per year, Hays County in progress, El Camino – has more than 2
- License Plates are rolled into the Endowment.
- TMN does an annual background check on members. A card can be developed through the program to be used at schools or other organizations. These can be received from local VMS administration or help desk.
- Once you've hit 40 hours, it only counts as basic training.

- Criteria for TMN remains the same across the board. Chapters do not alter criteria.
- If a board member serves as immediate past president and another position like IT director, do they receive 2 votes? Need to check governing documents for particular case.
- Landowners cannot receive service time for projects on their own properties.
- Some chapters shared that they are using brochures, magnets, and handouts for merchandise.

Upcoming Dates for next month:

- March 7th – WordPress Training
- March 14th - #TMNTuesday – Texas Waters
- March 24th – Deadline for Virtual Volunteer Fair Projects
- March 28th – Presidents Meeting