Texas Master Naturalist Presidents Meeting

Notes

Nov. 28, 2023

For a more extensive review of the information received at the monthly TMN Presidents Meeting today, go to txmn.tamu.edu to see a recording of the meeting.

1. Program updates
2. Evelyn Gomez is the new student intern program aide.
3. TMN is looking for a new Program Support Specialist
4. Annual meeting recap
5. 475 registrants attended
6. 120 speakers gave programs
7. 100+ sessions/ 25 field sessions
8. 42 of 49 chapters were represented.
9. Each chapter received new banners to use. They are called “Become” and “Explore”. Really great looking banners (my opinion). If you didn’t get yours, contact Michelle Haggerty. Each president received a thank you leather bound notebook, too.
10. If you’d like to review the project fair and video contest winners go to <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2023-annual-meeting-awards-wrap-up/> and <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB2jkt>
11. You can still share your thought and reflections on TMN’s 25th anniversary celebration at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tmn25thanniversary> . A collection of all of them will be available to see soon. The storytelling project also is still available. There is a code to scan on the TMN website to get you started.
12. You can also see the 25th anniversary quilt made from donated t-shirts and the new TMN Timeline
13. Please report your 2023 volunteer hours and AT hours as soon as possible. Very important that they are sent where they need to go.
14. The newest chapter is called the Brush y Canyons chapter. They are located in Uvalde and include surrounding counties.
15. All but 3 chapters have completed the updated governing documents. All of the Chapter Operating Handbooks (COH) also have been updated. The next changes will be reviewed throughout 2025 and put in force in 2026. There is a link on the web site to make change recommendations for the next update in 3 years. If you note a problem, also suggest a solution.
16. Web-ex accounts have been slimmed down to save money because not all of them were being used. The Web-ex events account also has been reduced in size. Before Covid, up to 3,000 people attended the on-line events. That has been cut to 1,000 because of reduced attendance post-covid. This is where TMN Tuesdays are shown.
17. On Dec. 12, there will be a new TMNTuesdays link. Please get yourself registered on or after Dec 12, so you can participate in the TMNTuesdays programs. The link is <https://tpwdevents.webex.com/weblink/register/r58a0712c806eb23c9e81dae4afb985> (I hope I got this correct. It’s on the website video if I didn’t.
18. **Pins/certificates** will now be ordered through the Agrilife Learn store (where we order shirts etc) unless it is a pin for 4000+ volunteer hours. That is still ordered through Michelle Haggerty. On Dec. 10, both the **membership directors and treasurers** will need to set up a new account. An **email will be sent out to those two people and the chapter president**. It won’t be available to most others because they don’t want anyone off the street to go in and order pins. Pins and certificates for 2024 will be available for ordering on Jan. 1, 2024.
19. If you need pins now through Dec 31, order them by 8:00 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1. They will be mailed Dec. 4.
20. There will be a $9.00 shipping charge on all orders. It is a good idea to order all things you may need from the Agrilife Learn Store at one time. There is only one shipping fee per order.
21. If you order items or will be paying the shipping charge, it is a good idea to become familiar with the customer service, email and phone number for the store. We will need a chapter account set up.
22. The last TMNTuesday of the year will be combined with the last presidents meeting on Dec. 12. Steve Nelle will speak on “Land Stewardship – It Might Not Be What You Think It Is” . That will take place at noon.
23. There will be an online meeting of Friends of TMN on Dec. 13. It is a financial support group forming to support TMN.
24. Enter all new leadership in VMS as soon as possible. Include directors. Update incoming and outgoing officers.
25. Phishing/scams are passing through our email systems. If you get a request for financial assistance, call the alleged requester and verify it. If you don’t know the alleged requester, assum it’s a scam and delete the email.
26. 2024 program plans
27. New recertification pins (Rattlesnake) will be available in late February.
28. The annual meeting will take place Oct. 24-27 in San Marcos.
29. The presidents and advisors meetings and TMNTuesday meetings will continue. Dates have been tentatively set. If you have suggestions for speakers or topics, let Michelle Haggerty or Mary Pearl Mueth know.
30. Texas Nature Trackers will give extra programs on Jan. 23 and Feb. 6 about a statewide program they are kicking off in 2024. Rumor has it that it involves bats.
31. The whole VMS system is going to be updated by the end of 2024. There will be training sessions for everyone once it is rolled out. There will be opportunities to do practice runs for some people. It is being updated to catch up with all the changes over the last 9 years (last time it was changed).
32. There will be a virtual volunteer fair again this coming spring. This is an opportunity to volunteer to help other chapters/members with projects they are doing.
33. Admin is working on updating the marketing and branding guidelines.
34. Listserv is still available to all who want to receive notices of all things happening throughout the state that may be relevant to TMN . Please note that they are NOT automatically approved events. You must get approval from the chapter AT/VMS director.
35. WordPress training is also still available. Look up TSMN #Techtuesday on the web site.or go to <https://tx.ag/txmnwordpress> . Next class is Dec. 12 at noon.
36. Winter Apparel Sale is on right now at the Agrilife Learn store. It ends Dec. 15. New items coming in the spring. Remember the $9 shipping fee.
37. TMN License plates still available
38. TMN Endowment Fund is growing. It’s at $125,000 now. It is to be used for future support of TMN and it’s projects. You can donate today.
39. All those in training or membership must be at least 18 years old at the start of training.

Happy TMN 25th Anniversary.