

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING NOTES

February 27, 2024

Today's slides featured some of the great photos submitted to the 2023 Annual Meeting photo contest.

- Meeting Format – monthly, noon start, nominally one hour.
 - Showed the schedule of upcoming Presidents meetings, some combined with TMN Tuesdays
 - Meeting recordings, PPT decks, and notes will be posted on the website.
 - Counts as Volunteer Service in VMS, under Administrative.

- 2024 Planning
 - TMN Training Survey
 - Led by Hannah Ferguson
 - A Roundtable Discussion of New Training Directors is planned mid-March.
 - Will develop questions for a TMN Training Survey to go out in late March
 - TMN Presidents also please submit ideas for survey questions. Several were submitted via chat.
 - The chapter presidents present were in favor of a master list of speakers and their subject areas to be used for training.
 - Hope to gather New Training Directors again in the summer to review survey results.
 - TMN Curriculum Survey
 - A multi-year project; no curriculum change is imminent.
 - Expect an email soon with two surveys:
 - How our chapter uses the book
 - Any errors that have been identified; please be specific.
 - Pins Ordering
 - Certification certificates and hour pins up to 2500: use AgriLife Learn Store at <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/> Only the Entitled Account can view and order pins.
 - Pins for 4000 hrs and above: filled by Michelle Haggerty (mmhaggerty@tamu.edu); use form at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/4000-above-pins/>

- TMN Tuesdays
 - Next one is March 5, a week early due to Spring Break. Texas Raptor Monitoring Network presented by Dr. Ben Skipper
 - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/> includes current and previous years recordings, [FAQs](#), more.
 - Please communicate to your chapter members: YES, TMN Tuesdays are recorded and the recordings are valid for AT hours in the calendar year they were recorded.
 - *What TMN Tuesday topics would you like to see?*

- Spring Training
 - Be sure to update the state web page at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2024-basic-training-classes/> . People always want to know when training is available.

- April 2024
 - Very busy month!
 - April – National Volunteer Recognition Month
 - April 8th – Total Solar Eclipse.
 - See slides for a map of the April 8 solar eclipse and Texas State Parks in its path.
 - State Office has some eclipse glasses left; several were claimed during the meeting.
 - April 9th – TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair
 - Monday April 22nd – Earth Day
 - April 14th – 20th 2024 – National Volunteer Week
 - April 26th – April 29th – City Nature Challenge

- Virtual Volunteer Fair
 - April 9 #TMNTuesday. Deadline for proposals extended to March 7

- TMN Annual Meeting in San Marcos Oct 24-27th.
 - Website <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting/> has updates.
 - The Countdown Timeline for the annual meeting will be shared with presidents each month.
 - Expect registration to open ~August 1; Early Registration ends August 31.
 - Registration closes Sept. 20; **earlier than in most prior years!**
 - Hotel is chosen and will be announced soon.

- Note: New Texas Master Naturalists who attend an annual conference tend to stay in the program more than those who don't!
- Chapter Resources
 - Websites of use:
 - State Website www.txmn.tamu.edu
 - Naturalist News <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/>
 - Events Calendar: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/events/> (check with your chapter about AT)
 - TMN State email listserv: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/contact>
 - Other Quick Links on the Website:
 - VMS Help Desk <https://txmn.org/help>
 - Chapter Documents Page <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>
 - State Website Security Update: Issues seem to be mostly over for now but the IT team is continuing to watch.
 - Still seeing issues? Contact firstcall@ag.tamu.edu
 - TMN WordPress Website Trainings are back! Starting March 5 at noon.
 - Chapter webmasters will be contacted about these
 - Meeting OWLs are available for loan, contact Mary Pearl (mpmeuth@tamu.edu)
 - Regional Webex Accounts – showed which regions share WebEx Accounts
 - TMN VMS Update: working toward a late 2024 rollout and training
 - No plans for a phone VMS app
 - If you see anomalies in VMS, contact the help desk.
 - Be sure your chapter's Officers and Advisors List is updated in VMS by your VMS Administrator.
 - TMN Merchandise
 - Chapter-produced items must follow TMN Brand Guidelines found at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/tmn-brand-marketing/>
 - Contact Hannah Ferguson (hannah.ferguson@ag.tamu.edu) for approval of any items with the TMN logo prior to production.
 - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/about/curriculum/> tells how to order the TMN Statewide Curriculum
 - Texas Master Naturalists shirts, hats, etc: order at [AgriLife Learn](#).

- Will be restocked soon, look for a notification from Mary Pearl.
- License Plate, TMN Endowment: no updates since last month
- Roundtable and Calendar Check:
 - Question: When will we receive information on the Bat Acoustic Monitoring Program? Craig Hensley answered that he will communicate with chapters next week on the bat project as well as the iNaturalist Train the Trainer program.