

MINUTES
MID-COAST CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
JANUARY 11, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. Board of Directors met on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382. The meeting was hybrid.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM. President Steve Ferguson presided at the meeting, and Mid-Coast TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM for 2.15 hours CB: Chapter Business/Chapter Meeting.

Meeting Attendance

A total of twelve members were present. Board members consisted of nine in-person and three using the OWL/zoom chat function, constituting a quorum. In addition, three members in standing were in attendance.

Secretary's Report by Ele Chew

The Mid-Coast Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 1:50 PM, at the Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382. The meeting was hybrid. A total of sixteen members were present. Board members consisted of a quorum of eleven in person. In addition, five members were in attendance, one of whom was using the OWL/zoom chat function. President Steve Ferguson presided at the meeting, and Mid-Coast TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes, which were posted on the chapter website on November 6, 2024.

Kim Ballard moved to accept the minutes published on the chapter website, and Chelsea Watson seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist
Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382
Treasurer's Report as of: 12/31/2024

Beginning bank balances checking as of 12/01	\$37,466.77
Plus CD	13,000.00
Plus MM	7,032.76
<u>Total beginning cash as of 12/01</u>	<u>\$57,499.53</u>
Checking account balance as of 12/01	\$37,466.77
Less cleared items	1,283.63
Less outstanding items	-0-
Operating bank balance as of 12/31	<u>\$36,183.14</u>
CD account balance as of 12/01	\$13,000.00
Plus interest	173.81
CD bank balance as of 12/31	<u>\$13,173.81</u>
<i>*Note: Interest credited to the account at the end of its 4-month term in December.</i>	
MM account balance as of 12/01	\$7,032.76
Plus interest	8.94
MM bank balance as of 12/31	<u>\$7,041.70</u>
Ending balances checking as of 12/31	\$36,183.14
Plus CD as of 12/31	13,173.81
Plus MM as of 12/31	7,041.70
<u>Total cash as of 12/31</u>	<u>\$56,398.65</u>

Three bank reconciliations completed 01/02/2025
Quicken Backup completed 01/08/2025

Total YTD Revenue as of 12/31	\$28,090.28
Less YTD Total Expenses as of 12/31	15,030.40
Net YTD Income as of 12/31	<u>\$13,059.88</u>

Budget process for 2025 is being finalized and will be discussed at the January 11th Board of Directors meeting. Financial Audit was completed on January 7th. Results will be presented at the January 11th Board of Directors Meeting.

Estimated Sales Tax was paid in December to align with actual 2024 sales. Sales tax was filed on January 2nd. Going forward, the estimated Sales Tax will be paid by the end of the year to be filed the next year.

The Chapter has a Walmart tax free business account, Amazon tax free account, and Office Depot tax free account. Please remember to present the tax-exempt form for any other purchases to avoid paying state sales tax. Please see me if you need a copy.

Beginning in 2025, Quicken will be used to present the monthly budget. It will automatically pull through from the financials.

Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist
Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382
Treasurer's Report as of: 12/31/2024

Discussion Items:

- Currently, the Chapter utilizes Square for payments of yearly dues but not training fees. Please add to the discussion adding training fees to Square. This is because there are those people who do not have checks. The Chapter has received 2 money orders in the past weeks. Last year, the Chapter received cash in the mail for training fees because the applicant did not have a checking account. The discussion should include who bears the cost of the Square fees and the understanding that the website will need to be changed, causing additional programming costs.
- Additionally, Zelle is a free service offered by Prosperity Bank to both sender and receiver. Zelle would be used for the receipt of both training and dues exclusively. Zelle should not be used to make payments. As we become a cashless society, please readdress the discussion to activate Zelle on the Prosperity Bank account. The Zelle account would be tied to the Treasurer's email address. The Chapter does not have a phone number to tie to Zelle which is okay.

Board of Director Reports:

- [President Report](#)
 - Review 2024
 - Celebrate 25th Year Anniversary
 - Strengthen relationships with local entities and natural resources partners
 - Develop fundraising
 - Implement new VMS system
 - Update governing documents
 - Strengthen the chapter's engagement, participation, and sense of purpose
- [Vice-President Report](#)
 - 2024 Financial Examination Committee (FEC) Report
 - February Chapter Meeting
- [Treasurer Report](#)—2025 Preliminary Budget Overview Budget Actuals
- [Membership & VMS Reports](#)
 - Membership Report- No Report
 - VMS Update

- [Advanced Training Director](#) — No report
- [Initial Training Report](#) — IT Progress Report
- [Projects Report](#) — 2024 Projects
 - Pollinators for Texas Project grant submitted for \$3000.
 - Donna Bailey has identified the NPSOT Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Grant
 - Working on 2024 VMS entries to classify into as many projects as possible
- Technology Report —No report
- [Communications Report](#)
 - 2024 in Review
 - 2025 Projects
- [Plant Sale Report](#) – No report
- [Past President Report](#)
- [Class Representative Report](#)
- Chapter Advisor Report — No report
- [Awards](#)

Old Business

Texas Master Naturalist, Mid-Coast Chapter Celebrating Texas Oyster Symposium

November 14, 2024
Rockport Conference Center
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm



Event Summary

The purpose of the Celebrating Texas Oysters Symposium was to provide an educational forum featuring the oyster as an animal, critical habitat, agricultural crop, and delicacy. While the symposium was never intended to be a fund raiser, the symposium netted over \$3300. See Financial Summary below. This was due to the generosity of sponsors who gave \$1000 each,

- CCA Texas
- Coast Bend Bays and Estuaries Program
- Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

and Oyster Farming Companies who donated 100 oysters each for the oyster tasting,

- Big Tree Oyster Company
- Blackjack Point Oyster Company
- DIs Oysters Company
- Lone Star Oyster Company

And to the oyster shuckers who donated their time and effort

- RJ Shelly, Pat Cruz,

and the complete sell-out of both the symposium (110 registrants - limited by the facility set up) and the oyster tasting (50 registrants).

Credit and thanks go to the Symposium Planning Committee

Amy Nowlin, Debbie Minns, D'Ann Williams, Julie Hejducek, Tracey Bennet

and for the support of Mid-Coast Chapter members who worked the day of the symposium and ensured that things ran smoothly.

Allan Berger, Charla Ingalls, Roger Ingalls, Maureen Crocker, Greg Simmons, and Sally Scroggs.

Special thanks to **Ele Chew**, the official event photographer.

Here is some of the feedback received after the symposium.

I think it was a wonderful event enjoyed by everyone there and very informative. CCA would certainly welcome the opportunity to participate again if you should choose to hold a similar event again in the future.

John Blaha, Assistant Director, CCA Texas

Thank YOU for organizing such an awesome symposium about an important topic that is near and dear to my heart. It was incredibly well done, and you deserve a huge thanks for that!

Amy Belaire, Owner & Managing Director, Big Tree Oyster Company

Thanks again for all your time and effort putting the oyster symposium together! I had a great time and learned new things. It was also a well put together event at a great venue.

Shannon Batte, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Galveston Bay Foundation

Feedback about the Oyster Tasting was overwhelmingly positive. Amy reported that “the notes cards did not reflect a rating system to know which oysters was preferred. What is interesting is that a few people made notations and correctly identified a few of the oysters during the blind tasting. Those included Blackjack Point and the members from the Galveston Chapter informed me that they knew immediately which of the oysters were from Lonestar of the Galveston Bay. Salinity and flavor scorings were all over the place. I guess because everyone tastes differ - there wasn’t a clear indication. Judging by the raise of hands, I’d say about 10% of the participants were super tasters!”

Financial Summary

Date	Expense	Vendor	Items	Amount
8/16/2024	Venue	Rockport Conference Center	Deposit	\$ 425.00
9/15/2024	Signage	Vista Print	Poster	\$ 29.21
10/11/2024	Signage	Vista Print	Posters, logo napkins	\$ 133.55
10/16/2024	Advertising	Victoria Advocate	2 week ad	\$ 100.10
10/17/2024	Signage	Walmart	Card Stock	\$ 9.39
10/23/2024	Social and Tasting supplies	Amazon	Plates, utensils, napkins, name tags,	\$ 83.49
11/1/2024	Venue	Rockport Conference Center	Balance	\$ 400.00
11/8/2024	Signage	Office Depot	Poster	\$ 35.99
11/11/2024	Signage	Dollar General	Poster board	\$ 3.79
11/14/2024	Food	HEB	Appetizers, desserts,	\$ 421.66
11/14/2024		HEB	Plates	\$ 25.89
11/18/2024	Thank yous	USPS	Stamps 2 books @14.60	\$ 29.20
estimate	Sherriff	Rockport Conference Center	ACSO 50-300, 2 officers, \$45hour, 4 hour	\$ 322.50
11/21/2024		PayPal	Refunds	\$ 80.00
		PayPal	Transaction fees	\$ 162.31
	Social media			\$ 99.70
			Total Expense	\$ 2,361.78
Date	Income	Organization		Amount
	Sponsorship	Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program		\$ 1,000.00
	Sponsorship	Harte Research Institute		\$ 1,000.00
	Sponsorship	CCA Texas		\$ 1,000.00
	Registration	Constant Contact / PayPal		\$ 2,572.50
			Total Income	\$ 5,572.50
			Net	\$ 3,210.72

Respectfully submitted
 Brigid Berger, Vice President & Event Coordinator
 11/27/2024

New Business

Conflict of Interest Attestation Form

Forms were collected from Brigid Berger-VP, Ele Chew-Secretary, Bob Cunningham-Past President, Steve Ferguson-President, Julie Hejducek-Treasurer, Debbie Kucera-AT, Chelsea Watson-Class Representative, Kim Ballard-Membership, Jeremy and Kate Geer-Miller-IT.

Financial Examination Committee (FEC) Report

2025 Budget

The 2025 budget presented by Treasurer Julie Hejducek was voted in principle on the basis of what has been submitted with anticipated revisions. President Steve Ferguson and Treasurer Julie Hejducek, with the participation of Project Director Steve Simmons and Communication Director D'Ann Williams, will revise the budget, which will be brought forth as the final budget for further discussion and vote at the February 8th chapter meeting. Greg Simmons moved to accept the budget in principle, and Jeremy Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Project Director Greg Simmons moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 PM, and IT Director Jermey Miller seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ele Chew

Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

REPORTS AND AUXILIARY MATERIAL TO THE MINUTES

President Report by Steve Ferguson

January 11, 2025 – Board of Directors Meeting

It Was A Very Good Year – A Review of 2024

- Leadership and board changes
- Implementation of newly revised and adopted Chapter governing documents.
- Class of '24 was and is terrific!
- Plant Sale exceeded all expectations!
- Continued to excel and expand our Outreach initiatives
- To help ensure our Chapter's financial stability and sustainability, we
 - created and funded a Contingency Reserve
 - established *ad hoc* fundraising committee
- Donated to Fulton Learning Center in support of the Junior Naturalist Program
- Created and hosted our first ever Oyster Symposium

What's Ahead? - 2025 Should Be "A Big, Beautiful Year!"

- MCTMN celebrates its 25th year anniversary through Community Outreach and local county/community Projects and perhaps one big chapter-wide celebration in an easily accessible location
 - D'Ann Williams and Greg Simmons celebration leaders
 - Bring our chapter members together to demonstrate who we are, to the people who live there by serving their local county/community and its natural resources
- Strengthen our relationships with local entities and natural resources partners
- Develop our own fundraising abilities so that we can create the idea and plan, generate the energy, and fund our own projects
- Leadership and Administrative Opportunities and Challenges
 - Rollout and implement the new VMS system
 - Identify 2026 leadership needs and begin identifying and preparing new leaders
 - State TMN asks that Chapters review and update governing documents every three years after adoption. (MCTMN - adopted in 2023, scheduled for review/update in 2026). Use 2025 to start identifying potential changes.
- Strengthen engagement, participation, and sense of purpose within our Chapter.
 - Working together on projects
 - Inviting new members to participate
 - Supporting each other
 - Having fun together as we accomplish things as a team

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2024 Financial Examination Committee (FEC) Report by Vice President Brigid Berger

TMN Mid-Coast Chapter
Financial Review Committee Report
Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 6:00 pm – 6:46 pm
Zoom

Committee Members: Brigid Berger (chair), Julie Hejducek (treasurer), Ele Chew (secretary), Chelsea Watson (class representative), Amy Nowlin (chapter advisor), Mike Hejducek (chapter member).

2024 Records Reviewed by all committee members prior to the meeting.

- Bank Statement(s) (Monthly)
 - Checking
 - Money market (from August – December)
 - CD (December)
- Bank Statement Reconciliation Report(s) (Monthly between Quicken & bank statements)
 - Checking
 - Money Market
 - CD
- Budget Report(s)
 - Quarterly
 - Year end
- Details of Native Plant Sale fundraising event
 - Plant Sale Quicken summary & detail reports

Randomly sampled document reviewed together by the committee.

- September 2024 Bank Statement

Items Discussed

- Need for electronic payment for new member training fee. The treasurer will add this item to the January BOD meeting agenda.

Findings

- The Chapters financial systems and documentation are in good order.

ATTESTATION:

Brigid Berger, Vice President

Approved by email

Julie Hejducek, Treasurer

Approved by email

Ele Chew, Secretary

Approved by email

Amy Nowlin, Chapter Advisor

Approved by email

Chelsea Watson, Class Representative

Approved by email

Michael Hejducek, Member

Approved by email

MEETING MINUTES Mid-Coast TMN 2024 Financial Review

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. 2024 Financial Review met 6:00 pm on January 7, 2024 by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and adjourned at 6:46 pm. Briget Berger presided at the meeting and MC-TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes.

Meeting Attendance

Six members attended: Brigid Berger (chair, vice president), Ele Chew (secretary), Julie Hejducek (treasurer), Mike Hejducek (chapter member), and Amy Nowlin (chapter advisor), and Chelsea Watson (class representative).

Documents/Items Reviewed (See Attached Report by chair Brigid Berger.):

- 2024 Records
 - Bank Statement(s)
 - Bank Statement Reconciliation Report(s) Monthly between Quicken & bank statements)
 - Budget Reports(s)
 - Details of Native Plant Sale fundraising event
- Randomly sampled document reviewed together by the committee.

Status of Prior Year Recommendations

- Confirm how transactions work for McAlister book inventory and sales.
Not addressed.
- Establish electronic means to sign items out of /into storage unit.
Not addressed.
- Investigate whether we can change "Income" to "Revenue" on Quicken reports.
Not addressed.
- Establish document retention schedules and implement them.
Not addressed.
- Move budget responsibility for storage unit from VP to Technology Director
Completed.
- Include review/validation of Square transactions and reports in future financial reviews
Completed.

Recommendations

Need for electronic payment for new member training fee. The treasurer will add this item to the January BOD meeting agenda.

The Mid-Coast TMN Chapter financial systems and documentation are in good order.

Respectfully Submitted by Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary Ele Chew

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Vice President Report by Brigid Berger

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

February 8, 2025

Location: TBD

Education Program: Dolphin Research

Dr. Dara Orbach, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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Treasurer Report by Julie Hejducek

2025 Preliminary Budget Overview

2025 MCTMN BUDGET

CATEGORY	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 12/2024	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUALS	2022 ACTUALS	2021 ACTUALS	2020 ACTUALS
REVENUE								
Revenue								
Dues	Annual dues (\$15/person average x 100 paying members)	1,500	1,675	1,500	1,520	1,631	1,277	1,558
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 @\$150 FOR 2024 class)	2,515	2,850	3,000	2,250	3,750	3,600	3,185
Gross Plant sale	Hummerbird	14,500	14,872	13,000	13,408	13,138	13,168	12,624
Book Sales	Book Sales to ANWR	600	898	600	839	266	266	1,196
Badge Replacement	Cost to replace lost badge	50	11	50	14	52	0	37
Interest Income	Interest income from checking .15% (\$25), money market 1.51% (\$75), and CD 3.25% (\$400)	500	234	0	0	0	0	500
Misc Other (Donations)	Unsolicited donations less than \$250	3,000	1,838	50	2,118	503	569	654
TOTAL REVENUE	Total Revenue	22,665	22,378	18,200	20,148	19,340	18,879	18,446
EXPENSES								
Administrative Expenses								
President Expenses	25th Celebration, supplies, misc	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
VP Expenses	Supplies & other expenses incurred by VP, MS products \$36, misc	250	13	200	0	58	0	0
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Exp	No capitol expected	0	0	0	2,021	0	0	0
Storage Rental	Kool storage, \$93/month	1,200	1,116	1,200	715	0	0	0
Shed Purchase		0	0					2,859
Shed Rental		0						410
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	100	0	100	65	43	0	0
Treasurer's Supplies	Ink \$65, MS products \$36, storage container \$10, paper \$10, misc	200	184	200	294	222	51	61
Treasurer - Capital Expense	No capitol expected	0	450	550	15	0	0	0
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	100	0	100	0	276	0	0
Project Director Expenses	Pollinator garden \$3000, Unforeseen \$500	3,500	0	500	0	0	0	0
Project Expense - Monarch Tagging Project	Monarch tagging kits, nets and habitat	0	222	250				
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$171 ea) - \$342 name badges - \$13*25-\$325	667	807	910	455	470	605	264
Communications - Website & Technical	Website domain name \$15, SR hosting \$290 & improvements \$270; Wufoo online data support \$350; Zoom license \$150, Quickbooks \$540, Cloud storage \$240, Transkioning \$300	2,330	1,021	2,200	679	901	687	750
Communications - Online Newsletter, Signups & Facebook Ads	Const Contact 10x\$12-\$120 Boosted FB ads 10x\$12-\$120 \$306 plus General Marketing Signup Genius \$211, Boosted FB add for HummerFest \$200 Misc 100	920	467	598	115	0	0	0
Communications - General Marketing	Plant Sale Yard signs - 100, Misc. Other: Thank you card stationary \$100	200						
Communications - Public Outreach - Hooks Game & Misc.	Hooks Game Stickers - \$530, Chapter Brochure \$260, Winter Texan Day, Misc. Events	1,240	505	769	505	0	0	425
Communications - Outreach - Capital Expense	Will concentrate on 25th anniversary / Hooks Game	0	0	771	1,751	0	0	0
PO Box Rental	Post Office box rental - Fulton 12 months @ \$150	150	146	150	147	191	96	102
Discretionary	\$150 annual donation to TMN, \$200 non standard honorarium	350	0	350	150	119	100	0

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2025 MCTMN BUDGET

CATEGORY	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 12/2024	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUALS	2022 ACTUALS	2021 ACTUALS	2020 ACTUALS
Square Expense / Bank Expense	Misc expense from Square donations and bank fees	50	21	0	35	0	0	0
Total Administrative		12,257	4,952	8,848	6,946	2,280	1,539	4,871
Advanced Training	Instructor/speaker fees	0	0	250	0	0	0	0
Training - Initial								
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	850	0	850	850	500	500	500
Books - Purchased	19 Statewide Curriculum (TAMU Press, \$665), 19 My Brush Country Backyard, \$456	1,300	1,390	1,121	956	1,108	861	0
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (1 X \$250 assumed)	250	0	250	250	750	750	50
Venue	Fees	75	0	75	0	75	75	300
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	700	942	904	1,222	967	463	265
Scholarship	Larmark for potential 2025 class applicants (2@500)	180	0	0	0	0	220	0
Misc	Ambassador/training committee pizza meeting	150	0	150	195	0	150	0
Total Initial Training		3,505	2,332	3,350	3,473	3,399	3,018	1,115
Plant Sale								
HummerBird Fee	For outside space	150	150	150	150	105	0	105
Plants	Plants purchased	4,250	3,937	5,000	4,859	5,195	5,023	1,838
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2" free days	200	397	302	452	132	374	309
Fees - Square	2.9% transaction fee for credit cards (60.0% of sales)	252	276					
POS Square Expense	One month of hot spot	55	56	100	44	250	0	0
POS Hardware/Software - Capital Expense	Square purchase	0	0	0	0	1,026	0	0
Plant Sale Educational Materials/Eqpt		500						
Supplies & Misc expenses	\$50 labels/square, \$250 misc includes Square refill paper \$15	295	545	300	615	328	617	53
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	No trays expected	0	0	300	500	0	0	0
Total Plant Sale		5,702	5,360	6,152	6,621	7,036	6,013	2,305
TOTAL EXPENSES		21,464	12,644	18,600	17,040	12,716	10,570	8,292
TOTAL NET INCOME (YE)		1,201	9,734	400	3,108	6,624	8,309	10,154
TOTAL PLANT SALE NET INCOME (YE)		8,798	9,512	6,848	6,787	6,102	7,155	10,319
CAPITAL EXPENSE		0	450	1,621	4,287	0	0	2,859

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Membership Director Report by Kim Ballard

No report.

VMS Update Report by Cindy Hielscher

The VMS Data Manager Report by Cindy Hielscher for January 11, 2025. The VMS Upgrade is continuing but the next steps have not been communicated recently. VMS Training has been restarted for those who need it on the current version of VMS.

The Initial Training Class for 2025 used the new onboarding process which seemed to go smoothly. Volunteer hours reporting is not expected to be too different from the user experience of today. In the future, another planned change will include allowing volunteers to select opportunities instead of the VMS Administrator being required to do that for them. However, the timing of that change is currently not available.

TPWD will collect volunteer hours information from VMS on January 31, 2025, for the full 2024 year across Chapters. New recertification pins, the Common Roadrunner, for 2025 will become available soon.

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Advanced Training Report by Debbie Kucera

There have been 4 new ATs approved in 2025.

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Initial Training Report by Jeremy Miller & Kate Geer-Miller

2025 Initial Training starts January 18 at the AgriLife office in Rockport, 892 Airport Rd, Rockport, TX, 78382

Potluck provided by current members welcoming the trainees plan to bring food by 11:00-11:30 in case we get ahead of schedule again.

The schedule has changed for Archeology, now being held on March 1

This is a recent change that is not yet reflected on the website

New venue, Palacios Marine Agriculture Research (PMAR), to host the session "The World Is Your Oyster," led by Ambassador Steve Marwitz

Topics covered will be estuary ecology with a focus on the role of oysters in the bay, their management, and restoration

2025 Initial Training Schedule- Jeremy Miller

- Orientation – January 25
- Geology and Ecoregions – February 6
- Upland Ecology – February 20 & 22
- Archaeology – March 1
- Mid-coast Ecology – March 20 & 22
- Interpreting Nature – April 3 & 5
- Riverine and Riparian Ecology – April 17 & 19
- The World Is Your Oyster – May 15 & 17
- Palacios Marine Agriculture Research (PMAR)
- Bay and Barrier Island Ecology – May 29 & 31
- Native Plants and Graduation – June 5 & 7

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Projects Report by Greg Simmons

- Pollinators for Texas Project grant submitted for \$3000.
 - Notification of award expected January 2025
 - Donna Bailey is primary project lead
 - Pollinator garden leads are Donna Bailey, Janet McCrea, Vicky Wilson, Bobby Garner, Brigid Berger, Margie Wilkins
 - Other contributors are Maureen Crocker, D'Ann Williams, Sally Scroggs and Greg Simmons
 - \$3000 included in budget, contingent on lack of funding from grant.

- Donna Bailey has identified the NPSOT Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Grant
 - Up to \$600 to nature centers, schools, educational groups and others to help fund development of Monarch demonstration gardens or Monarch Waystations using native plants on public sites in Texas
 - Unknown whether MCTMN can make multiple submissions
 - February 10, 2025 application deadline

- Working on 2024 VMS entries to classify into as many projects as possible
 - For example, ICF game camera, 14 participants, 422 hours, in home participation, contact information if interested
 - Cumbersome process in Excel
 - Goal is to develop a list of topically and geographically diverse projects to encourage broader participation within MCTMN
 - I'm about to have lots of computer time due to impending surgery

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T E X A S



Communication Committee Report – January '25

Administration | Historian | Newsletter | Outreach | Publicity | Website

Committee's oversight areas as per our Bylaws

2024 In Review

- **Facebook Page Creation –**
 - Enables us to buy ads for the Plant Sale, Oyster Symposium
 - Please like our Page if you are on Facebook, it is separate from our Group
 - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090054771565>

2025

- **Outreach - Chapter Initiated**
 - June 8th - Hooks Minor League Baseball Game 7:00 p.m.
 - Sept – Plant Sale Outreach Booth
- **Outreach – Partners Events**
 - Will Team up with partner at their events with chapter members like Monarch Madness at Fennessey Ranch, ANWR Fall Celebration, etc.
- **Dropbox Initiated**
 - Will use to upload Historian Documents
 - House all files from the board files
- **Website Review**
 - Will look to move over to Wix, GoDaddy or the State's Website format
 - Will do an cost/benefit analysis
- **Publicity**
 - Will advertise as needed for Chapter events

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Past President by Bob Cunningham

The primary duties of the Past-President are twofold. First, to act as a resource for the current President. Second, to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee pursuant to the Chapter Bylaws.

As Past-President, I met and discussed past and projected activities, plans, procedures, and protocols with incoming President, Steve Ferguson, with particular focus during the period between his election in November 2023 and the initial Board and Chapter meetings in January and February 2024 respectively. At various times throughout 2024, I responded to inquiries from President Steve and discussed his plans and concerns on particular issues.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I communicated with Committee members appointed by the President (D'Ann Williams, Linda Swickheimer, Gary Ward, and Amy Nowlin) for the purpose of nominating candidates to serve as Officers for the one-year term in 2025. Thankfully, all current Officers were willing to renew for another term, and the Committee unanimously recommended their re-election to the Board (on October 12th) and to membership at the annual Chapter meeting (on November 9th) including ensuring requisite notice to membership 15 days in advance. All current Officers were re-elected by members, with no opposition, at the annual meeting.

Secretary Ele Chew has indicated a desire to step down from that position during or at the end of 2025. The Nominating Committee will continue to seek a member willing to serve as Secretary, with the intention that he / she would "shadow" Ele this year and take over the position via mid-year appointment by the Board with subsequent recommendation to membership for formal election at the annual meeting. All Board members are asked to reach out to members who may be qualified and willing to serve in the Secretary position and refer them to me or President Steve.

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Class Representative by Chelsea Watson

17 original members for class of 2024

- 7 have been certified and recertified
- 1 is certified and working her way to being recertified
- 2 have less than 2 hours to go to be certified
- 2 need a few more VS hours to be certified

Liam is classified as class of 2024 but will be working with 2025 class for his hours

Volunteer total hours for Class of 2024: 1,153.25 hours

Advanced Training: 354 hours

At the end of May 2024, we had multiple new class members help with the enhancement of a shell reef out of Port O'Connor. The project's purpose was to elevate a small shell reef to make it potentially more attractive to nesting American Oystercatchers. Throughout the summer and into the fall, some of our new members also assisted with the upkeep of the pollinator garden located in Rockport. Not only this, but we had an abundant number of new members assist with the plant sell and multiple newbies who have been volunteering at Wings Rescue Center in Rockport.

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Meeting Attendance

Board members in attendance: Ele Chew-Secretary, Bob Cunningham-Past President, Steve Ferguson-President, Julie Hejducek-Treasurer, Debbie Kucera-AT, Chelsea Watson-Class Rep, Jeremy Miller-IT, Greg Simmons-Projects (Zoom), D'Ann Williams-Communications (Zoom)

Other chapter members in attendance: James Black (Zoom), Cindy Hielscher-VMS Administrator, Sally Scrogg (Zoom),

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Awards

Initial Certification enamel dragonfly & plaque—Not present to receive the award: Mary Wilkins, Sally Crofutt, Larry Green, Martha McLeod

Milestone Awards

250-hour bronze dragonfly—Not present: Melissa Gutherie

Silver 500-hour Milestone dragonfly—Not present: Karen Barton, Carla Belaire, Debbie Minns

Recertification Pins

2022 Lightning Whelk—Not present: Karen Barton, Karen Benson, Rebecca Bootzin

2023 TX Ecoregions—Not present: Karen Benson, Kayla Clark, Bob Friedrichs, Greg Nelson, Susie Stames

2024 Rattlesnake—Presented: Kimberly Ballard. Not present to receive the award: Chris Andersen, Laura Andersen, Carla Belaire, Karen Benson, David Clark, Kayla Clark, Debra Dhams-Nelson, Bob Friedrichs, Bobby Garner, Judy Goodner, Melissa Guthrie, Wilfred Korth, Martha McLeod, Debbie Minns, Janet Price, Robyn Savage, KarenLee Rystad, Scott Swanson, Gary Ward, Vickie Wilson

TPWD Water Awards 2023 awarded in 2024

Not present: Marueen Crocker

receipt of an award not listed, please send her an email at hourskeeper@midcoast-tmn.org.

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