

MINUTES

MID-COAST CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

July 8, 2023, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. Board of Directors met at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 8, 2023 at Calhoun County AgriLife Building in the Auditorium, 311 Henry Barber Way, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was a hybrid and called to order at 10:06 am by President Bob Cunningham. Secretary Ele Chew recorded minutes. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 for 4 hours VS plus travel.

July Meeting Attendance

Twenty members in good standing were in attendance.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Mid-Coast Chapter's Board of Directors Meeting was held on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Fulton Mansion Education and History Center, 317 S. Fulton Beach Rd., Rockport, Texas 78382. It was a hybrid remote and in-person meeting. Eighteen members in good standing were in attendance, including a quorum of ten voting members of the Board. Noting that a quorum was present, President Bob Cunningham called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and the meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm. The minutes were recorded by Secretary Ele Chew and posted to the Chapter's website on April 29, 2023. There were no revisions to the minutes of the April 2023 Board of Directors Meeting. Ray Kirkwood moved to approve the minutes and D'Ann Williams seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Email Motion to Approve Wufoo Form for Technical Guidance

On June 21, 2023, Ray Kirkwood moved to approve a new Wufoo form for Technical Guidance to be included in the new Chapter Operating Handbook and Bill Burge seconded the motion. Thirteen officers and directors voted "yes" reaching a majority of a quorum through email communication on June 25, 2023.

Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

Mid-Coast Master Naturalist Board Meeting Report – July 8, 2023

Treasurer's Report As of: 06/30/2023

Bank Statement Balance 06/30/2023 \$38,559.48

Profit/Loss Statement 06/30/2023

Total Income 2023 YTD \$1,309.88

Total Expenses 2023 YTD \$7,981.41

Net Loss 2023 YTD \$-6,671.53

The Chapter will be running in a net loss until the plant sale. All budget items are within budget

Laura Andersen moved to approve the budget report. D'Ann Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business

The Board of Directors reviewed and revised the new COH (P&P) and related appendices and reached unanimous agreement of a quorum in attendance on a final COH document to present at the next General Membership meeting on August 12, 2023 for membership comments and ratification. See attached President's Report for specific discussion and resolution of pertinent items.

Ray Kirkwood moved to approve the revised COH with the changes as presented and agreed at today's meeting, July 8, 2023; Bill Burge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed with the following "Yes" votes from Bob Cunningham, Bill Burge, Ele Chew, Julie Hejducek, D'Ann Williams, Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs, Debbie Kucera, Ray Kirkwood, and Laura Andersen.

The revised COH has been approved by the board at a regular meeting of the board on the second Saturday of July. Kris Kirkwood will circulate the revised version that has been approved for the board members to correct any inaccuracies. If the board members do not respond within a week, it will be assumed that they are in agreement that the final revised draft accurately recites the COH provisions as approved by the board at its regularly scheduled meeting.

New Business

Initial Training Class Size and Class Fee

Following the Initial Training Directors' Report of 2023 program accomplishments, observations, and 2024 recommendations and updates, Ray Kirkwood moved to approve a class size of twenty and class fee of \$150 for the 2024 training class. Laura Andersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Advanced Director Appointment

President Bob Cunningham recommended appointment of Debbie Kucera to assume the position of Advanced Training Director to replace retiring Linda Shirey. Laura Andersen moved to approve the appointment and Julie Hejducek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Initial Training Directors Appointment

President Bob Cunningham appointed Jeremy Miller and Kate Geer-Miller to the positions of 2023-2024 Initial Training Directors and asked for board approval. Greg Simmons moved to confirm and approve the appointment of Jeremy and Kate to the positions and Ray Kirkwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Technology Director Appointment

President Bob Cunningham requested board members' approval and confirmation of Steve Simmons's appointment to the position of Technology Director. Ray Kirkwood moved to approve and confirm the appointment of Steve Simmons. D'Ann Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Steve Simmons will be added to the VMS system.

Recognition for Outgoing Board Members and Directors

Brigid Berger will look into commemorating long-serving board members and directors who are retiring from their positions.

Board of Director Reports:

- [President's Report](#)
- [Vice-President's Report](#)
- [Treasurer's Report](#)
- [Membership Report](#)
- [Initial Training Report](#)
- Advanced Training Director – No Report
- [Projects Director Report](#)
- Plant Sale Report – No Report
- [Communications Report](#)
- Past President Claire Barnhart – No Report
- [Class Representative Reports](#)
- Chapter Advisor – No Report

Awards

Due to the increased time required for working through the COH, no awards were presented at this meeting.

Adjournment

D'Ann Williams moved to adjourn the meeting and Julie Hejducek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Ele Chew
Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

President's Report by Bob Cunningham

Highlights of discussion, revisions and approval of Chapter Operating Handbook (COH)

- Initial Training Refund Procedure in COH Appendix D 3.3.i.

The Officers and Board of Directors discussed the procedure for initial training refund and voted in agreement to incorporate the following terms, "If a paid applicant drops out of class and if they request a refund, refund will only be given by agreement and discretion of both membership and initial training directors." A formal vote was taken. Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs, D'Ann Williams, Julie Hejducek, Debbie Kucera, Bill Burge, Ele Chew, Bob Cunningham and Laura Andersen voted "Yes." Ray Kirkwood voted "No," stating that the terms do not document reasons for a "no-refund" policy by the initial training and membership directors.

- Mid-Coast Training Class Director Procedures in COH Appendix D 5.1.d

After much discussion, President Bob Cunningham proposed that item 5.1.d. "Build and maintain a repository of information on completed projects, including objectives, methodology, and results" be tabled for further discussion later. A formal vote was taken. Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs, D'Ann Williams, Debbie Kucera, Bill Burge, Ele Chew, Bob Cunningham, Ray Kirkwood, and Laura Andersen voted "Yes."

- **Board Approval of COH with Changes**

Ray Kirkwood moved to approve the COH with the changes as presented and agreed at today's meeting, July 8, 2023; Bill Burge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed with the following "Yes" votes from Bob Cunningham, Bill Burge, Ele Chew, Julie Hejducek, D'Ann Williams, Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs, Debbie Kucera, Ray Kirkwood, and Laura Andersen.

TMN 2023 Annual Meeting

Registration will open on the first week of August (<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/#Registration>.) The agenda is posted at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/>. Mid-Coast TMN Greg Simmons will be presenting *The Distribution of Mid-Coast Texas Owls: A Spatial Analysis of Patterns in Nature* from 4:30-5:30 pm on Thursday October 12, 2023.

President Bob Cunningham congratulated Jeremy Miller for his initial certification and Amy Nowlin as New Class Representative for over 800 volunteer hours reported already for class of 2023. There are 9 new applicants for 2024 class.

Vice President's Report by Bill Burge and Brigid Berger

MCTMN August General Meeting Announcement

The August Chapter Meeting will be held at Goliad State Park located at 108 Park Road 6, Goliad, TX 77963-3206 on August 12, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Group Dining Hall (GDH), beginning at 10:00 am. Members should stop at the Park Headquarters upon arrival to pick up a parking pass. Park Staff can provide directions to the GDH, or a link to a map of the park is at: https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/park_maps/pwd_mp_p4502_063c.pdf

Chapter Member Wilfred Korth will be hosting the meeting.

The Advanced Training session at the meeting will be a presentation on Natural Dyes. Janie von Dohlen, Chapter Member and longtime weaver and spinner will do a presentation on Natural Dyes made from plants, animals, and minerals that are renewable and sustainable used to dye clothing and yarn. She will also do a demonstration on weaving. Use of Natural Dyes and Weaving were important tasks in the Spanish Missions of Texas.

There will be no zoom option.

Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

A 2023 budget item of \$750 for a storage unit was approved at the May chapter meeting. A storage unit is being rented as of May 17th at Kool Storage for \$93 per month and includes insurance.

Prosperity Bank

- BillPay was added on May 8th and activated May 9th. A successful test was completed as previously discussed at the May meeting. BillPay is now up and running.
- Prosperity Bank was changed to paperless effective with the June statement. A hard copy is 1) printed and kept with the monthly financials, and 2) saved online.
- Paperwork for a new debit card was completed on May 16th. Original debit card was not received. A new card was issued on June 5th and sent to Prosperity Bank for pick up at no charge. New card was picked up June 16th.

The Chapter post office box was renewed through January 2024. Treasurer will compare prices on Rockport Mail Center vs Fulton Post Office. Yearly fee has increased to \$294 at Fulton Post Office.

Treasurer will pursue obtaining a tax-exempt status certificate at Amazon.

MID-COAST TMN
2023 BUDGET

Printed: 16-07-23

CATEGORY	2023 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUALS	Over / (Under)
INCOME				
Dues	Annual dues (\$13/person average x 100 paying members)	1,300.00	979.96	(320.04)
Donations	Samsung (\$40/mo), Amazon Smile, other	600.00	76.52	Includes Amazon Smile 10.91 (523.48)
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 FOR 2024 class)	3,000.00		(3,000.00)
Plant sale	Hummerbird	12,000.00		(12,000.00)
Book Sales	Book Sales	250.00	239.40	12 copies @ 19.95 Guidebook to ANWR (10.60)
Badge Replacement		50.00	14.00	Stapleton (36.00)
TOTAL INCOME		\$17,200.00	\$1,309.88	(15,890.12)
EXPENSES				
Administrative				
VP Expenses	Supplies & other expenses incurred by VP, hotspot plan \$600	800.00		(800.00)
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Expense	laptop case \$25, laptop \$280, monitor \$250, Owl case \$90, Owl Zoom Equip \$1200	2,150.00	1,928.12	Laptop, Monitor, Owl (221.88)
Storage	A/C Storage Unit, Insurance, Incidentals (Shelving, Locks)	750.00	159.31	May and June rental, insurance, padlock (590.69)
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	100.00		(100.00)
Treasurer's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, checks, Treas laptop IT Maint - \$200	300.00	199.99	1 year Geek support (100.01)
Treasurer - Capital Expense	Mouse \$50	50.00		(50.00)
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	100.00		(100.00)
Project Director Expenses	Future Proposed Projects	1,400.00		(1,400.00)
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$139.75 ea) - \$280 name badges - \$13*20=\$260 mailing awards @\$4.50 ea - \$200	750.00	285.00	19 badges plus 1 replacement (465.00)
Communications - Website & IT	website domain name \$15, hosting \$165 & improvements \$270; Wufoo online data support \$350; Zoom license \$150	950.00	179.88	Annual hosting fee (770.12)
Communications - Newsletter/ Gen Marketing	MS Pub fee 9x12=\$108, Const Contact 10x12=\$120 Boosted FB ads 10x12=\$120	348.00	79.89	Microsoft monthly 9@8.81 (268.11)
Communications - Outreach	Monthly outreach event supplies 10x100 + \$50 misc expense	1,050.00	358.35	Winter Texas Appreciation Day Registration 50, Easel 100, Poster 32, Brochures 180 (691.65)
Communications - Outreach - Capital Expense	Outreach table skulls, pelts, etc - \$1784 Geocaching, other gadgets&gizmos \$119	1,903.00	1,750.71	Nature Walk 1701.24 Walmart table 49.47 (152.29)
PO Box Rental	Post Office box rental - Fulton	200.00		(200.00)
Discretionary	Honorariums, TMN annual silent auction contrib, etc	350.00		(350.00)
Total Administrative		\$11,201.00	\$4,941.25	(6,259.75)
Advanced Training	Instructor/speaker fees	250.00	-	(250.00)
Training - Initial				
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	800.00		(800.00)
Books - Purchased	12 Statewide Curriculum (TAMU Press), 20 My Brush Country Backyard	920.00	955.80	35.80
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (2 X \$250 assumed)	500.00	250.00	(250.00)
Venue	Fees	75.00		(75.00)
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	470.00		(470.00)
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	845.00	1,222.41	377.41
Masks	Masks and hand sanitizers	-		-
IT Fees - Withdraw refund		-		-
Total Initial Training		\$3,610.00	\$2,428.21	(1,181.79)

2023 BUDGET *LO ACTUALS dated 6.30.2023

Plant Sale					
HummerBird Fee	For outside space	105.00	150.00	Includes electric	45.00
Plants	Plants purchased	5,000.00	9.85		(4,990.15)
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2 "free days". Total taxable amount.	150.00	452.10	Estimate based on prior year 2021 payment of 130. There was a credit of (170) refunded for 2020 overpayment. Taxable Sales in 2022 were higher than 2021 - budget to actual tax difference of 215. Penalty for late payment 37. 170+215+37 =452.	302.10
POS Supplies	paper/labels/ink \$100, hotspot access fee \$60; barcode font license \$120	280.00			(280.00)
Supplies & Misc expenses	Misc needed for sale	300.00			(300.00)
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	cart wheels - 220; trays - 300	520.00			(520.00)
Total Plant Sale		\$ 6,355.00	\$ 611.95		(5,743.05)
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$21,416.00	\$7,981.41		-\$13,434.59
TOTAL NET INCOME		-\$4,216.00	-\$6,671.53		(2,455.53)
NET PLANT SALE INCOME		\$5,645.00	-\$611.95		(6,256.95)
CAPITAL EXPENSE		\$4,623.00	\$3,678.83		(944.17)

Membership Report by Kris Kirkwood

June 2023 Hourskeeper Report

Chapter Service & Training in June 2023

Volunteer Service	Advanced Training	# Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
776.50	146.25	56	31	\$21,223.25

Service & Training 2023 Year-to-Date Total

Volunteer Service	Advanced Training	# Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
7,367.75	1,045.25	93	50	\$193,499.00

Cumulative—Chapter Inception in 2000 to Present

Volunteer Service	Advanced Training	All-time # Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
233,876.75	24,572.00	326	71	\$5,944,321.25

As of July 1, the Mid-Coast Chapter has a total of 111 members eligible to report hours. 92 members have reported hours since the first of the year—82.8% of the total eligible.

Class of 2023—Class Rep Amy Nowlin can report her class is working and reporting— over 800 VS hours since they began their training. Congratulations to **Jeremy Miller** on his certification as a Texas Master Naturalist.

Recertification 2023—31 members have recertified for 2023, earning the Texas Ecoregions pin. This number is 32.9% of the previously certified membership. See page 2 for the full list.

Initial Training Directors Report by Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs

2023 Program Accomplishments and Observations:

- Completed 10 out of 10 sessions. All sessions were held as scheduled.
- Graduating class size was 17 new members out of 21 original members-in-training. The four carryovers might be interested in returning for 2024.
- Amy Nowlin was elected Class Representative.
- The hybrid Virtual/In-the-field model is well accepted and appreciated.
- Program reorganization of combining Coastal Prairies, Wetlands, and Bay and Barrier Island ecologies from three sessions into two sessions was successful.

- New venues of Lake Texana Park, Powderhorn WMA, and R/V Katy were well received.
- Received good feedback from training venues including desire for participation in 2024 training program.
- 2024 Recommendations and Updates
- Class size continues at 20 MITs, which helps to ensure an adequate class size with expected dropouts.
- We recommend maintaining training fees at \$150.
- 2024 program planning is underway.
- Planning for change in directorship. Jeremy Miller and Kate Geer-Miller (both Class of 2023) have agreed assuming leadership if approved by BOD.
- Continue with hybrid virtual/field model.
- Continue with training ambassador format.
- Planning initial training committee meeting for transition of leadership, tentative 2024 schedule, and ambassador appreciation.
- Graduation is tentatively scheduled for June 1 at Barnhart Ranch along with a member potluck.

Projects Director Report (other than Plant Sale) by Ray Kirkwood

Technical Guidance for Other Organizations

The protocol for Technical Guidance for Other Organizations has been set up. To serve on partners' organization boards or attend their organization meetings, permission is required. In line with MCTMN chapter's mission, one needs to be designated by MCTMN chapter to perform such duties. Online request forms are available at <https://midcoasttmn.wufoo.com/forms/mctmn-request-for-technical-guidance-approval/>. There have been 6 requests followed by responses. Ray Kirkwood will be forming a committee on exploring project reporting methods and accessibility for projects when they are completed. The findings will be presented at the October meeting.

Communications Director Report by D'Ann Williams

Administration:

- Asked how Signup Genius went for everyone for Graduation Potluck and to be on the lookout for it for the Plant Sale
- Will help Secretary for online voting with Survey Monkey to record votes needed between board meetings.
- Looking for passwords for Instagram, etc. to give to Secretary and Technical Advisor

Publicity/Social Media:

- Will be buying ads for the plant sale and activities during the HummerBird Celebration

Newsletter – Bobbie Lee:

- Please email your great works and photos to Bobbie Lee for August Newsletter this month.

Outreach – D'Ann Williams, etc.:

- Secured outreach and butterfly tent area for HummerBird Celebration as well as Bent Oaks Rookery Park
- Will be doing another reprint of the Chapter Brochure with general chapter information on the back and space for notes of places to go to that we talk about with the visitor.

Historian – Kris Kirkwood/Janet Cunningham:

- Kris Kirkwood made no report as Historian
- Janet is looking for someone to take over the scrapbooking role.

Webmaster – Ray Kirkwood:

- Nothing reported at this time

Class Representative Report by Laura Andersen (Class 2022) & Amy Nowlin (Class 2023)

2022 Class Representative Report by Laura Andersen

The class of 2022 comprised initially of eighteen members. Two resigned after the first session, resulting in sixteen members. Fourteen members have recertified. Laura Andersen (2022), Steve Marwitz (2022), and Amy Nowlin (2023) stated that Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalists has been a great venue of service and comradeship of like-minded people that have enriched their lives and others' in Rockport and in Texas.

2023 Class Representative Report by Amy Nowlin

Amy Nowlin was elected by class 2023 and officially became the class representative at the July Board of Directors Meeting with Laura Andersen as a consultant.

Program Evaluation Overview:

Amy Nowlin reported that 11 out of 17 have completed advanced training hours. Five members have certified and 3 have recertified.

Training Evaluations:

Top Rated Field Sessions: ANWR (5), Lake Texana/Brackenridge Park (5), Fennessey Ranch (5)*, Welder Wildlife (4.975), Katy & Mustang Island (4.975), Powderhorn (4.950), Barnhart Ranch (4.9).

Top Rated Virtual Sessions: Riparian Ecology (5)*, Upland Ecology(4.975), Coastal Prairies & Wetlands (4.925), Bay &Barrier Island Ecology (4.875).

SESSION 1: Orientation, Jan. 28, 2023-Aransas County AgriLife Building

No evaluations to report.

SESSION 2: Geology and Ecological Regions, Feb. 2, 2023-Virtual Session

No evaluations to report.

SESSION 3: Archeology & Early Texans, Feb. 4, 2023, Museum of the Coastal Bend

Field Overall Rating: 4.2 (There was no virtual training session for this session therefore ratings were impacted. I suggest removing the question when virtual training is not offered.)

Field Likes:

- Group activity – simulated dig finds.
- The tour of the museum.
- Learning about the local aspect of the early Mid-Coast area.
- The breakdown of the Age terms was useful.
- Learning about the timeline of prehistoric activity in the Coastal Bend.
- Well presented by Pam and Debbie.

Field Recommendations:

- Artifact find checklist (what to do when you make a discovery).
- More time at the museum.
- Adding in a tour of the talked-about mammoth exhibit at the college.
- Provide more information on dating techniques. This information was covered too quickly to write down.
- Showing the Cobalt video before the discussion to avoid repetition. (Video could be shown in a virtual session).

SESSION 4: Mid-Coast Ecology, Feb. 16, 2023 -Virtual; Feb. 18, 2023-ANWR

Virtual Overall Rating: 4.6

Field Overall Rating: 5

Virtual Likes:

- The iNaturalist app training was well-liked.
- Learning about ANWR's history and its changing water levels/land formations.
- Visuals/maps were educational and helpful.
- Learning the geography of the Blackjack peninsula region.

Virtual Recommendations:

- Include an explanation of soil types and how soil hydrology impacts biotic distributions.
- Looking into iNaturalist programs that TMN Mid Coast could utilize (Blitz programs/volunteer activities).
- The role of disturbance in maintaining climax communities should be addressed more directly.

Field Likes:

- Being out in nature/hands-on training.
- Enjoyed the Journaling.
- Dichotomous Keys.
- Whooping Crane discussion.

Field Recommendations: None to report.

SESSION 5: Upland Ecology, Mar. 2, 2023-Virtual; Mar. 4, 2023-Welder Wildlife Ranch

Virtual Overall Rating: 4.975

Field Overall Rating: 4.975

Virtual Likes:

- Bird Identification.
- Learning Soil Types.
- Succession discussion.
- Angie's presentation was greatly enjoyed.

Virtual Recommendations: None to report.

Field Likes:

- Mist Netting /Bird Banding Lesson was well-liked.
- Identifying different soils.
- Collection & Museum Tours.

Field Recommendations:

- Incorporate knowledge of the river and lake and their influences on the refuge.

SESSION 6: Interpreting Nature, Mar. 23, 2023-Virtual; Mar. 25, 2023-Lake Texana/Brackenridge Park

Virtual Overall Rating: 4.4

Field Overall Rating: 5

Virtual Likes:

- The interpretive examples were good.
- Explanation of tangible/intangible was helpful.
- The suggested techniques and demonstrations were helpful.

Virtual Recommendations:

- Introduce the focus of the lesson earlier on.
- Include a video of a brief volunteer training experience.

- Videos were hard to hear (tech issue discovered).

Field Likes:

- The Herpetology discussion was very well-liked. Michael Price received a lot of compliments for his presentation.
- Birding was valued and enjoyable.
- Conducting the interpretation activity with a partner was helpful.

Field Recommendations:

- Continue utilizing the venue.
- Longer herpetology program.

SESSION 7: Riparian Ecology, Apr. 13, 2023-Virtual; Apr. 15, 2023-Fennessey Ranch

*(Evaluations forms may have encountered a technical glitch as not all are accounted for)

Virtual Overall Rating: 5

Field Overall Rating: 5

Virtual Likes:

- History of the ranch.
- Learning about river/land co-ecology.

Virtual Recommendations: None to report.

Field Likes:

- Visuals during the discussion.
- Transect activity, great hands-on activity.
- Learning more about artesian wells
- Exploring the different vegetation.

Field Recommendations: None to report.

SESSION 8: Coastal Prairie and Wetland Ecology, Apr. 27, 2023-Virtual; Apr. 29, 2023-Powderhorn Ranch

Virtual Overall Rating: 4.925

Field Overall Rating: 4.95

Virtual Likes:

- History of the ranch.
- Overview of macroinvertebrates.
- Water Quality Information.
- Learning wetland ecology.

Virtual Recommendations: (More than likely meant for the field session)

- Sessions could have been extended, especially to finish the water quality lessons.
- More time in Powderhorn and Matagorda Bay. Bay systems have not been discussed much in the curriculum.

Field Likes:

- Interactive activities: dip netting for macroinvertebrates, salt marsh plant seek, and water quality testing were all well-liked.
- All the presenters did an amazing job.
- The Powderhorn site was greatly enjoyed.
- Enjoyed learning about the state park projections.

Field Recommendations:

- More time exploring the ranch.
- More time at each lesson.
- Incorporate a state park tour in the session.
- More structure is needed for the grasses lesson.
- More time is needed in the salt marsh.
- Birding or bird mist would be excellent.

SESSION 9: Bay and Barrier Island Ecology, May 18, 2023-Virtual; May 20, 2023-R/V Katy and Mustang Island State Park

Virtual Overall Rating: 4.875

Field Overall Rating: 4.975

Virtual Likes:

- The Coastal Fishery discussion was well-liked.
- Enjoyed the background information on Mustang Island State Park.
- Liked the barrier island discussion by at least 20 minutes.

Virtual Recommendations:

- Extend session time.

Field Likes:

- The seining/trawling activities aboard the RV Katy were well-liked.
- Randy Bissell's session was valuable and a good example of the role of a master naturalist.

Field Recommendations:

- More time needed for beach combing/seeking activity.
- Including a beach clean-up volunteer activity.
- Signe thank you cards from the class would be nice to hand to speakers. (This assumably is meant for all training sessions).

SESSION 10: Native Plants and Graduation, Jun. 1, 2023-Virtual; Jun. 3, 2023-Barnhart Ranch

Virtual Overall Rating: 4.7

Field Overall Rating: 4.9

Virtual Likes:

- Listing native plants and their associated fauna (birds).
- Insect presentation.
- Enjoyed Janet Cunningham's presentation and learning about her successes and failures.

Virtual Recommendations:

- Provide a list of nurseries/native plant events.
- Provide a list of what plants to avoid.
- Provide techniques on how to reduce exotic plants.
- Include more interaction/engagement in the presentations. 2.5 hours is a long time to listen.
- Shorten presentations.

Field Likes:

- Hayride/ranch tour
- Identifying and learning more about the native plants.
- Caliche pit was a good representation of soil lessons.
- Enjoyed Wilfred and Claire's enthusiasm and learning about the ranch's history.
- Great location for birding and identifying wildflowers.

Field Recommendations: None to report.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK:

- Textbooks: Good resources to review as needed. Enjoyed reading. Would like to have the e-book edition. Read the first chapters but did not have the time as time went on.
- Onsite Digital App Evaluations: A more streamlined evaluation would be nice.
- The online evaluation forms were not always accessible.
- Other: Would like to have had a focus on the shallow bays of the Rockport/Aransas area.
- Other: A trip to the Oyster Hatchery (Palacios Marine Agricultural Research) and the Palacios Marine Education Center may be an interest for a future session.
- Funnel volunteer opportunities to the trainees at the end of the program.

July Meeting Attendance

Members present: Laura Andersen(Class Representative 2022), Brigid Berger, Bill Burge (Vice President), Eleanor Chew (Secretary), Bob Cunningham (President), Steve Ferguson, Kathryn Geer-Miller, Julie Hejducek (Treasurer), Patrick Henley, Kris Kirkwood (Hourskeeper), Ray Kirkwood (Projects Director), Debbie Kucera, Bobbie Lee (Newsletter Editor), Steve Marwitz, Jeremy Miller, Amy Nowlin, Sally Scroggs (IT Director), Linda Shirey (Advanced Training Director), Greg Simmons (IT Director), and D'Ann Williams (Communications Director).