

MID-COAST CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11, 2023, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Mid-Coast Chapter's General Membership Meeting was held at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the Coletto Creek Park located at 365 Coletto Park Rd., Victoria, TX 77905.

Program

At 10:00 am, Mid-Coast TMN Debbie Griffith presented an Advanced Training Program on *Shell middens - an open Time Capsule into the lives of archaic Native Americans along the Coastal Bend*. Discover what these sites tell us about the everyday lives of these primitive people as far back as 4,000 years ago. Approved AT is 1 hour.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by President Bob Cunningham. Minutes were recorded by Secretary Ele Chew. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm for 2 hours VS plus travel.

Attendance

Thirty-seven members in good standing and 2 visitors were in attendance.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes from the last General Membership on November 12, 2022 were previously notified to membership and published on the website. There were no corrections. Bill Burge moved to approve the minutes and Wilfred Korth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report Year to Date as of February 11, 2023, was presented. An overview of the 2022 budget and actual spending against the budget was presented. Actual income exceeded the 2022 budget due to a very successful plant sale and a generous donation. Expenses were in line with the budget. Claire Barnhart moved to approve the Treasurer's Report's and Barbara Threatt seconded. Motion carried.

The 2023 Budget approved by the Boards of Directors on January 14, 2023, was presented to the general membership. Discussions were held regarding budgeting for Hybrid Zoom equipment, and Outreach Interpretation supplies, Outreach Interpretation event supplies, publicity/advertising, and future proposed projects. It was noted that there will be several new capital expenses for projects, new equipment for hybrid meetings, plant sale supplies and communications/outreach supplies. With our current very healthy bank balance, these expenditures were noted to be warranted.

One change was made to the budget, raising the capital expense item for the Vice President admin budget for hybrid communication supplies from \$1845 to \$2150.

2023 budget summary: (See [Proposed 2023 Budget](#))

Expected Income: \$17,200

Expected Expense: \$20,666

Expected Net Income: -\$3466

Bank balance as of 1/1/2023: \$45231

Claire Barnhart moved to approve the budget and Barbara Threatt seconded the motion. The membership voted to approve the 2023 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The following AT/VS opportunities were discussed at various times during the meeting, and specific notices will be provided in normal course as they become available or come to fruition:

Whooping Crane Festival, Goliad State Park, Anwar Pollinator Garden, GBRA Education Program, OSO Bay Education Project WILD, Palacios Environmental Round Table by Tull Foundation, Matagorda Bay Birdfest, Aquarium at Rockport Harbor, and Oyster Shell Collection for Oyster Fest.

Old Business

No old business.

Board of Director Reports:

- [President's Report](#)
- [Vice-President's Report](#)
- [Membership Report](#)
- [Initial Training Report](#)
- Advanced Training Director Linda Shirey– No Report
- [Projects Director Report](#)
 - [Plant Sale Report](#)
- [Communications Report](#)
- Past President Claire Barnhart – No Report
- [Class Representative Report](#) Class of 2022
- Chapter Advisor – No Report

[Awards](#)

Adjournment

Bill Burge moved to adjourn the meeting and Wilford Korth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ele Chew

Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

Proposed 2023 Budget

CATEGORY	2023 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2023 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUALS
INCOME				
Dues	Annual dues (\$13/person average x 100 paying members)	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,631.42
Donations	Samsung (\$40/mo), Amazon Smile, other	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$5,503.22
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 FOR 2024 class)	\$3,000.00	\$2,550.00	\$3,750.00
Plant sale	Hummerbird	\$12,000.00	\$8,300.00	\$13,137.92
Book Sales	Book Sales	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$265.62
Badge Replacement		\$50.00	\$0.00	\$52.00
Live Oak/Red Bay - Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$17,200.00	\$13,050.00	\$24,340.18
EXPENSES				
Administrative				
VP Expenses	Supplies & other expenses incurred by VP	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$57.97
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Expe	laptop case \$25,laptop \$280, monitor \$250, Owl case \$90, Owl Zoom Equip \$1200	\$1,845.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$43.29
Treasurer's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, checks, Treas laptop IT Maint - \$200	\$300.00	\$220.00	\$221.55
Treasurer - Capital Expense	Mouse \$50	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$276.00
Project Director Expenses	Monarch Tagging Project - \$200 Oyster Reef Restoration Project - \$1000 Project Contingency Funds - \$200	\$1,400.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$139.75 ea) - \$280 name badges - \$13*20=\$260 mailing awards @\$4.50 ea - \$200	\$750.00	\$810.00	\$470.07
Communications - Website & IT	\$270; Wufo online data support \$350; Zoom license \$150	\$950.00	\$948.00	\$900.63
Communications - Newsletter/ Gen Mark	MS Pub fee 9x12=\$108, Const Contact 10x12=\$120 Boosted FB ads 10x12=\$120	\$348.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications - Outreach	printing, website, other supplies, other misc expense	\$1,050.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Communications - Outreach - Capital Ex	Outreach table skulls, pelts, etc - \$1784 Geocaching, other gadgets&gizmos \$119	\$1,903.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PO Box Rental	Post Office box rental - Fulton	\$200.00	\$120.00	\$191.44
Discretionary	Honariums, TMN annual silent auction contrib, etc	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$119.28
Live Oak/Red Bay		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reconciliation Discrepancy		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Storage Shed Rental		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Storage Shed Purchase - Capital Expense		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Administrative		\$9,546.00	\$3,023.00	\$2,280.23
Advanced Training	Instructor/speaker fees	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Training - Initial				
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Books - Purchased	12 Statewide Curriculum (TAMU Press), 20 My Brush Country Backyard	\$920.00	\$1,087.30	\$1,107.90
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (2 X \$250 assumed)	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$750.00
Venue	Fees	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	\$470.00	\$552.08	\$0.00
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	\$845.00	\$818.25	\$966.55
Masks	Masks and hand sanitizers	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
IT Fees - Withdraw refund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Initial Training		\$3,610.00	\$4,232.63	\$3,399.45
Plant Sale				
HummerBird Fee	For outside space	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00
Plants	Plants purchased	\$5,000.00	\$3,200.00	\$5,195.20
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2 "free days". Total taxable amount	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$132.21
POS Supplies	paper/labels/ink \$100, hotspot access fee \$60; barcode font license \$120	\$280.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
POS Hardware/Software - Capital Expen	Square Hardware & hotspot	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,025.82
Supplies & Misc expenses	Misc needed for sale	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$328.16
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	cart wheels - 220; trays - 300	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Plant Sale		\$ 6,355.00	\$ 5,405.00	\$7,036.39
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$19,761.00	\$12,910.63	\$12,716.07
TOTAL NET INCOME		-\$2,561.00	\$139.37	\$11,624.11
NET PLANT SALE INCOME		\$5,645.00	\$2,895.00	\$6,101.53
CAPITAL EXPENSE		\$4,318.00	\$1,100.00	
END OF YEAR BANK BALANCE				\$45,231.01

President's Report by Bob Cunningham

Encourage and thank membership for timely dues payment by end of January per TMN's new Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) as change from end of March per Chapter's own Policies & Procedures Manual (P&P).

The Board will consider revisions to the Chapter's Policies & Procedures Manual (P&P) to comply with new Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) framework and Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP) issued by TMN effective January 1, 2023. Timeline is for consideration by the Board at April 8th meeting then presenting to Chapter membership for approval at May 13th meeting. Contact Kris Kirkwood or Bob Cunningham if interested in working on this project or providing input. [Not mentioned in remarks.] Also in April, the Board will consider creating a position for Information Technology Director and seek candidate(s) from membership with appropriate skills and interest, with responsibility for managing laptops, hybrid meeting equipment, backups, updates, and other hardware and software, owned by the Chapter and used by members. Interested members should contact VP Bill Burge.

Later in the year at the July 8th meeting, the Board will consider long-range planning issues, including succession plan for transitioning leadership to replace President, Vice-President, and Treasurer resigning this year, and for multiple responsibilities in running the annual Native Plant Sale.

The TMN Tuesday presentation in January provides an overview of the State program, and members can earn 1 hour of AT for watching online. The TMN Tuesday presentation on February 14th addresses Texas Eco-Regions illustrated on this year's recertification pin.

Introduce presentation by Treasurer (Charla Ingalls) of the Budget for 2023 and help field questions from membership.

Vice President's Report by Bill Burge and Brigid Berger

Hybrid Meeting

Meeting OWL is a hybrid meeting equipment that can capture everything with a 360-degree camera, mic, and speaker. Good internet service is necessary to facilitate the OWL. A hotspot device that was purchased with the 2022 plant sale can be used. Bill Burge and Brigid Berger will look into hotspot plans. The cost of Meeting OWL and hotspot plans is budgeted at \$2150.

Next General Meeting on May 13, 2023

Brigid Berger announced the next General Meeting on Saturday, May 13, at 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. The location is at Goose Island SP, Recreation Hall. Speakers are Sam Wolfe on Shorebird Research & Identification and Sara Rock on Shorebirds of Goose Island SP. An optional birding field trip will follow the business meeting. Binoculars will be available for use during the field trip.

Membership Report by Dee Mahaffey

January 2023 Hourskeeper Report

Chapter Service & Training in January 2023

Volunteer Hours	Advanced Training	# Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
959.50	39.75	40	24	\$22,982.75

Service & Training 2023 Year-to-Date Total

Volunteer Hours	Advanced Training	# Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
959.50	39.75	40	24	\$22,982.75

Cumulative—Chapter Inception in 2000 to Present

Volunteer Hours	Advanced Training	All-time # Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
227,288.75	23,301	338	73	\$5,763,564.25

As of February 5, the Mid-Coast Chapter has 21 Members-in-Training and 99 TMN- Active members. Changes:

- Rachel Cheyne has moved and will be transferring to another chapter.
- Lauren DeLeon has moved to another state
- Mark & Kim Gaddy have moved and requested to be marked TMN-Inactive
- Frank and Pamela Hayes requested to be marked TMN-Inactive
- Jane Moore has moved to Oregon
- Martha Sterne has transferred to the Rio Grande Valley Chapter

The State Program's Chapter Operating Handbook Framework states: "Dues shall be payable on or before January 31 each calendar year. If dues are not paid by January 31 each calendar year, then all privileges afforded a TMN member are rescinded until dues are paid. A TMN member who is not current in the payment of dues will be considered inactive and categorized as such in VMS."

The Treasurer is still collecting dues and at last report, 19 members have not yet paid dues or responded to as to whether they intend to remain members of the chapter.

A total of 69 formerly certified members recertified for 2022. No one has yet recertified in 2023. The recertification pin for 2023 is the ecological regions map of Texas.

Class of 2022—Eight of the 14 members of the class have completed initial certification. Class members have until June 1, 2023, to complete certification.

Initial Training Directors Report by Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs

2022 Program

All 10 sessions were held as scheduled. Great weather. Native Plants / Graduation was held at Barnhart Ranch. Graduating class size was 14 associate members. Laura Andersen was elected Class

Representative. Her evaluation summary noted high scores, but there is always room for improvement.

2023 Program

- Current class size = 21 members-in-training
- 16 Aransas, 1 Calhoun, 1 Jackson, 1 Cuero, 1 Nueces, 1 Wharton
- 12 Female, 9 Male
- The program is 1/3 complete.
- Graduation is on June 3, 2023, at Barnhart Ranch.
- Includes a chapter-wide potluck and optional member hayride.
- Continue with hybrid virtual / field model.
- Continue to expand the role and utilization of session training ambassadors to help distribute the initial training workload and increase MITs exposure to more chapter members.
- The training venues are in 8 counties (including Nueces). All session dates and venues are finalized and will include ~70 hours. The schedule is online under Initial Training
- BOD approved changes to further enhance the training program include:
- Interpreting Nature moved to Texana Community Education Center
- Bay and Wetland Ecology, Barrier Island Ecology and Coastal Prairie / Wetland Ecology have been consolidated into two sessions. The new sessions are Coastal Prairie and Wetland Ecology at Powderhorn WMA, and Bay and Barrier Island Ecology on-board the R/V Katy and at Mustang Island State Park.
- Class of 2022 Members are being reminded of sessions they missed and encouraged to make them up. Please let IT Directors know if you plan to make up a session.

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

We currently have a list of 168 projects approved and available. The latest projects approved are:

- Birding at Powderhorn WMA, April 12. 10 slots are available. Contact Brigid Berger for more information.
- LCRA Matagorda Nature Park Summer Camp, June 12. 4 positions available. Contact Brigid Berger for more information.
- Project MartinWatch- Project MartinWatch (PMW) is a continent-wide Citizen-Science project designed to help landlords better manage their colony as well as help the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) track the reproductive biology of Purple Martins. Information collected includes nesting dates, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many nestlings survive. The data is used to study the current conditions of the Purple Martin population and determine how it may be changing over time as a result of habitat variations, climate change, and the introduction of non-native species. This is a project for individuals to participate in if interested contact Brigid Berger for more information.

Future Projects in planning stages:

- Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Restoration. This will probably be a long-term, intense project requiring many participants.
- Monarch Monitoring-this may be a multifaceted effort that develops data about both transient butterflies and resident (non-migratory) populations of Monarchs.

Plant Sale Report by Debbie Minns

The 2023 Plant Sale is kicking off with creating a planning and coordinating team.

Plant Sale Manager – Debbie Minns

Propagation Coordinator – Liz Smith

Pre-order Coordinator – Cindy Hielscher and Janet Coy Assistant

Financial and Inventory - Charla Ingalls

Logistics Coordinator – Bill Burge and Gary James Assistant

Volunteer Coordinator – Vacancy

Education Coordinator – Vacancy

Trainees in all positions wanted to ensure smooth transitions as changes occur.

The above volunteers are needed now, and there will be lots of other opportunities for volunteering closer to the sale. Currently, we are seeking propagators to grow plants for the sale.

Communications Director Report by D'Ann Williams

Publicity/Social Media:

- Love is in the Air Rookery Party is getting action on Facebook and the Rockport Pilot had it in the paper 02/10
- Will start working on Rookery Signage at the Rockport Beach Palapa in the coming weeks.

Newsletter:

- Next issue is this month!
- Please send your articles and ideas to Bobbie Lee of all the great work you are doing!
ANAKIRI@GMAIL.COM
- Will be using Chapter Brochure to highlight one a month - all the great sites in our 8 county chapter

Outreach:

- Team interacted with around 1250 Winter Texans
- Passed out Chapter Brochure and CBBEP - Bird Identifier Pamphlet.
- I have brochures for persons from each county to take to Tourist Areas to put out
- Tourism offices, Chambers, Visitor Centers, etc.
- Next Outreach Event – Feb. 18th at Bent Oak Rookery Park with Ranger Sara from 10:00 to Noon. Have a nesting sign several of us are working on, nest building activity, spotting scopes. Join us! Weather should be nice. Bay Education Center is willing to be our bad weather alternative location moving forward for our 3rd Saturday engagement.
- Let me know if you'd like to join our interpretation team/email distribution.

Historian/Scrapbook:

Nothing new to report

Webmaster:

Nothing new to report

Class Representative Report by Laura Andersen

SK Embroidery located at 524 E. Market Street, Rockport, TX 78382, Phone number (361) 450-0841 has been the business approved by the TMN Program Assistant State Director. Our Mid-Coast Chapter members can take their personal items, shirts, hats, etc. to SK Embroidery.

February Meeting Attendance

Members present: Claire Barnhart, Brigid Berger, Bill Burge, Ele Chew, Kayla Clark, Bob Cunningham, Kathryn Geer-Miller, Judy Goodner, Ken Goodner, Debbie Griffith, Patrick Hartigan, Julie Hejducek, Mike Hejducek, Terri Hildreth, Charla Ingalls, Catherine Koenig, Wilford Korth, Debbie Kucera, Bobbie Lee, Steve Marwitz, Janet McCrea, Jeremy Miller, Amy Nowlin, Diane Pletcher, Janet Price, Carla Rinche, Marisa Rinche, Debbi Roskey, Karen Lee Rystad, Robyn Savage, Stephen Simmons, Neli Spurrell, Susie Starnes, Marilyn Stewart, Linda Swickheimer, Barbara Threatt, D'Ann Williams

Guests: Peg Scrani, Minnesota Master Naturalist, and Charlie Belaire

Awards:

Initial Certification enamel dragonfly & plaque:

Awarded: Kayla Clark, Class of 2022. Not present to receive awards: Class of 2020—Sally Crofutt, Larry Green. Class of 2022— Frank Hayes, Janie Waghorne

Milestone Awards

Bronze 250-Hour Milestone Pin—Awarded: Debbi Roskey. Not present to receive awards: Laura Andersen, Carla Haskett, Vickie Wilson

Silver 500-Hour Milestone Pin—Awarded: D'Ann Williams

Gold 1,000-Hour Milestone Pin—Awarded: Patrick Hartigan

2021 Recertifications—Sideoats Grama Pin—

Awarded: Bob Friedrichs. Not present: Donna Fiarkoski, Carla Haskett

2022 Recertifications (Lightning Whelk pin)

Awarded: Claire Barnhart, Laura Clark, Monica Clark, Bob Friedrichs, Judy Goodner, Cathy Koenig, Bobbie Lee, Steve Marwitz, Dora Ann Ortego, Diane Pletcher, Carla Rinche, Marisa Rinche, KarenLee Rystad Robyn Savage, Liz Smith. Not present: Karen Barton, Karen Benson, Rebecca Bootzin, Rachel Cheyne, Maureen Crocker, Donna Fiarkoski, Sandra Garcia, Carla Haskett, Greg Nelson, Phil & Rebecca Stapleton, Vickie Wilson

Service against All Odds through Grit and Distance

Awarded: Bob Friedrichs, Debbie Kucera, Robyn Savage, Neli Spurrell. Not present (2020) Larry Henneke, Melanie Konarik. (2021) Karen Benson, James Coquat, Claudia Dorn, Donna Fiarkoski, Kim & Mark Gaddy, Carla Haskett, Vickie Wilson