

**MINUTES**  
**MID-COAST CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST**  
**MAY 11, 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. General Membership Meeting met hybrid remote and in-person at 10:00 am on May 11, 2024, at Welder Wildlife Foundation located at 10429 Welder Wildlife, Sinton, TX 78387.

**Program**

At 10:00 a.m., Vice President Brigid Berger presented an oral history video project and a tribute to two esteemed chapter members, Kris and Ray Kirkwood, who were awarded the first-ever Leadership Award. The approved AT with the Chapter Meeting is 3.5 hours.

Three videos have been added to the Texas Master Naturalist Mid-Coast Chapter YouTube channel, 1.) the oral history project about the Kirkwoods, 2.) the Zoom recording of the presentation of the awards given to the Kirkwoods at the May 11th chapter meeting, 3.) the Tribute to Kris & Ray Kirkwood. Below are the links.

Being the Change: Kris & Ray Kirkwood, Texas Master Naturalists

[https://youtube/TkG\\_h-YqA6k](https://youtube/TkG_h-YqA6k)

Presentation of Awards

[https://youtube/XelbtOz58Bw?si=1bVDOUK2PAwZN\\_pv](https://youtube/XelbtOz58Bw?si=1bVDOUK2PAwZN_pv)

Tribute to Kris & Ray Kirkwood

<https://youtube/3IWNHOOOIzg>

**Business Meeting**

The business meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m. by President Steve Ferguson. Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. for 0.75 hours CB: Chapter Business plus individual travel time.

**Meeting Attendance**

Thirty-one members in good standing and five guests were in attendance.

### **Secretary's Report by Ele Chew**

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. General Membership Meeting met hybrid remote and in-person at 10:00 a.m. on February 10, 2024, at Wings Rescue Center located at 324 W Third St, Rockport, TX 78382.

At 10:00 a.m., Greg Simmons (Class of 2019) presented "The Distribution of Mid-Coast Texas Owls: A Spatial Analysis of Patterns in Nature," and Linda Shirey (Class of 2013), Laura Andersen (Class of 2022), and Chris Andersen (Class of 2023) presented Wings Rescue Center Ambassador Birds.

The minutes were posted on the chapter website on February 23, 2024. Claire Barnhart moved to approve the minutes as posted; Wilfred Korth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

### **Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek**

Treasurer's Report as of: 04/30/2024

Beginning balance as of 04/01/2024	\$47,023.35
Less cleared items	-3,278.83
Less outstanding items	-0-
Bank balance as of 04/30/2024:	\$43,744.52

*Bank reconciliation completed 05/01/2024.*

*Quicken Backup complete 05/01/2024.*

Total YTD Revenue as of 04/30/2024	\$3,244.50
Less YTD Total Expenses as of 04/30/2024	3,003.75
Net YTD Income/(Loss) as 04/30/2024	\$ 240.75

The Chapter has received 3 generous donations in the month of April totaling \$1,700, putting the Chapter in a Net Income position. Generally, the Chapter is in a Net Loss position until after the plant sale.

Reminder of address change: Please change records from PO Box 760 to PO Box 761, Fulton TX 78358.

## Board of Director Reports:

- [President's Report](#) — TMN Annual Meeting, donation to Fulton Learning Center for the Junior Naturalist Program, reorganization of technology branch
- [Vice-President's Report](#) — Locations of future meetings
- [Treasurer's Report](#) — Budget Actuals 04302024
- [Membership Report](#) — Current dues paid member numbers, volunteer and advanced training hours for May 2024, IT wait list
- [Advanced Training Director](#) — Number of ATs approved in 2024
- [Initial Training Report](#) — Progress of Initial Training
- [Projects Report](#) — Overview & Ongoing Projects
  - Plant Sale Manager Report by Debbie Minns
  - Plant Sale Propagation Coordinator Report by Liz Smith
- [Communications Report](#) — publicity, outreach, newsletter, social media, historian, website  
Nothing to report.
- [Technology Report](#) — No report
- [Past President Report](#) — Nomination Committee
- [Class Representative Report](#) — No report
- [Chapter Advisor Report](#) — Monofilament recycling initiative in Matagorda, TX, converting cattle pastureland into natural wildlife habitat in Jackson County

## Old Business

No old business.

## New Business

### Introduction of Dale and Gail Hughling, New Transfer Members

Dale and Gail transferred from the Texas Central Chapter. Dale is a major Texas Master Naturalist VMS administrator.

### BioBlitz Project at McAlister Acres of Solitude

Historian Wilfred Korth reported that eight MCTMNs participated in the BioBlitz project at McAlister Acres of Solitude in DeWitt County on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. In 1.5 hours, they documented 122 different species with more to still come as everyone downloads their observations. Our next workday will be on June 12, depending on outdoor temperatures.

The McAlister daughters expressed their appreciation with a box of treats.

**No Mow Roads in Aransas County**

Charlie Belaire has been asked to submit a list of priority “No-Mow” County Roads in Aransas County. The present list contains Airport Road, Port Bay Road, Twelfth Street, Rattlesnake Point Road, and Cape Velero Drive. Narrow strips adjacent to the pavement may still be mowed. Except for areas with safety concerns, the ROW (Right of Way) will remain unmowed to allow native vegetation to reestablish year-round. Please send your thoughts to the following email address: [cbelaire123@yahoo.com](mailto:cbelaire123@yahoo.com).

**Adjournment**

Bill Burge moved to adjourn, and Brigid Berger seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ele Chew

Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

## REPORTS AND AUXILIARY MATERIAL TO THE MINUTES

### **President's Report by Steve Ferguson**

#### **TMN Annual Meeting**

TMN's 2024 annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 24th through Sunday, October 27th in San Marcos. Registration will open the first week of August. The deadline for presenter proposals is May 15th. Hotel bookings will be open shortly. Check the TMN website for details.

#### **Donation to Fulton Learning Center for the Junior Naturalist Program**

On April 22nd MCTMN presented a gift of \$5,000 to the Fulton Learning Center/RFISD Education Foundation in honor of Kris and Ray Kirkwood. Our donation was given to specifically support the Junior Naturalist Program that was developed by Martha McLeod. Our support was made possible by a donation to the Chapter by member Liz Branch.

#### **Resignation of Technology Director Steve Simmons**

Steve has taken on a technology business opportunity in Europe and has resigned from the MCTMN Technology Director position. However, he will remain as a member of our chapter. The technology branch will be reorganized with a Technology Director overseeing subcommittees. The structure will be similar to the organizational structure of the communication branch chaired by Director D'Ann Williams. During the interim, the following people will take charge: Zoom – Vice President Brigid Berger and Mike Hejducek, Website – Secretary Ele Chew, Finance through Wufoo – Treasurer Julie Hejducek.

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### **Vice President's Report by Brigid Berger**

VP efforts for the past 3 months have been centered around the May Chapter meeting and program at Welder Wildlife Foundation. The location and program for the August 10th meeting are to be determined.

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# Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

## Budget Actuals 04302024

CATEGORY	2024 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2024 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 04/30/2024	Under / (Over)
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Dues	Annual dues (\$15/person average x 100 paying members)	1,500.00	819.96	680.04
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 @\$150 FOR 2024 class)	3,000.00	450.00	2,550.00
Plant sale	Hummerbird	13,000.00	-	13,000.00
Book Sales	Book Sales to ANWR	600.00	179.55	420.45
Badge Replacement	Cost to replace badge	50.00	-	50.00
Misc Other	Unsolicited donations less than \$250	50.00	1,794.99	(1,744.99)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$18,200.00</b>	<b>\$3,244.50</b>	<b>\$14,955.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Administrative</b>				
VP Expenses	Supplies & other expenses incurred by VP	200.00	-	200.00
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Exp	No capitol expected	-	-	-
Storage Rental	kool storage, \$93/month	1,200.00	372.00	828.00
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	100.00	-	100.00
Treasurer's Supplies	Ink \$54, checks \$30, \$15 pen for Hummingbird Festival	200.00	-	200.00
Treasurer - Capital Expense	Laptop Lenovo IdeaPad 3 i5 Tentative (no charge for Microsoft products) Office Depot Placeholder	550.00	-	550.00
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	100.00	-	100.00
Project Director Expenses	Placeholder	500.00	-	500.00
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$139.75 ea) - \$280 name badges - \$13*20=\$260 add \$18-\$20 for new pins \$350 recognition pins	910.00	337.23	572.77
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, Transitioning \$300	2,200.00	199.93	2,000.07
Communications - Newsletter/ Gen Marketing	Newsletter: MS Pub fee 9x12=\$120, Const Contact 10x12=\$120 Boosted FB ads 10x12=\$120 \$306 plus General Marketing Signup Genius \$211, Boosted FB add for Hummerfest \$200 Misc 100	598.00	-	598.00
Communications - Outreach	Monthly outreach event supplies 10x\$100 misc 50	769.00	-	769.00
Communications - Outreach - Capital Expense	Red Hawk skull \$150, Spoonbill skull \$172, Woodpecker skull \$144, Cardinal skull \$105, Shipping \$100, Bin \$100	771.00	-	771.00
PO Box Rental	Post Office box rental - Fulton 12 months @ \$146	150.00	146.00	4.00
Discretionary	\$150 annual donation to TMN, \$200 non standard honorarium	350.00	-	350.00
Square Expense		-	20.90	(20.90)
<b>Total Administrative</b>		<b>\$8,598.00</b>	<b>\$1,076.06</b>	<b>\$7,521.94</b>
<b>Advanced Training</b>	Instructor/speaker fees	<b>\$250.00</b>	-	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Training - Initial</b>				
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	850.00	-	850.00
Books - Purchased	19 Statewide Criculum (TAMU Press, \$665), 19 My Brush Country Backyard, \$456	1,121.00	1,067.57	53.43
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (2 X \$250 assumed)	250.00	-	250.00
Venue	Fees	75.00	-	75.00
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	0.00	-	-
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	904.15	558.61	345.54
Scholarship	Eamark for potential 2025 class applicants	-	-	-
Misc	Ambassador/training committee pizza meeting	150.00	-	150.00
<b>Total Initial Training</b>		<b>\$3,350.15</b>	<b>\$1,626.18</b>	<b>\$1,723.97</b>
<b>Plant Sale</b>				
HummerBird Fee	For outside space	150.00	-	150.00
Plants	Plants purchased	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2 "free days".	302.00	301.51	0.49
POS Supplies	Labels \$100	100.00	-	100.00
Supplies & Misc expenses	Prints \$200, Misc \$100	300.00	-	300.00
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	Carrier trays - 300	300.00	-	300.00
<b>Total Plant Sale</b>		<b>\$6,152.00</b>	<b>\$301.51</b>	<b>\$5,850.49</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$18,350.15</b>	<b>\$3,003.75</b>	<b>\$15,346.40</b>
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>		<b>-\$150.15</b>	<b>\$240.75</b>	<b>-\$390.90</b>
<b>NET PLANT SALE INCOME</b>		<b>\$6,848.00</b>	<b>-\$301.51</b>	<b>\$7,149.51</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$1,621.00</b>	-	<b>\$1,621.00</b>
<b>RECONCILED BALANCE PER PROSPERITY BANK 04/30/2024</b>			<b>\$43,744.52</b>	
Less Contingency Reserve			<b>-\$20,000.00</b>	
Less Restricted Donation to honor Kirkwoods (cleared April)			-	
<b>ADJUSTED BALANCE AVAILABLE 04/30/2024</b>			<b>\$23,744.52</b>	

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### **Membership Director Report by Dee Mahaffey**

In the month of April 2024, the chapter has completed 1273.75 hours of volunteer services and 160.75 hours of advanced training, with 72 members reporting on 28 different opportunities for a value of \$32,993.50. As of April 30th, our chapter has 118 members eligible to report hours, with 98 members with reported hours, which is 84.5% of the total membership.

There have been 4,837.5 hours of volunteer service across 43 different opportunities and 687.5 hours of advanced training reported so far in 2024.

There are 20 applicants currently on the waiting list for the 2025 Initial Training Class.

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### **Advanced Training Director Report by Debbie Kucera**

There have been 64 approved AT's so far this year.

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### **Initial Training Directors Report by Jeremy Miller & Kate Geer-Miller**

Of the 18 members of the 2024 training class, 17 are expected to graduate. All but one of those 17 have already completed their required training hours.

We will be completing the ninth training session today (Saturday, May 11) in Port Aransas for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology.

The final session is our Native Plants and Graduation at Barnhart Ranch on June 1. This includes a potluck open to the full chapter to welcome the new members.

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### **Projects Director Report by Greg Simmons**

#### **Plant Sale Manager Report by Debbie Minns**

#### **Hummer Celebration Dates: September 19-22, Plant Sale September 20-22, 2024**

**Location Change:** Hummer vendors will be inside a large hangar at the Aransas County Airport.

Organizers have The Plant Sale located on a large grassy area by the entrance of the hangar. Access to electricity will be provided via an extension cord. Water will be available. The Education and Outreach will be in the same area outside of the hangar.

**Set up:** We will have extra time/days to set up the sale. The airport is gated which should provide security so we can set up once and leave tables/plants overnight throughout the sale.

#### **Challenges and recommendations for solutions:**

**Advertising:** It is uncertain whether the Vendor Segment will be as well attended because it is

going to be separated from the speakers' location. I recommend that we increase our advertising/marketing plan to help ensure a successful sale.

**Plants:** It will be problematic to transfer plants from our former staging area to the airport. We will be able to have our plant order from NTN delivered directly to the airport. Pre-orders will be picked up during the plant sale hours. We should have lots of space to separate those from the sale.

Because of the uncertainty, we are encouraging more member propagated plants this year so that we can potentially cut back on our plant order. Liz Smith is working with propagators to have a strategic plan. We could use Native Texas Nursery exclusively this year and eliminate the trip to Heeps. We should be able to increase our prices and still be competitive with commercial nurseries.

**Location:** Our location is by the hanger so that we will get shade from the building in the afternoon. We will need tents again this year for morning shade and protection in the event of rain.

### **May 2024 Plant Sale Propagation Coordinator Report by Liz Smith**

[lizsmithcoastal@gmail.com](mailto:lizsmithcoastal@gmail.com)

Thanks to the 13 MCTMN members (11% of total membership! that committed to growing native plants for our annual Plant Sale in April! We have enough plants being grown to produce the target number of plants for 18 of the 44 species on our 2024 list, with an additional 7 species partially covered. Special thanks to three members who consistently produce large amounts of three popular species!

We can all help in several ways: 1) growing plants from the remaining list; 2) learning how to grow plants with guidance from an experienced propagator; 3) provide your propagation expertise to other members as requested; 4) offer to tend to plants for short period of time when our propagators take off on an adventure; and, 5) provide cuttings of target species growing in your landscape for others to propagate.

We will be sending out a list of species still needed to fulfill our propagation goals soon. By contributing in these activities, we hope to exceed our goal of member participation of 25% for 2024 and reduce the cost of purchasing plants for our annual fundraiser!

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### **Communications Director Report by D'Ann Williams**

Nothing to report

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**Past President Report by Bob Cunningham**

**2024 Nomination Committee for Selection of Officer Candidates and Recommendations of Director Candidates**

The process will begin to form a nomination committee for the selection officer candidates and recommendations for director candidates. The president will appoint members to the committee, which will be chaired by the immediate past president.

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**Class Representative Report by Sandra Lee**

No Report

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**Chapter Advisor Report by Amy Nowlin**

Margie Wilkins is launching a monofilament recycling initiative in Matagorda, Texas. Thanks to my affiliation with Texas Sea Grant, I supplied her with six bins. She'll oversee these bins as part of her volunteer service commitment. Others keen on assisting are welcome. For those interested in installing more bins along the coast, feel free to reach out to me for support.

Steve Ferguson, Steve Marwitz, and I are in discussion with a landowner in Jackson County to offer guidance on converting his cattle pastureland into a natural wildlife habitat.

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## Meeting Attendance

Claire Barnhart, Carla Belaire, Allan Berger, Brigid Berger (Vice President), Bill Burge, Ele Chew (Secretary), David Clark, Denise Crane, Gary Crane, Bob Cunningham (Zoom) (Past President), Steve Ferguson (President), Cynthia Hanifen, Carla Haskett, Julie Hejducek (Treasurer), Mike Hejducek, Patrick Henley, Cindy Hielscher(VMS Administrator), Dale Hughling, Gail Hughling, Charla Ingalls, Roger Ingalls, Kris Kirkwood, Ray Kirkwood, Catherine Koenig, Wilfred Korth (Historian) Debbie Kucera (AT Director), Dee Mahaffey (Membership Director), Janet McCrea, Debbie Minns (Plant Sale Manager), Amy Nowlin (Chapter Advisor), Linda Shirey, Liz Smith, Janie von Dohlen, Vickie Wilson (Zoom)

Guest: Charlie Belaire, Patti Chatterson, TJ Fox, Ellen Reisinger, Steve Reisinger

## Awards

**Leadership Award**-Awards presented: Kris Kirkwood and Ray Kirkwood

**Initial Certification Enamel Dragonfly & Plaque** - Not present to receive awards: Sally Crofutt and Larry Green (2020), Frank Hayes (2022), David Clark (present but still needs award) and Martha McLeod (2023)

### Milestone Awards

**Bronze 250-Hour Milestone Pin**-Awards Presented: Carla Haskett, Liz Smith, Steve Ferguson. Not Present: Jeremy Miller and Janette Sims

**Silver 500-Hour Milestone Pin** – Not Present: Karen Barton and Steve Simmons

**Gold 1000-Hour Milestone Pin** – Award Presented: Cathy Koenig. Not Present: Bob Cunningham

**Polished Silver 2500-Hour Milestone Pin**

**Gold w/ruby 4000-Hour Milestone Pin & President's Award** – Award Presented - Linda Shirey

**Gold w/diamond 5000-Hour Milestone Pin & Lifetime membership/no dues award** – Not Presented pending delivery from State TMN: Linda Shirey

**Gold w/emerald 10000-Hour Award Pin**

### Recertifications

**2021 Sideoats Grama Pin**-Award Presented: Carla Haskett

**2022 Lightning Whelk Pin** – Award Presented: Carla Haskett. Awards not yet presented: Karen Barton, Karen Benson, Rebecca Bootizin, Maureen Crocker

**2023 Texas Ecoregions Pin** - Awards Presented: Carla Belaire, Sandra Garcia, Melissa Guthrie, Carla Haskett, Cathy Koenig, Dee Mahaffey, Ernie Schertz. Awards not yet presented: Karen Benson, Shelby Bessette, Kayla Clark, Maureen Crocker, Bob Friedrichs, Barbara Mathis, Greg Nelson, Susie Stames, D'Ann Williams

**2024 Diamondback Rattlesnake Pin**-Awards Presented: Bill Burge, Elle Chew, Steve Ferguson, Cathy Koenig, Janet McCrea, Linda Shirey. Awards not yet presented: Debra Dahms-Nelson, Bobby Garner, Patrick Hartigan, Barbara Mathis, Robyn Savage, Sally Scroggs, Greg Simmons

**Service against All Odds through Grit and Distance Pins 2021**—Award Presented: Carla Haskett.

Note: As Cindy has now transitioned into the Hourskeeper and Awards roles, she is still seeking to meet all of you. If you were not mentioned and/or believe you have a pending receipt of an award not listed, please send her an email at [hourskeeper@midcoast-tmn.org](mailto:hourskeeper@midcoast-tmn.org).

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