

MINUTES

MID-COAST CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

AUGUST 9, 2025 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. General Membership Meeting met hybrid remote, and in-person at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 12, 2025, at the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension-Auditorium located at 185 Henry Barber Way, Port Lavaca, Texas.

Program

Diane Wilson, Executive Director of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper, and Steve Raabe, Trustee, provided an overview of the history of the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust at the AT presentation. RJ Shelly, Calhoun County Marine Agent; Matt Chastin, Principal and Senior Coastal Ecologist at Compass Environmental Solutions; and Allan Berger, Chairperson of the San Antonio Bay Partnership, discussed the projects funded by the Trust.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M. by President Steve Ferguson. Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M. for 2 hours CB: Chapter Business plus individual travel time. The AT presentation was 2.25 hours, spanning from 10:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.

Meeting Attendance

There was a total of 44 attendees, of which one was a guest. Forty-three members in good standing, of which sixteen participated by Zoom, were in attendance. Nine officers and directors formed a quorum.

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 Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the University of Houston-Victoria Library, 3006 N. Ben Wilson St., Victoria, TX 77901.

The business meeting was called to order at 11:30 A.M. by President Steve Ferguson. Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M. for 2.5 hours CB: Chapter Business plus individual travel time.

There was a total of thirty-three attendees, including one guest. Thirty-two members in good standing, of which eleven participated by Zoom were in attendance. Nine officers and directors formed a quorum.

Program

The AT "Trash Free Gulf" presentation was 1.25 hours, spanning from 10:00 AM to 11:15 A.M. A habitat-improvement/resource-management service opportunity took place from 7:30 -9:30 A.M. at Grover's Bend, Riverside Park, Victoria. Separately, AT "Trash Free Gulf" presentation by Jay Kleberg & "Keep Victoria Beautiful" by Christy Youker followed at 10 A.M. at the UVH Library.

The minutes were posted on the chapter website on June 6, 2025.

President Steve Ferguson moved to approve the minutes as posted; Chapter Advisor Amy Nowlin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist Inc.
Chapter Meeting 08/09/2025
186 Henry Barber Way, Port Lavaca, TX 77979
Treasurer's Report as of: 07/31/2025

Beginning bank balance checking as of 07/01	\$35,924.95
Plus CD	13,315.74
Plus MM	7,094.24
<u>Total beginning cash as of 07/01</u>	<u>\$56,334.93</u>
Checking account balance as of 07/01	\$35,924.95
Plus cleared items	9,406.24
Less outstanding items	
Operating bank balance as of 07/31	<u>\$45,331.19</u>
CD account balance as of 07/01	\$13,315.74
Plus interest (recorded at maturity)	
CD bank balance as of 07/31	<u>\$13,315.74</u>
<i>*Note: Interest will be credited to the account at the end of its 4-month term 08/09.</i>	
MM account balance as of 07/01	\$7,094.24
Plus interest	9.04
MM bank balance as of 07/31	<u>\$7,103.28</u>
Checking as of 07/31	\$45,331.19
Plus CD as of 07/31	13,315.74
Plus MM as of 07/31	7,103.28
<u>Total cash as of 07/31</u>	<u>\$65,750.21</u>
YTD Total Revenue as of 07/31 (includes \$13K grants)	\$15,638.06
Less YTD Total Expenses as of 07/31	6,286.50
Net Income as of 07/31	<u>\$ 9,351.56</u>

- The Board of Directors of the Ed Rachal Foundation approved a grant to the Chapter in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for the plant sale expenses. Check # 26251 dated 6/23/2025 was deposited 07/07/2025.
- Effective 09/01/2025, there will be a rental increase from \$79 to \$89/month at Southern Star Storage aka Kool Storage for the Unit T-13. 2025 budgeted amount is \$100/month.
- Prosperity 4-month CD matured on 08/09/2025 and will renew for another 4-month term at current market rate. The interest will be reflected in the August financials.
- Year-to-date project expense is \$1,768.
- Three bank reconciliations completed 08/01/2025.

Board of Directors Reports:

- [President's Report](#) — New board members, 25th Anniversary Celebration, grant from Ed Rachal Foundation, Aransas Pathways, MCTMN-RFHS "Seed" Program, and TMN Annual Meeting
- [Vice-President's Report](#) — Updates on the next Board of Directors and General Meetings in 2025
- [Treasurer's Report](#) — Budget Actuals 07/31/25

- [Membership & VMS Reports](#)
 - Updates
 - VMS Update
- [Advanced Training Director](#) — Updates
- [Initial Training Report](#) — Updates
- [Projects Report](#) — McAlister property cleanup, SABP shoreline cleanup, Oyster gardening, GISP's 1st paddling program, Pollinators for Texas Project update
- [Communications Report](#) — Plant Sale, Hooks game, and website administrator
 - [Plant Sale Report](#)
- [Technology Report](#) — No report
- [Past President Report](#)— Seeking candidates for vice president, secretary, technology director, and plant sale manager
- [Class Representative Report](#)— No report
- [Chapter Advisor Report](#) —Projects
 - Oyster gardening pilot program and developing curriculum for MCTMN-RFHS "Seed" Program
- [Awards](#)

New Business**Honorary Membership for Charlie Belaire**

Charlie Belaire has been awarded honorary membership in the Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist program. Ray Kirkwood made a motion to grant Charlie this honorary status, which Bill Burge seconded. The membership voted unanimously in favor. Charlie's contributions to the Right of Way Project and his advocacy for native habitats are just a few of his many accomplishments. Honorary members enjoy the same rights and privileges as regular members, with the exception that they do not pay dues and are not allowed to vote, hold office, or chair committees.

Chapter Leadership Award

Debbie Minns was awarded the Chapter Leadership Pin in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the plant sale and the financial growth of our Mid-Coast chapter.

Adjournment

Ray Kirkland moved to adjourn, and Bill Burges seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

VMS: Chapter Business: TMN Adm. Rep Hours=2 hrs. plus travel time

Respectfully submitted,

Ele Chew

Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

REPORTS AND AUXILIARY MATERIAL TO THE MINUTES

President's Report by Steve Ferguson

New Board Members

- Tatum Dunn - Initial Training Director
- Nicole Reagan - Representative for the class of 2025

Great News for MCTMN

- 25th Anniversary Celebration - D'Ann Williams and Greg Simmons
- \$10,000 from Ed Rachal Foundation - Tracy Bennett, Julie Hejducek, and Debbie Minns
- Aransas Pathways: New Opportunities
 - Pumpkin Paddle - kayak guides for sunrise paddle on October 25
 - Fulton Mansion - Native garden with plants from around the turn of the 19th to 20th centuries
 - Revised Christmas Bird Count (on or before January 5, 2026)
 - Ivy Lane and Henderson Habitat sites - Technical Guidance and Resource Management

MCTMN - RFHS "SEED" Program (Students Engaged in Ecosystem Discovery)

- Approval from RFISD and RFHS
- Steering Committee formed
- Major redesign from the original program
- Program focused on environmental and natural resources education/learning and student service
- Program launch: January/February 2026
- Preliminary sessions:
 - Formal Group Educational Sessions: marine ecology, coastal restoration, native species, and climate resilience
 - Field-Based Group Projects: oyster gardening, shoreline and crab trap clean-ups, habitat restoration, and wildlife surveys
- Volunteer service opportunities with MCTMN members
- Group Capstone Project and Graduation Ceremony

TMN Annual Meeting

TMN's 2025 annual meeting is scheduled for October 16th-19th in College Station.

Annual Meeting Timeline:

- ~~May 16 – Call for presentation proposals deadline~~
- ~~Jul 1 – Meeting agenda shared~~
- Aug 1 – Registration opens
- Aug 31 – Early registration ends
- Sep 20 – Registration ends
- Oct 7 – Chapter project fair presentations (#TMNTuesday)

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Vice President's Report by Brigid Berger

- The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00 am. The location of the meeting will be announced later as the Aransas County AgriLife Building is not available on October 11.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, November 8. The advanced training program and location is yet to be determined but will include a potluck and election of new officers.

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Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

Budget Actuals 07/25 updated

2025 MCTMN BUDGET

	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 07/2025	\$ Difference
REVENUE	Revenue			
Member Dues	Annual dues (\$15/person average x 100 paying members)	1,500	685	815
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 @\$150 FOR 2025 class)	2,515	1,315	1,200
Gross Plant sale	Hummerbird	14,500		14,500
Book Sales	Book Sales to ANWR	600		600
Badge Replacement	Cost to replace lost badge	50		50
Interest Income	Interest income from checking .15% (\$25), money market 1.51% (\$75), and CD 3.25% (\$400)	500	237	263
Misc Other (Donations)	Unsolicited donations less than \$250	3,000	13,401	10,401
TOTAL REVENUE	Total Revenue	22,665	15,638	7,027
EXPENSES	Expenses			
Administrative				
President Expenses	25th Celebration, supplies, misc(moved to Outreach)			
VP Expenses	Supplies & other expenses incurred by VP, MS products \$36, misc	250	69	181
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Exp	No capitol expected			
Storage Rental	Kool storage, \$93/month	1,200	651	549
Shed Purchase		0		
Shed Rental		0		
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	100		100
Treasurer's Supplies	Ink \$65, MS products \$36, storage container \$10, paper \$10, misc	200	100	100
Treasurer - Capital Expense	No capitol expected			
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	100		100
Project Director Expenses	Pollinator garden \$3000, Unforeseen \$500	3,500	1,768	1,732
Project Expense - Monarch Tagging Project	Monarch tagging kits, nets and habitat			
Project Expense - costs associated with 25th Anniversary	Misc anniversary costs not associated with Hooks Game	1,000	62	938
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$171 ea) - \$342 name badges - \$13*25=\$325	667	453	214
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	2,330	384	1,946
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		920
Communications - General Marketing	Plant Sale Yard signs - 100, Misc. Other: Thank you card stationary \$100	200		200
Communications - Public Outreach - Hooks Game & Misc.	Hooks Game Stickers - \$530, Chapter Brochure \$260, Winter Texan Day, Misc. Events	1,240	536	704
Communications - Outreach - Capital Expense	Will concentrate on 25th anniversary / Hooks Game			
PO Box Rental	Post Office box rental - Fulton 12 months @ \$150	150	150	
Discretionary	\$150 annual donatioin to TMN, \$200 non standard honorarium	350		350

	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 07/2025	\$ Difference
Square Expense / Bank Expense	Misc expense from Square transactions and bank fees	50	22	28
Total Administrative		12,257	4,194	8,063
Advanced Training	Instructor/speaker fees	0	0	0
Training - Initial				
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	850	675	175
Books - Purchased	19 Statewide Curriculum (TAMU Press, \$665), 19 My Brush Country Backyard, \$456	1,300	420	880
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (1 X \$250 assumed)	250		250
Venue	Fees	75		75
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	0		
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	700	877	177
Scholarship	Earmark for potential 2025 class applicants (2@ \$90)	180	120	60
Misc	Ambassador/training committee pizza meeting	150		150
Total Initial Training		3,505	2,092	1,413
Plant Sale				
HummerBird Fee	Booth Space For outside space	150		150
Plants	Plants purchased	5,000		5,000
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2 "free days".	200		200
Fees - Square	2.9% transaction fee for credit cards (60.0% of sales)	300		300
POS Square Expense	One month of hot spot	55		55
POS Hardware/Software - Capital Expense	Square purchase			
Plant Sale Educational Materials/Eqpt	Printed plantcare handouts and educational posters	700		700
Supplies & Misc expenses	\$50 labels/square, \$250 misc includes Square refill paper \$15	300		300
Inventory Supplies	500 gallon pots	550		550
Marketing	Banners, posters, and social media boosts	800		800
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	200 Carrier trays	200		200
Total Plant Sale		8,255		8,255
TOTAL EXPENSES		24,017	6,287	17,731
TOTAL NET INCOME (YE)		1,352	9,352	10,704
TOTAL PLANT SALE NET INCOME (YE)		6,245		6,245
CAPITAL EXPENSE				

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Membership Report by Kim Ballard

Chapter Service & Training Hours

Chapter Service & Training in July 2025

Volunteer Service	Advanced Training	# Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
994.75	43.5	58	29	\$23,879.75

Service & Training 2025 Year-to-Date Total

Volunteer Service	Advanced Training	# Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
8,815.25	863.50	104	54	\$222,611.25

Cumulative—Chapter Inception in 2000 to Present

Volunteer Service	Advanced Training	All-time # Members Reporting	# Different Opportunities	Value at \$23 per hour
369,181.75	37,892.75	330	75	\$9,362,713.5

As of July 31st, the Mid-Coast Chapter had 128 members eligible to report hours. One hundred four members have reported hours earned in 2025, 81.25% of the total eligible. A new roster is scheduled for August. If you need an updated roster before then, please email hourskeeper@midcoast-tmn.org. The website will be updated soon with the July 2025 numbers presented here.

Initial Training Proposed Application Changes

Membership Director Kim Ballard presented **Phase I Modifications to the Wufoo Application Form**. These modifications include the Order of Acceptance and the addition of proposed new fields. Vice President Brigid Berger made a motion to accept the recommendations, which Chapter Advisor Amy Nowlin seconded. The proposal was passed unanimously. See details in the Phase I Modifications to Wufoo Application Form below. The committee will move forward with Phase II.

Phase I - Wufoo Application Form

1. Order of Acceptance

- This is Section 7.3.5 of the Chapter Operating Handbook
- Kris has added to the JOIN! page of our website
- Should be added at the beginning of the application form

To join the Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, Inc., please complete and submit this application. Our Membership Chair will contact you immediately. New Members come into the Chapter through the training program. Applicants are accepted in this order:

- (1) Mid-Coast area applicants deferred from the previous year's training
- (2) Former members needing to retake training
- (3) Residents of the Mid-Coast Chapter area
- (4) Other applicants deferred from the previous year's training
- (5) Applicants from adjacent counties with no TMN chapter
- (6) Applicants from nearby counties that have a TMN chapter
- (7) Applicants from other areas of Texas

Phase I - Wufoo Application Form (cont.)

2. Proposed New Fields

- Preferred Name inserted
- Preferred Method of Contact
- Clarification of County of Residence if not in Mid-coast Chapter
- Checkbox for Background Check Consent (this will include an explanation that this will occur via TPWD prior to Orientation)
- Checkbox indicating interest in scholarship possibility
- Commitment to Service Section

Phase I - Wufoo Application Form (cont.)

2. Proposed New Fields

- Commitment to Service Section

- I have reviewed the training schedule **provided** and am available to attend **all classes**. I understand a minimum of forty Training hours must be completed for graduation. (may tweak some of the verbiage)
- In addition, I understand I will be required to complete at least 40 hours of Volunteer Service and at least 8 hours of Advanced Training by the end of 202X to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist.
- I understand that to maintain Certified status as an active member of the Texas Master Naturalist program, must complete at least 40 hours of Volunteer Service and at least 8 hours of Advanced Training each subsequent calendar year
- I understand that some Master Naturalist learning sessions will be held outdoors. I also understand that the training will include outdoor activities, may be physically challenging at times, and will include hiking and possibly inclement weather. I further understand that the sponsors of the program will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities when reasonable accommodations can be made. Please provide the accommodations we will need to consider to help you complete your training. *(This paragraph replaces the one already in the application)*

VMS Data Manager Report by Cindy Hielscher

- New directors for Initial Training: Tatum Dunn and Margaret Durst, replacing Jeremy and Kate.
- New Class Rep director: Micole Reagan, replacing Chelsea Watson
- Work is underway to update the Business Calendar and compare it with COH for updates.
- VMS News from TMN:
 - Multi-Factor authentication for eCoordinator to be reset coming soon
 - Record deletions policy at TPWD annual purge
 - Recategorized members who paid dues but have not charged hours in more than ten years
 - For records deleted (Inactive or Deceased), names and hours are retained on a stub for reporting purposes
 - If a member returns to the program after deleted, the member will need to fill out a new application including background check and request to create a logbook entry.
 - No current updates for the ongoing VMS upgrade.

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Advanced Training Report by Debbie Kucera

There have been 107 Advanced Training approved as of Aug. 6, 2025.

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Initial Training Directors Report by Tatum Dunn & Margaret Durst

Class of 2025-graduated 17 new members on June 7

- 9 certified
- 4 doubled certified

Welcome Tatum Dunn as the new Initial Training director and Margaret Durst as her assistant.

The Initial Training schedule for 2026 will be similar to last year's.

Class size is limited to 20, with a fee of \$150.

- The actual class schedule will be much like last year's, subject to confirming dates, ambassadors, etc. and making small adjustments as indicated by feedback on the 2025 evaluations.
- YouTube videos of all recorded zoom training sessions will be released to the chapter
 - Videos will be unlisted on YouTube
 - Links will be sent via email for access to ensure only members will have access
 - New video recording links will be released upon completion of each new session in 2026

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Projects Director Report by Greg Simmons

Progress Reports

- McAlister property cleanup is temporarily deferred due to summer heat
- SABP shoreline cleanups are Oct 18 this year.
- Oyster Gardening is new this year and being led by Amy Nowlin
- GISP's 1st paddling programs are proceeding, including this morning. Aransas Pathways paddling event is scheduled for Oct 25 AM (stay tuned).
- The "Pollinators for Texas" team, including Donna Bailey (Port Lavaca), Bill Burge (ANWR), Janet McCrea (Coletto Creek), Brigid Berger (Port O'Connor Elementary), Vickie Wilson (Rockport Post Office), and Margie Wilkins (Matagorda Heritage Park), has made progress at all sites.
 - Donna Bailey submitted mid-year report.
 - Signage for pollinator gardens is completed thanks to Brigid Berger and the team.
- HummerFest and the Native Plant Sale (discussed separately)
- Donna Bailey reported that MCTMN received \$3000 grant to maintain and construct pollinator gardens. Six pollinator gardens exist or are in the process of being constructed. Volunteers are requested.

Requests

- Assistance with pollinator gardens at Aransas Pass Community Garden is lacking support

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Communications Directors Report by D'Ann Williams



Communication Committee Report – August '25

Administration | Historian | Newsletter | Outreach | Publicity | Website

Committee's oversight areas as per our Bylaws

Plant Sale



- **Signup Genius – Volunteer Portal**
 - Finishing it up with Debbie Minns
 - Look for both the Pre-Plant Sale and Days of Signups in your inbox!
- **Social Media and Signage**
 - Created a new ad
- **Outreach Table**
 - Will update our Outreach Table Game with Patrick Hartigan with his Monarch/Milkweed Education

**NATIVE PLANT SALE
AT THE HUMMERBIRD CELEBRATION!**

Friday, Sept. 19 & Saturday, Sept. 20 - 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday, Sept. 21 - 10 am to 3 pm

Fulton Convention Center

Discover a variety of native Texas plants perfect for attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and pollinators to your garden! Perennials/Shrubs/Trees/Grasses

Free gardening tips from Master Naturalists with every purchase!

Don't miss this chance to bring nature home while celebrating the HummerBird Festival!

Why Native Plants?

- Thrive in our Texas heat and cold
- Save water & reduce maintenance
- Support wildlife & pollinators

[More about our Mission](#)

Cash - Check - Credit Cards Accepted

General

- **Hooks Game – Video!**
 - **4,223 attended and 100+ TMNs!!**
 - Next June will be in a more shaded area
 - The South Texas Chapter and our chapter have submitted a joint Chapter video for the State Meeting Video Contest of our Hooks Game Outreach!
- **Website Review**
 - **Anyone interested in taking over the Website???**



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Plant Sale Manager Report by Debbie Minns

The Plant Sale is at the Fulton Convention Center this year and most likely through 2029. We worked with the Hummerbird Celebration/Chamber of Commerce Reps to have the best possible placement at the Hummer Mall area. We looked at several alternative locations before making the final decision. Margaret Durst has offered her backyard and carport to us for receiving plants and pre-sale pickup.

I have been working with the Team members individually to coordinate all the activities so that we can come up with a timeline and launch our volunteer signup portal. **Volunteer signup** has been finalized and will be going live very soon. Members will get a link to Signup Genius within a few days. We need a lot of help so please sign up soon to get the times and duties that best suit you. Jobs include: unloading, loading, fulfilling pre-orders, cashier assistants, plant education sales associates, set-up and breakdown helpers, and more.

I'm working with team members to make purchases of educational materials, marketing and plant sale supplies that are within the guidelines of the grant that we received from the Rachal Foundation.

In the coming weeks, we will be working on coordinating our propagation efforts and plant donations to prepare orders for our Nursery Vendors. Liz Smith is going to report for the propagation team.

We will be distributing a **pre-order** list to members and partner organizations and then processing those orders. This is an opportunity for you to get things that might not be at the sale...especially larger sizes and flats.

We still have to come up with a layout at the venue that will follow all the rules while allowing for the most efficient shopping and outreach. We feel like this is going to be an outstanding sale! We are looking forward to educating hundreds of people about the benefits of going native and placing thousands of native plants into the landscape while raising funds that will support our Chapter's programs.

It is time for a new set of eyes on the Plant Sale. This is my fourth year. The first year working as Manager's Assistant and three years as Manager. I'd love to talk to anyone who is interested in learning more.

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Past President Report by Bob Cunningham

The Past-President chairs the Nominating Committee formed under President Steve Ferguson, which includes Communications Director D'Ann Williams, Linda Swickheimer, Gary Ward, and Chapter Advisor Amy Nowlin. Their task is to identify candidates for officer positions and committee chairs, with recommendations to the board in October and a presentation to the membership in November. Nominations can be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

President Steve Ferguson and Treasurer Julie Hejducek have both agreed to continue in their positions for the year 2026. Brigid Berger is resigning as Vice President, while Ele Chew and Janet Cunningham are interested in the roles of Vice President and Secretary, respectively. Others are welcome to compete.

Nicole Reagan has been elected as the new class representative for the Class of 2025. Tatum Dunn will take over as Initial Training Director in July, with board approval, and Margaret Durst will assist her. We thank Jeremy Miller and Kate Geer-Miller for their service. There are vacancies for Advanced Training Director, Technology Director, and Plant Sales Manager. Nominations can be submitted. Interested candidates should contact President Steve Ferguson or the committee chair, Bob Cunningham

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Class Representative Report by Nicole Reagan

No report

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Chapter Advisor by Amy Nowlin

Update on Oyster Gardening

Amy Nowlin will revisit the Hill Country chapter in September to help them construct cages and set up collection bins for oyster shells, which will boost the program by increasing the number of shells in the water. She is also working on securing grants or donations for water quality testing kits. These kits will assist with collecting stock data and measuring dissolved oxygen, salinity, and other key indicators.

MCTMN-RFHS "Seed" Program curriculum

She has also taken the lead in developing the curriculum for the MCTMN naturalist program to ensure that this program aligns with the state's educational framework, allowing connections to be made between different subjects. For example, certain aspects of the program relate to biology, while others connect to chemistry, providing valuable interdisciplinary opportunities.

Amy received a Specialty award for her work in marine and coastal resources from the Texas Extension Specialist Association.

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Meeting Attendance

Donna Bailey, Cynthia Baker, Kim Ballard (Membership), Allan Berger, Brigid Berger (Vice President), James Black (Zoom), Bill Burge, Jim Case (Zoom), Denise Crane (Zoom), Ele Chew (Secretary), Bob Cunningham (Past President-Zoom), Janet Cunningham (Zoom), Linda Daley (Zoom), Margaret Durst, Steve Ferguson (President), Bobby Garner, Cindy Hanifen (Zoom), Patrick Hartigan, Julie Hejducek (Treasurer), Mike Hejducek, Patrick Henley, Cindy Hielscher (VMS Admin), Ray Kirkwood, Kris Kirkwood, Kathy Koenig, Debbie Kucera, Laura Lee, Dee Mahaffey (Zoom), Steve Marwitz (Zoom), Janet McCrea, Debbie Minns (Zoom), Amy Nowlin (Chapter Advisor), Bobbi Rankin, Shirley Richardson (Zoom), Debbie Roskey, Karen Lee Rystad, Ernie Schertz (Zoom), Sally Scroggs (Zoom), Greg Simmons (Projects Director-Zoom), Marlyn Stewart, Linda Swickheimer, Deborah Troup, D'Ann Williams (Communications Director-Zoom), and Vickie Wilson (Zoom).

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Awards

Updated Awards following August 9, 2025, Chapter Meeting

Initial Certification enamel dragonfly & plaque— Presented: Margaret Durst plaque and Laura Lee (2024). Not presented: Karen Dorgan, Tatum Dunn, Frank Solis, Mary Wilkins, Sally Crofutt, Larry Green, Martha McLeod

Milestone Awards

250-hour bronze dragonfly—Not presented: Jim Case

Silver 500-Hour Milestone dragonfly—Presented: Marilyn Stewart and Bob Garner, Karen Barton picked up earlier. Not presented: Janet James, Janette Sims, Scott Swanson

Gold 1,000-Hour Milestone dragonfly –

Polished Silver 2,500-Hour dragonfly – Not presented: Bob Friedrichs

Gold/Diamond 5,000-Hour dragonfly –

Leadership Award – Presented: Debbi Minns

Recertification Pins

2022 Lightning Whelk— Presented: Karen Barton (picked up earlier) and Rebecca Bootzin (picked up by Karen Barton). Not presented: Karen Benson.

2023 TX Ecoregions—Presented: Not presented: Karen Benson, Kayla Clark

2024 Rattlesnake—Presented: Bobby Garner. Not presented: Chris Andersen, Laura Andersen, Karen Benson, Kayla Clark, Debra Dhams-Nelson, Judy Goodner, Wilfred Korth, Martha McLeod, Robyn Savage, Scott Swanson, Gary Ward

2025 Roadrunner – Presented: Cynthia Baker, Carla Belaire (picked up by Charlie Belaire), Margaret Durst, Patrick Hartigan, Mike Hejducek, Kris Kirkwood, Ray Kirkwood, Debbie Kucera, Debbi Roskey, Deb Troup. Not presented: James Black, Jim Case, Maureen Crocker, Linda Daley, Bradley Jones, Wilfred Korth, Clare Martranga, Martha McLeod, Robyn Savage, Scott Swanson, Chelsea Watson

TPWD Water Awards 2023 awarded in 2024

Not present: Marueen Crocker

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