

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

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. Board of Directors met on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Wings Rescue Center Education Center (Yurt) 324 W 3rd St, Rockport, TX 78382. The meeting was hybrid.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. President Steve Ferguson presided at the meeting, and Mid-Coast TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM for 3.00 hours CB: Chapter Business/Chapter Meeting.

Meeting Attendance

A total of twenty-one members were present. Eight board members attended in person, constituting a quorum. In addition, thirteen other members in good standing, of which 5 participated using the OWL/Zoom chat function, were in attendance.

Secretary's Report by Ele Chew

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. Board of Directors met on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:15 PM, at the Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382. The meeting was hybrid. A total of twenty-four members were present. Board members consisted of eleven in-person and two using the OWL/Zoom chat function, constituting a quorum. In addition, thirteen members in good standing were in attendance.

President Steve Ferguson presided at the meeting, and Mid-Coast TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes, which were posted on the chapter website on August 31, 2025.

Project Director Greg Simmon moved to accept the minutes as published on the chapter website, and Past President Bob Cunningham seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist Inc.
Board of Director's Meeting 10/11/2025
Aransas County Airport, 421 John D Wendell Rd., Rockport, TX 78382
Treasurer's Report as of: 09/30/2025

Beginning bank balance checking as of 09/01	\$44,400.98
Plus CD	13,449.26
Plus MM	7,112.33
<u>Total beginning cash as of 09/01</u>	<u>\$64,962.57</u>

Checking account balance as of 09/01	\$44,400.98
Less cleared items	10,625.22
Less outstanding items	-474.27
Operating bank balance as of 09/30	<u>\$54,551.93</u>

CD account balance as of 09/01	\$13,449.26
Plus interest	
CD bank balance as of 09/30	<u>\$13,449.26</u>

**Note: New Maturity date is 12/09/2025.*

MM account balance as of 09/01	\$7,112.33
Plus interest	8.77
MM bank balance as of 09/30	<u>\$7,121.10</u>

Checking as of 09/30	\$54,551.93
Plus CD as of 09/30	13,449.26
Plus MM as of 09/30	7,121.10
<u>Total cash as of 09/30</u>	<u>\$75,122.29</u>

YTD Total Revenue as of 09/30 (includes \$13K grants)	\$35,146.73
Less YTD Total Expenses as of 09/30	16,873.09
Net Income as of 09/30	<u>\$ 18,273.64</u>

Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist Inc.
Board of Director's Meeting 10/11/2025
Aransas County Airport, 421 John D Wendell Rd., Rockport, TX 78382
Treasurer's Report as of: 09/30/2025

- Prosperity 4-month CD matured on 08/09 and renewed for another 4-month term at current market rate of 3.0%. New maturity date is 12/09.
- Effective 09/01, there was 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. Effective with 10/25 Wufoo renewal, the Wufoo price will increase from \$349/year to \$395/year.
- Revised Plant Sale budget was unanimously approved 09/06.
- A new hotspot for the plant sale was purchased 09/06 because the broadband SIM card had expired in the original hotspot and could not be activated. A new broadband SIM needed to be purchased; there were no guarantees that a new broadband SIM card would work because the original hotspot was 4 years old and fully depreciated.
- Year-to-date project expense for the pollinator gardens as of 09/30 is \$2,015.
- Three bank reconciliations and Quicken backup completed 10/06.
- A copy of the \$10,000 Ed Rachal grant agreement was forwarded to Mary Pearl on 10/02. The COH asserts that the State must be notified of any grant greater than \$5,000.
- It's time to begin working on the 2026 Budget! Please send your 2026 budgets to treasurer.mctmn@gmail.com by the end of the year. They will be presented at the January BOD meeting for approval.

Board of Directors Reports:

- President Report
 - Fundraising and Financial Updates
 - Fundraising Committee
 - Successful Native Plant Sale
 - Aransas Pathways: Sunset Kayak Paddle
 - Revamp of MCTMN-RFHS Naturalist-Youth Program
 - Chapter Website Redesign
- Vice-President Report

October 11th Chapter Meeting

Chapter Members in the Spotlight Program: In the spirit of building chapter member relationships, the Advanced Training Program showcased some of the chapter members and their volunteer projects & efforts.
- Treasurer Report—2025 Budget Overview Budget Actuals
- Membership & VMS Reports
 - Membership Report
 - 2026 Initial Training Applications
 - VMS Update
- Advanced Training Director — No Report
- Initial Training Report
 - 2026 Budget-Proposed
 - 2026 Initial Training Schedule
- Projects Report — Upcoming Opportunities
 - Shorelines Cleanup
 - 2025 10th Annual Texas Pollinator BioBlitz
 - Monarch Butterfly Monitoring and Tagging
 - Christmas in the Park
 - Weed Rescue Center Work Day
 - PAIS Sea Turtle Cold Stunned Lecture and Training
 - Pollinators for Texas Project

- Technology Report —No report
- Communications Report
 - Plant Sale
 - Outreach Plant Sale
 - Fall Newsletter
 - Wix-Website
 - Website-Dollars and Cents
- Plant Sale Report
 - Final Plant Sale Report
- Past President Report
 - 2026 Slate of Candidates
- Class Representative Report
 - Update
- Chapter Advisor Report
 - Oyster Gardening
- Awards

Old Business

New Business

Strategic Planning Meeting for 2026 Officers and Directors (early December 2025)

After the election of the 2026 officers and directors at the November Chapter Meeting, a Strategic Planning Meeting will take place in early December to determine the 2026 annual budget.

Initial Training Scholarship Committee

President Steve Ferguson proposed offering scholarships and financial assistance to two employees from Aransas Pathways. Communication Director D'Ann Williams seconded the motion. A discussion followed regarding the need to create guidelines for awarding the scholarships and financial assistance. Past President Bob Cunningham amended the motion to authorize an executive committee, comprising the Membership and Initial Training directors, to make decisions after applicants have expressed interest and submitted their applications. D'Ann Williams seconded this amendment. The motion was approved.

November 8th Chapter Meeting Potluck/Hostess

Janet Cunningham accepted the position.

Adjournment

Vice President Brigid Berger moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 PM, and IT Director Tatum Dunn seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ele Chew

Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

REPORTS AND AUXILIARY MATERIAL TO THE MINUTES

President Report by Steve Ferguson

Fundraising and Financial Updates

- **Fundraising Committee**

Tracy Bennett, Maureen Crocker, and Julie Hejducek established a new Fundraising Committee that quickly became a transformative force. Through their persistence and exceptional grant writing skills, they secured \$13,400 from foundations, companies, and individual donors. This funding now covers approximately two-thirds of our expenses for 2025.

- **Successful Native Plant Sale**

The Native Plant Sale was a success, with 16 Master Naturalists participating and 500 plants donated by HEB. Debbie Minn will share more about the Plant Sale when she makes her report.

Aransas Pathways: Sunset Kayak Paddle

MCTMN volunteers provided significant leadership for the event in guiding kayakers.

Approximately 50 people signed up for it this summer.

Revamp of MCTMN-RFHS Naturalist-Youth Program

The Naturalist-Youth Program at Rockport-Fulton High School, developed by a steering committee that includes Maureen Crocker, Amy Nowlin, Bill Burge, and Rachael Diaz (RFHS Science Department Chair), has been revamped. The “mini-Naturalist” focuses on group education and hands-on fieldwork experiences. It is set to launch in the spring semester and has the potential to serve as a model for youth engagement throughout the state of Texas.

Chapter Website Redesign

D'Ann Williams is in the midst of leading the effort to redesign our Chapter's website so that it continues to be stunningly beautiful and becomes much more user-friendly.

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Vice President Report by Brigid Berger

The next chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 8, 2025** at the Austwell Community Center, 403 Bay St. Austwell, TX. Austwell is the small town near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. It overlooks Hynes Bay and offers a full kitchen including refrigerator, microwave and stove, and outdoor covered picnic tables making it a good location for our annual November potluck.

In the spirit of building chapter member relationships, the advanced training program will showcase some of our chapter members and their volunteer projects & efforts. Presentations will be about 7-10 minutes with a minute or two for questions. Chapter Members in the Spotlight

include:

- **Greg & Sally** talking about the Goose Island Kayaking Tours.
- **Wilfred Korth** addressing the work being done on the McAlister property.
- **Linda Shirey** will talk about her work training the education birds at Wings Rescue Center.
- **Bobbie Rankin** will talk about her experience at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge front desk.
- **Allan Berger** will explain San Antonio Bay Partnership's annual volunteer initiatives including the Shorelines Cleanup and the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal.
- **Bill Burge** will be sharing information about this many volunteer commitments.
- **Jarret Kernen** talking about his work with research projects at Welder Wildlife Refuge
- **Cindy Heilscher** will take us into her world of VMS Hours Keeper.

Submitted by: Brigid Berger, Vice President



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Treasurer Report by Julie Hejducek as of 09/2025

2025 MCTMN BUDGET

	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 09/2025
REVENUE	Revenue		
Member Dues	Annual dues (\$15/person average x 100 paying members)	1,500	685
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 @\$150 FOR 2025 class)	2,515	2,365
Gross Plant Sale	Hummerbird	16,600	18,296
Plant Sale Grants	Ed Rachal	10,000	10,000
Book Sales	Book Sales to ANWR	600	
Badge Replacement	Cost to replace lost badge	50	
Interest Income	Interest income from checking .15% (\$25), money market 1.51% (\$75), and CD 3.25% (\$400)	500	400
Misc Other (Donations)	Unsolicited donations less than \$250 includes grants	3,000	3,401
TOTAL REVENUE	Total Revenue	34,765	35,147
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	146
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Exp	No capitol expected		
Storage Rental	Kool storage, \$93/month	1,200	847
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	100	
Treasurer's Supplies	Ink \$65, MS products \$36, storage container \$10, paper \$10, misc	200	113
Treasurer - Capital Expense	No capitol expected		
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	100	
Project Director Expenses	Pollinator garden \$3000, Unforeseen \$500	3,500	2,116
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
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$171 ea) - \$342 name badges - \$13*25=\$325	667	453
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	544
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	270
Communications - General Marketing	Plant Sale Yard signs - 100, Misc. Other: Thank you card stationary \$100	200	
Communications - Public Outreach - Hooks Game & Misc.	Hooks Game Stickers - \$530, Chapter Brochure \$260, Winter Texan Day, Misc. Events	1,240	856
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 donation to TMN, \$200 non standard honorarium	350	
Square Expense / Bank Expense	Misc expense from Square transactions and bank fees	50	27
Total Administrative		12,257	5,583
Advanced Training	Instructor/speaker fees	0	0
Training - Initial			
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	850	675
Books - Purchased	19 Statewide Cirriculum (TAMU Press, \$665), 19 My Brush Country Backyard, \$456	1,300	420

	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 09/2025
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (1 X \$250 assumed)	250	
Venue	Fees	75	
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	0	
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	700	877
Scholarship	Earmark for potential 2025 class applicants (2 @ \$90)	180	120
Misc	Ambassador/training committee pizza meeting	150	
Total Initial Training		3,505	2,092
Plant Sale		Budget	Actual
HummerBird Fee	Booth Space For outside space	380	380
Plants	Plants purchased	5,300	5,572
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2 "free days".	600	450
Fees - Square	2.9% transaction fee for credit cards (60.0% of sales)	520	369
POS Square Expense	One month of hot spot	55	50
POS Hardware/Software - Capital Expense	Square purchase	-	
Plant Sale Educational Materials/Eqpt	Printed plantcare handouts and educational posters	1,200	93
Supplies & Misc. expenses	\$50 labels/square, \$250 misc includes Square refill paper \$15 less one month hotspot \$55	245	345
Inventory Supplies	500 gallon pots	600	278
Marketing	Banners, posters, and social media boosts	800	918
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	200 Carrier trays	300	742
Total Plant Sale		10,000	9,198
TOTAL EXPENSES		25,762	16,873
TOTAL NET INCOME (YE)		9,003	18,274
TOTAL PLANT SALE NET INCOME (YE)		6,600	9,098
CAPITAL EXPENSE			
OYSTER SYMPOSIUM			
Oyster Symposium Revenue			
Oyster Symposium Donations/Grants	Sponsorships		
Oyster Symposium Registration	Registration fees		
Total Oyster Symposium Revenue			
Oyster Symposium Expense			
Venue	Rockport Conference Center		
Oysters / Shuckers	Oysters \$300, Shuckers \$100		
Security	Sheriff		
Communications	Advertising \$100, Sponsor table and signage \$100, Website and social media \$200		
Fees - PayPal and Square	Registration fees and discounts		
Gifts	Speaker gifts and give aways		
Miscellaneous - Food, Paper Supplies	Food and refreshments \$900, Paper Supplies \$157		
Total Oyster Symposium Expense			
TOTAL OYSTER SYMPOSIUM NET INCOME			

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Membership Director Report by Kim Ballard

Membership Update for BOD

October 11, 2025

- Service and Training Hours
 - Cumulative – Chapter Inception (2000) to Present
 - \$6,759,452.75 at \$23 per volunteer hour
 - September 1 - 30:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
• Volunteer Service	1491.25	1600.25
• AT	175	81.5
• Reporting Members	69	62
• Different Opportunities	29	26

- January through September:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
• Volunteer Service	11,382.25	11,277.75
• AT	1,187.75	1,238.25
• Reporting Members	105	98
• Different Opportunities	55	48

- Member Updates
 - 128 members eligible to report hours
 - 105 members reporting to date for 2025 (82%)
- Class of 2025
 - 1,521 Volunteer hours
 - 309 AT hours
 - 13 Initial Certifications Achieved
 - 6 Recertifications Achieved
 - 1 Milestone Award for 250 hours
- Recertification for 2025
 - 50 members to date



2026 Initial Training Applications

- ❖ 12 New Applicants (one unpaid)
- ❖ 2 Confirmed Deferrals
- ❖ 2 Unconfirmed Deferrals

Upon approval and publication of the new Initial Training Schedule, we will post on social media to recruit for the remaining training spots. All current applicants will be emailed with the link to the new schedule to confirm continued interest and availability.

Once all 20 spots are filled, continue to accept applications up to a certain number to be determined by the Board for a true waiting list. This can be referred to should a confirmed trainee drop out prior to Orientation. I recommend five, but looking for feedback. Those on the waiting list will be given first priority the following year.

- **VMS Update Report by Cindy Hielscher**
No current updates for the ongoing VMS upgrade

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Advanced Training Report by Debbie Kucera

No Report

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Initial Training Report by Tatum Dunn & Margaret Durst

2026 BUDGET - Proposed

CATEGORY	2026 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL
Initial Training Fee Income	Initial training (20 for 2025 class)	\$ 3,000	3,000	2,700
Training - Initial Expenses				
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	850.00	850.00	675
Books - Purchased	19 Statewide Curriculum (TAMU Press, \$665 20 My Brush Country Backyard, \$500 (Zero for 2026)	665.00	1,300.00	420
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (2 X \$250 assumed)	250.00	500.00	0
Venue	Fees	0.00	75.00	0
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (Approx. 15% contingency)	450.00	0.00	0
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	950.00	700.00	877
Scholarship	Potential for 2026 applicants - 2 @ \$90	180.00	180.00	120
End of year wrap up	Ambassador/training committee pizza meeting	150.00	150.00	0
Total Initial Training Expenses		3,495.00	3,755.00	2,092.00

2026 Initial Training Schedule

January 24th

Orientation:

Ambassadors: Margaret D. & Tatum D.

February 5th

Geology & Historical Naturalist Zoom

Ambassadors: Greg S. & Ray K.

February 7th

Archaeology & Texas History

Ambassadors: Debbie Griffith & Pamela Stranahan

March 5th

Welder Zoom:

Ambassadors: Greg & Sally

March 7th

Welder Wildlife Refuge Field Day:

Ambassadors: Greg & Sally

March 19th

ANWR Zoom:

Ambassadors: Janet McCrea

March 21st

ANWR Field Day

Ambassadors: Janet McCrea

April 9th

Lake Texana Zoom

Ambassadors: Cindy Baker

April 11th

Lake Texana Field Day

Ambassador: Cindy Baker

April 21st

Riparian Ecology Zoom

Ambassadors: Bill Burge & Liz Smith

April 25th

Fennessey Ranch Field Day

Ambassadors: Bill Burge & Liz Smith

April 30th

Bay & Barrier Zoom

Ambassadors: Tatum Dunn &/or Karen & Dan Dorgan

May 2nd

Bay & Barrier Island Ecology

Ambassadors: Tatum Dunn & Karen Dorgen

May 14th
Coastal Ecology Zoom
Ambassadors: Steve Marwitz

May 16th
Palacious Field Day
Ambassadors: Steve Marwitz

June 4th
Native Plant Zoom
Ambassadors: Wilfred Korth & Claire Barnhardt

June 6th
Graduation & Native Plants Field Day
Ambassadors: Wilfred Korth & Claire Barnhardt

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Projects Report by Greg Simmons

Upcoming opportunities:

Shorelines Cleanup

Shorelines Cleanup is a boat-based event to remove trash from shorelines throughout the Texas Mid-Coast bays and estuaries. The main event will be held on Saturday, October 18th.

Opportunities for special group cleanups Oct 13-17 can be arranged. All participants are invited to Celebrate a Cleaner Bay with us on Saturday evening in Port O'Connor.

Location: Texas Mid-Coast Bays, TX

Date and time: Sat, Oct 18, 2025 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Organizer: San Antonio Bay Partnership, (713) 829-2852, allanrberger@outlook.com

2025 10th Annual Texas Pollinator BioBlitz

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz>).

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2025-texas-pollinator-bioblitz>

Dates: October 10-26, 2025

Whether you enjoy viewing pollinator photos, honing your photography skills, learning more about pollinators in Texas, hosting public bioblitzes, or taking part in community science, we'll have something for you!

Monarch Butterfly Monitoring and Tagging

Saturday, November 1-9:00 – 10:30 AM at Big Tree

Saturday, November 1-2:00 – 4:00 PM

[Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary, 4041 Hwy 35 N Bypass, Rockport, TX 78382, USA](#)

Monarch Butterfly Monitoring and Tagging

For more information, contact Patrick Hartigan (pdhartigan4321@gmail.com)

Christmas in the Park

Saturday, December 13, 2025 5:30-8:30 PM

Goose Island State Park

How to camp for free: Registration is now [OPEN](#)! Fill out the form for your chance to participate: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/BaB6KNQmR4>. Eligible campsites are 120-132 and 147-157. **Only those sites are eligible for waived camping fees. *Please note that submitting a request to decorate a campsite does NOT mean you are registered.*** We receive a high volume of requests, and it can take several days to process them.

Weed Rescue Center Work Day

October 16, 2025 9 AM-11 AM

“Wild” Native Landscape

Lunch provided. For more information, contact Greg Simmons.

PAIS Sea Turtle Cold Stunned Lecture and Training

Sea Turtle Cold Stunned Lecture and Training – Session 1

Date: 15 October 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/25773375-eef4-443f-981d-53a458dd2695@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494>

Sea Turtle Cold Stunned Lecture and Training – Session 2

Date: 25 October 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00 AM. – 12:00 PM.

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/df25aaaf-2b98-46a0-863d-f51323fb2cb3@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494>

Pollinators for Texas Project

New gardens at Calhoun County Garden, Port O’Connor Library, Sea Drift Elementary School.

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. New gardens at Calhoun County Garden, Port O’Connor Library, Sea Drift Elementary School.

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Communication Committee Report – October '25

Administration | Historian | Newsletter | Outreach | Publicity | Website

Committee's oversight areas as per our Bylaws

Plant Sale



- **South Texas News**
 - Ran our plant sale article in at least 3 of its 10 newspapers two weeks prior!
 - Pilot – Post Plant Sale w Photos!
 - Tracey Bennet to use for future grant writing
- **Facebook / Nextdoor Impact Numbers**

Description	# of Viewers	Total Views	Reactions	Shares	Total
Launch Ad - 1 Month					
Out	20200	35000	1481	138	\$ 143
Next Friday Ad	11613	27600	293	14	\$ 159
Thank You Ad	8500	21400	1155	4	\$ 159
Total					\$ 461

Can we count add reach in our Ad outreach numbers?



Mid-Coast Chapter Master Naturalists' annual plant sale fundraiser blooms with success



Outreach Plant Sale

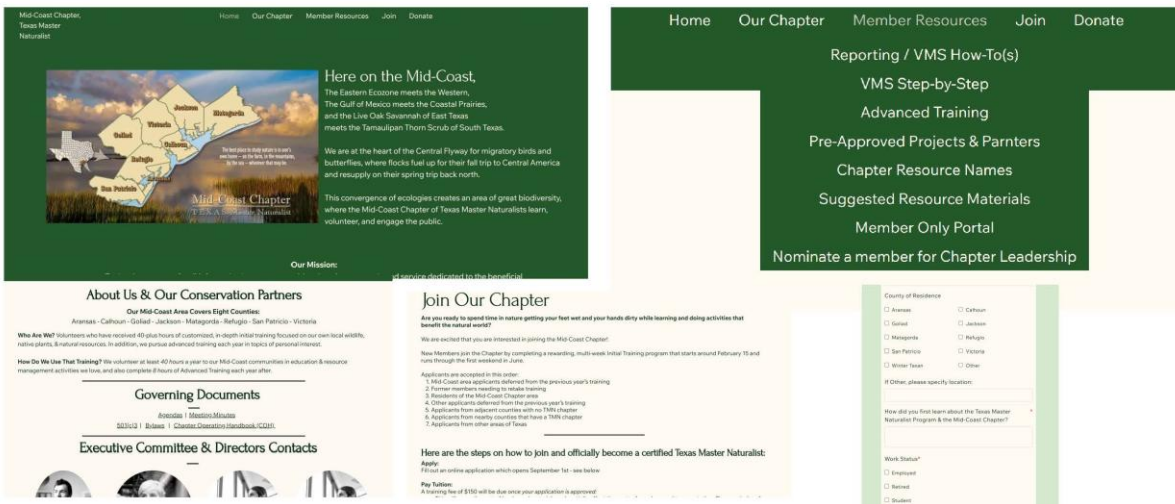
- **Outreach Table**
 - Zizotes, Plant Information Books/QRs, General Chapter Information, and Children's Activity/HB Tattoos
- **E.R. Grant \$ Used for New Chapter Engagement Box: "Eat Like a Bird"**
 - Hawk – Northern Cardinal – Hummingbird:
 - 3 Skulls
 - Tools to Eat with – Tweezers, Pliers, Pipettes
 - Foods to replicate – Something to tear at, Nuts (plastic bugs), HB Feeder (plastic mosquitoes/bugs)
- **Next Up this Fall Fennessey Ranch – Monarch Madness– Wed., Nov. 5th - 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.**
 - 5th Graders – Fun *Monarch Relay Race* for our unit
 - Refuge Day – Cancelled because of government shutdown
 - Palacious – Cindy Baker may be able to do it



Fall Newsletter

- **Neli is gathering information for it now – Due Oct 15th?**
 - Please send her your photos and stories!
 - Will have the latest Chapter Impact numbers, Letter from the President, etc.
 - Goes out to our:
 - Chapter, State, etc.
 - Partners,
 - Friends of Chapter who sign up

Wix – Website: Getting all in before making it cuter...



5

Wix – Website!



▪ New Website is Being Built!

- Basing it all on the Kirkwood's original content
- Forms Getting Created - IT, AT, Programs, Reimbursement
 - Setting up Donor, Registration, etc. Pages soon
- After we add Donation Pages, Forms, get edits in, and test:
 - Propose we have a special website review meeting, then launch (with a note of under construction on the home page)

Call to Action - All:

Visit the site and get back to me with any input and edits. If you receive WuFoo forms, when your form is ready, I will let you know to check it.

<https://dannwilliams19.wixsite.com/mid-coast-chapter>

Website - Dollars and Cents

Williams underwriting until budgeted for 2026

All amounts are annual:

- Website Pro: \$238.82 1/2 off \$431
- Domain: \$40-ish
- Boom Form Pro: \$129.77
- Donations – percentage: PayPal or Stripe
- Technical guidance: Free



MCTMN Nomination for Chapter Leadership Award

The Goal of the Chapter Leadership Award is to recognize a chapter member for their leadership service toward the operations, growth, and improvements of the chapter.

Name of Nominator:^{*}

First Last

Submission Date:^{*}

mm/dd/yyyy

Email:^{*}

Email

Phone

+1 Phone

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Plant Sale Report by Debbie Minns

Julie will make the financial report. Liz will talk about Plants.

Note that I will work with Julie and Tracey with a plan to finish spending the remainder of the grant. I have some ideas for educational materials that will need to be prepared ahead of next year.

The Venue was good. There was some concern about security but nothing was bothered overnight. The Chamber Staff and Fulton Convention Center Staff were very accommodating, though understandably strict about their rules.

There was a bit of a scramble at times leading up to the sale. There were lessons learned about volunteer sign-up. People took slots and didn't fill the position, leaving us short handed. There were a few people who signed up to do multiple things at the same time, also leaving a position short. I should have caught some of this ahead of time and worked it out.

I over ordered because we had grant money to spend. We had plants left at the end but those will still be planted in the landscape helping to fulfill the mission to get native plants out there.

Overall, it was a very successful sale thanks to all the volunteers who came to help out. I'd like to thank the planning team who really step up every year to make the plant sale better and better.

I believe that we may have a very qualified replacement for plant sale manager. I'm meeting with her this week to discuss how we can work together this year for a smooth transition.

	Type	Date	Num	Name	Item	Clr	Split	Amount	Balance
Income									
Grants PlantSale	General Journal	09/09/2025	09092025		Move grants money to PlantSale due to budget transfer of Grants			10,000.00	10,000.00
PlantSale - Income									
PlantSale Reserve - Non-Taxable									
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Squire Inc.	PlantSale credit card set non-taxable 9/19 and 9/20		Properly Bank Checking	7,980.10	7,980.10
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Squire Inc.	PlantSale Squire fees non taxable 9/19 and 9/21		Properly Bank Checking	245.90	8,226.00
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Properly Bank	Non taxable card and check 9/19 and 9/20		Properly Bank Checking	4,675.00	12,841.00
Total PlantSale Reserve - Non-Taxable								12,841.00	12,841.00
PlantSale Reserve - Taxable									
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Squire Inc.	PlantSale credit card set taxable 9/19 and 9/21		Properly Bank Checking	4,329.42	4,329.42
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Squire Inc.	PlantSale Squire fees taxable 9/19 and 9/21		Properly Bank Checking	123.59	4,453.01
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Properly Bank	Taxable card and check 9/19 and 9/21		Properly Bank Checking	1,001.00	5,454.51
Total PlantSale Reserve - Taxable								5,454.51	5,454.51
Total PlantSale - Income								18,295.51	18,295.51
PlantSale - Expense									
Equipment Upgrades									
	Check	09/09/2025	22434131	Debbie Mikus	Wino #303 PlantSale Fence and PlantTape		Properly Bank Checking	145.42	145.42
	Check	09/09/2025	08	Best Buy	Wino #312 Simple Mobile Hotspot		Properly Bank Checking	49.99	195.41
	Check	09/09/2025	23972566	Bigd Berger	Wino #307 Wagon and recycle bin for plantSale		Properly Bank Checking	123.36	318.77
	Check	09/16/2025	08	Walmart	Wino #315 Tree table and one test for plantSale		Properly Bank Checking	749.99	669.76
	Check	09/02/2025	37312443	Debbie Mikus	Wino #318 Garden hose		Properly Bank Checking	73.95	742.71
Total Equipment Upgrades								142.71	742.71
Lawn & Irrigation									
	Check	09/09/2025	22434131	Debbie Mikus	Wino #303 PlantSale Galton and patio seeding pot		Properly Bank Checking	277.75	277.75
Total Lawn & Irrigation								277.75	277.75
Marketing									
	Check	09/09/2025	23972564	D'Ann Williams	Wino #304 Banners, stickers, seeds, moose sign, trips		Properly Bank Checking	513.00	513.00
	Check	09/09/2025		D'Ann Williams	Wino #300 PlantSale Facebook ad		Properly Bank Checking	404.98	917.98
Total Marketing								917.98	917.98
PlantSale Educational Material									
	Check	09/09/2025	995065	Patrick Harggan	Wino #313 Moose sign, banner, piling		Properly Bank Checking	77.58	77.58
	Check	09/09/2025	995065	Patrick Harggan	Wino #319 New name for Bambi exhibit box		Properly Bank Checking	15.35	92.93
Total PlantSale Educational Material								92.93	92.93
Fees & Square									
	Deposit	09/02/2025	08	Squire Inc.	PlantSale credit card Squire fees 9/19-9/21		Properly Bank Checking	369.49	369.49
Total Fees & Square								369.49	369.49
PlantSale System									
	Check	09/09/2025	08	Simple Mobile	Wino #311 One month of Simple Mobile hotspot-DE to 1		Properly Bank Checking	49.99	49.99
Total PlantSale System								49.99	49.99
Sales Tax									
	General Journal	09/03/2025	09232025		Estimated 2025 sales tax to be accrued and tied up		Sales tax payable	450.00	450.00
Total Sales Tax								450.00	450.00
Plant Franchise									
	Check	09/02/2025	1733	Nature Tractor Nursery	Wino #317 Nature plant franchise		Properly Bank Checking	5,572.00	5,572.00
Total Plant Franchise								5,572.00	5,572.00
PlantSale Supplier									
	Check	09/04/2025	08	Squire Inc.	Wino #300 One box (20 rolls) of Bambi no slip paint		Properly Bank Checking	29.00	29.00
	Check	09/02/2025	08	Squire Inc.	Wino #310 One box (20 rolls) of Bambi no slip paint		Properly Bank Checking	29.00	58.00
	Check	09/03/2025	08	Orion Depot	Wino #305 Storage bin for Squire equipment		Properly Bank Checking	27.69	85.69
	Check	09/16/2025	08	Walmart	Wino #315 Misc supplies for plantSale		Properly Bank Checking	129.03	214.72
	Check	09/02/2025	37312443	Debbie Mikus	Wino #318 Zip ties and bridge cords, plastic seating, m		Properly Bank Checking	130.00	344.72
Total PlantSale Supplier								344.72	344.72
Booth Fee									
	Check	09/05/2025	08	Rockport Franchise Chamber of Commerce	Wino #302 Space rental including electricity and table		Properly Bank Checking	380.00	380.00
Total Booth Fee								380.00	380.00
Total PlantSale - Expense								9,197.57	9,197.57
Net Income								9,097.94	9,097.94
Net Income without grant								9,097.94	9,097.94

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Past-President Bob Cunningham

The Past-President serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee pursuant to the Chapter Bylaws. As appointed by President Steve Ferguson, the Committee consists of Chapter members D'Ann Williams, Linda Swickheimer, Gary Ward, and Amy Nowlin.

The primary purpose of the Nominating Committee is to identify and recommend candidates to serve as Officers for the one-year term commencing in January 2026. The Committee may also assist in identifying candidates for other Directors, for consideration by the President in making his discretionary appointments.

Eligibility:

Officer candidates must be Certified Texas Master Naturalists within the prior or current year, and in good standing (dues paid and in compliance with TMN ethics standards and code of conduct). Non-officer Directors do not need to be currently Certified but must be members in good standing.

Officers are elected by a majority of members attending the final annual meeting on November 8, 2025. Other Directors are appointed by the President and approved after the annual election.

Officers:

On behalf of the Committee, the Secretary issued an email notice to all Chapter Members on October 1, 2025 soliciting nominations for Officer positions, and listing candidates indicating an interest to date. No responses were received.

Candidates who previously submitted an interest—together with any certified Members who may indicate an interest in the very near term--will be considered by the Nominating Committee for the slate recommended to the President. These considerations are guided by Chapter Operating Handbook, Sec 5.2.2.

Insofar as the President must provide notification of the slate to Members at least 15 days prior to the November 8th meeting, the Committee intends to provide its recommendation no later than Wednesday, October 22nd.

Officer candidates currently include:

President: Steve Ferguson (renewal)

Vice-President: Ele Chew

Treasurer: Julie Hejducek (renewal)

Secretary: Janet Cunningham

Nominations for additional Officer candidates should be submitted to me [pastpres@midcoast-tmn.org] for consideration by the Nominating Committee. Nominations for all positions will be accepted from the floor prior to the vote.

Directors:

Advanced Training: The current AT director, Debbie Kucera, recently announced she is resigning from that position.

Technology: The recently created position of Technology director remains open.

Action:

All Members are asked to consider participating in these leadership positions, and to identify and reach out to Members qualified and willing to serve in:

- (i) any of the Officer positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer or the Secretary;
or
- (ii) any Director position but especially: Advanced Training, or Technology.

Please refer nominations or interested members to me or President Steve.

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Class Representative by Nicole Reagan

Class of 2025 Report & Updates

Great strides in Certifications!!

Since July 31st

Out of 17 volunteers

we have 4 additional Certifications

&

3 additional Recertifications

Making a total of 13 Certified (1 more very close)

Out of which 7 have Re-certified (2 more very close)

1 member is looking to transfer to another chapter closer to her main residence

1 member who holds the hostess position is needing to drop the role due to splitting time out of state-

Update:

We are needing to fill the role of Host/Hostess

Nicole Reagan

2025 Class Representative

Mid-Coast Chapter

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Chapter Advisor by Amy Nowlin

We're nearing the completion of a full season of oyster gardening, and I hope the experience continues to be both enjoyable and rewarding for you. I would like to thank you for your participation in supporting oyster reef restoration and promoting stewardship of our local bays!

It's time to begin planning for the collection of the Oyster Gardening Project. The **Matagorda Bay collection** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 15**, with assistance from the **Matagorda Bay Foundation**. The oysters gardened within Matagorda Bay will be **relocated to Dog Island Nature Preserve** (closed to harvest) as part of ongoing restoration efforts. (Map attached).

Additional details regarding logistics and volunteer coordination will be shared soon. In the meantime, please **save and share this date** with anyone who may have been provided with oyster habitat bags (neighbors, friends, etc.).

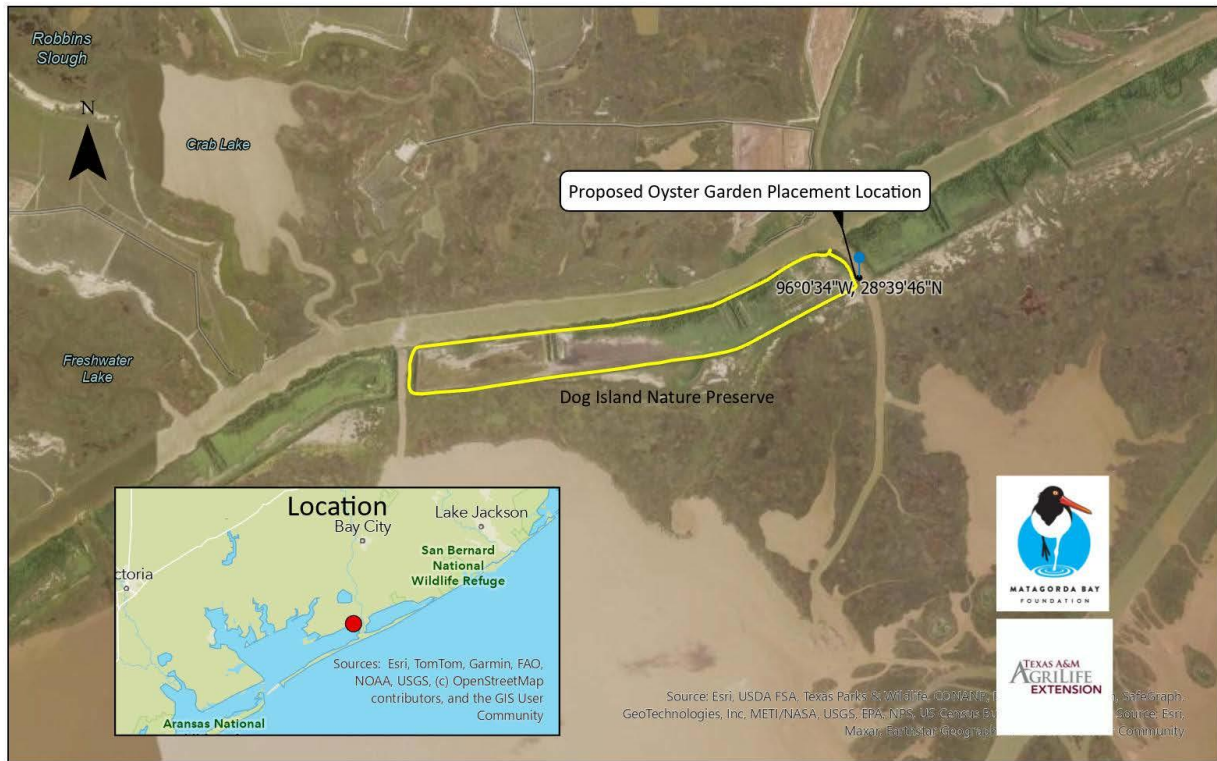
I am also in the process of finalizing placement plans for the **Aransas Bay collection** and will provide updates once confirmed.

Through your efforts, we are strengthening community understanding of how small actions can make a big difference in coastal conservation.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in this effort. Please keep tending to your baby oysters.

Happy Gardening!

Dog Island Nature Preserve Matagorda County, Marine Extension Oyster Placement Site



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Meeting Attendance

Pamela Anderson, Brigid Berger (Vice President), Jim Case (Zoom), Ele Chew-Secretary, Laura Clark, Bob Cunningham-(Past President), Janet Cunningham, Linda Daley, Kim Draper (Zoom), Tatum Dunn (IT), Margaret Durst(IT Zoom), Steve Ferguson(President), Julie Hejducek-(Treasurer), Cindy Hielscher (VMS), Dale Hughling, Jessica Ruble, Karen Lee Rystad (Zoom), Sally Scroggs (Zoom), Linda Shirey, Greg Simmons-(Projects), Janette Sims, D'Ann Williams-Communications.

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Awards

Initial Certification enamel dragonfly & plaque— Presented: Tatum Dunn and Pamela Anderson Not presented: Karen Dorgan, Frank Solis, Mark Crowdy, Brianna Hanselman, Jerrett Kernan, Mary Wilkins, Sally Crofutt, Larry Green, Martha McLeod

Milestone Awards

250-hour bronze dragonfly—Presented: Jim Case and Jessica Ruble Not presented: Sandra Garcia

Silver 500-Hour Milestone dragonfly—Presented: Janette Sims and Eleanor Chew Not presented: Janet James, Scott Swanson

Gold 1,000-Hour Milestone dragonfly – Presented: Julie Hejducek

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

Gold/Diamond 5,000-Hour dragonfly –

Leadership Award –

Recertification Pins

2022 Lightning Whelk— Presented: Not presented: Karen Benson.

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

2024 Rattlesnake—Presented: 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: Jim Case, Eleanor Chew, Linda Daley, Tatum Dunn, Cindy Hielscher, Dale Hughling, Gail Hughling, Janette Sims, D’Ann Williams Not presented: Kimberly Ballard, Shelby Bessette, James Black, Jim Case, Maureen Crocker, Kimberly Draper, Patrick Henley, Bradley Jones, Wilfred Korth, Clare Martranga, Martha McLeod, Robyn Savage, Ernie Schertz, Marilyn Stewart, Scott Swanson, Chelsea Watson, Vickie Wilson

TPWD Water Awards 2023 awarded in 2024

Not present: Marueen Crocker

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