

GALVESTON BAY AREA CHAPTER – TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

BOARD MEETING

May 30, 2023

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Vivian Allen, Laura Clark, Mary Dobberstine, Gene Fisseler, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Diane Hume, Meade LeBlanc, Jo Monday, Mike Petitt, Abhi Prasad, Patty Trimmingham, and Julie Massey, Chapter Advisor. Lynn Porfirio, Corlis Simmons, and Tracy Walpole were also present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 6:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the April 25 meeting that had been emailed previously to the Board were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Mike to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Pam reported on the Chapter's scholarship nominees. The Scholarship Committee had received ten applications for consideration. The Committee redacted the names from the applications and utilized a pre-agreed rubric to rank the applications as fairly as possible. Based on the scoring, the Committee recommended two candidates. The first was Maddie Guillory, who will be attending Utah State University and majoring in Environmental Sciences, and the second was Mariah Waters who will be attending Antioch University and studying Nature-Based Early Childhood Education. Following some discussion, a motion made by Lisa and seconded by Gene was approved unanimously to award scholarships for \$2,000 each to Ms. Guillory and to Ms. Waters. Gene noted that Mariah Waters participated in the Fall 2022 Training Class, and Pam said that it had been a pleasant surprise after her application had been selected.

Further, Pam was pleased to announce that a donation for \$2,000 had been made to the Chapter and designated as the Sarah Snell Scholarship and would be awarded to Emmalie Hazen. Emmalie has been a faithful Chapter volunteer throughout her high school career and would be attending aviation maintenance school. The Board expressed approval and appreciation to the Scholarship Committee for a job well done.

Next, Pam called for a discussion of the financial review of 2022 activity that had been conducted by Gene, Cynthia and Lisa. Gene explained that Meade had provided guidelines for the comprehensive review, and that the team had found the records to be in good order. Gene had drafted a report that had been signed by the team and presented to Julie. Pam called for the Board to accept the financial report as presented. Upon motion made by Mary and seconded by Patty, the 2022 financial report was accepted unanimously.

Next, Pam called for Mary to update the Board on her efforts to organize a Speakers Bureau for the Chapter. As this was a formal objective of the Board, Mary had contacted previous speakers and conferred with Sarah Snell in order to develop the current Speakers List she had shared with the Board prior to the meeting. Sarah Snell's Speakers List from 2019 had proved to be invaluable. Mary mentioned that local libraries could be good venues for sharing presentations. For example, Mary had already asked Chris Anastas if she could present Monarch Butterflies at the Texas City Library in the fall. Mary asked the Board for its endorsement and feedback of her initial efforts to provide support and coordination for the Speakers Bureau. Discussion ensued, and the consensus was that Mary's efforts were very much appreciated. Laura mentioned that AP Science teachers in her school would welcome presentations from the GBAC Chapter on a variety of subjects. Pam recapped the discussion by affirming that Mary was headed in the right direction, and that Mary had the blessing of the Board to set up an Outreach Committee that would function as support and coordination of presentations for the Chapter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pam announced that Cynthia Hughes had asked to step down as Secretary, and Lisa Hardcastle had agreed to serve. Upon motion made by Pam and seconded by Diane, Lisa's nomination was approved unanimously.

Next, Pam expressed appreciation to Lisa Hardcastle, Vivian Allen and James Malzahn for ably representing the Spring 2022 Training Class as Board Members over the past year. As the Spring, 2023 Training Class had just concluded, it was Pam's pleasure to welcome Corlis Simmons and Lynn Porfirio as new Board Members and Jesse Monzingo as Alternate.

Next, Pam called upon Mary to discuss the possibility of dedicated email addresses for officers of the Board and some committee chairs. Mary said that as she was making her initial contacts on behalf of the Board, she realized that there are only a few official email addresses for assigned positions. Mary felt that assigned email addresses would enhance continuity of projects and responsibilities as Board Members and Officers rotate off from year to year. As per the handbook, it would be role of the Secretary to maintain a list of the official email addresses. Longer term, the Board could consider setting up a dedicated domain, but Mary suggested that the Board begin with dedicated Gmail accounts. Discussion ensued regarding logistics, historic contact lists that would need to migrate, etc. Generally, the benefits of seamless succession planning outweighed any perceived inconvenience. Mary offered to begin creating the new Gmail accounts and exploring the logistics of transferring contact lists.

BOARD REPORTS:

President (Pam House)

Pam had participated in the statewide President's Meeting earlier in the day, and the primary topic of discussion was the Annual TMN Meeting that would be held in McAllen

from October 12 thru the 15th. As the meeting would coincide with a major eclipse of the sun, the activities on Saturday, Oct. 14 would be held outdoors at a private ranch so that the eclipse could be viewed and discussed. Pam noted that hotels near the convention center have already opened registration, and reservations could be made. The TMN Tuesday on June 13 would feature Texas Parks & Wildlife and was termed "Plants 201."

Vice President (Gene Fisseler)

Gene reported that the speaker for the Chapter Meeting on Thursday, June 1st would be Mario Marquez, Aquaculture Specialist with Texas Sea Grant. His topic would be Oyster Mariculture Along the Texas Coast. Lisa Gonzalez had been rescheduled for the August 1st meeting. For the October meeting, Gene had a lead on an A & M Galveston researcher of jellyfish, and he would be making contact very soon.

Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade provided the financial report detailing activity to date. She noted that it would be her pleasure to make the scholarship payments and finish paying the 2023 Spring Training Class expenses in the next week.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

Patty noted that Chapter members had reported over 20,000 Volunteer Service hours so far this year, already more than half of what was reported last year. Patty congratulated Carolyn Miles on achieving 4,000 hours and Chris Anastas on achieving 5,000 hours. Patty noted that six members have reached 4,000 hours in 2023. Patty also announced that Dorothy had dropped off the Membership Committee, and she expressed gratitude to Dorothy for almost 5 years' Membership Committee service.

Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)

Mike was pleased to report that Mary Scwhartz' *Bald Eagles: From Bobbleheads to Beauties* AT had been attended by 56 participants on May 17. Upcoming programs included *Texas Native Cats* by Monica Morrison on June 14, a tour of the League City Weather Station with Dan Reilly on July 22, and *Hummingbirds* by Martin Hagne on August 9.

Mike mentioned that the *Isaac's Storm* Book Review had been hosted by Cheryl Barajas and attended by 17 participants.

New Class Training (Diane Hume)

Diane reported that the Spring, 2023 Training Class was completed, and it had been an enjoyable and successful experience with the help of an army of Chapter volunteers. Corliss and Lynn echoed Diane's sentiments and thanked her and her entire team for

their hard work and leadership. Diane also offered to share the Lunar Planetary Institute's portable StarLab Planetarium with the Chapter at some point during the summer. She offered to get together with Mike and the AT Committee to explore this further.

Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nasrullah)

In Mohammed's absence, Pam reported that the May 23 Community AT presentation by Tim Pylate of Armand Bayou Nature Center had been attended by 39 participants and had been well-received.

Communications (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary felt comfortable that her report had been covered in Old and New Business.

Fall Class Reps (Laura and Abhi)

Laura and Abhi thanked Patty for the latest certification report for their class and said they would reach out to the classmates this week to offer support and encourage them to continue working toward certification.

Chapter Advisor (Julie Massey)

Julie congratulated the Board for granting the 2023 scholarships. Julie also reported that her summer Sea Grant interns would start Wednesday, May 31, and they would be attending the Chapter meeting on Thursday, June 1. Julie was also pleased to announce that she would be hiring Joanna's replacement very soon. Julie was looking forward to Camp Wild during the week of June 5 thru June 10. Finally, Julie would like to explore the possibility of chartering a bus to take Chapter members to McAllen in October.

Pam announced that the next Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 27th. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes