

GBAC BOARD JULY MEETING  
July 25, 2023

**Attendees via Zoom:** Pam House, Lisa Hardcastle, Jo Monday, Mike Petitt, Diane Humes, Mary Dobberstine, Mohammad Nasrullah, Patty Trimmingham, Abhi Prasad, Laura Clark, Corlis Simmons, Lynn Porfirio and Jesse Monzingo. Also present were Tracy Walpole and Vivian Allen. Gene Fisseler and Meade LeBlanc were absent.

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

**Old Business:**

The minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting that had been previously emailed to the Board were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Mike Petitt and seconded by Mohammad Nasrullah to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary updated the Board regarding chapter email addresses. Unfortunately, the email addresses created for Board members and shared at the last Board meeting will not work as intended. She is currently exploring options with Google for Nonprofits. Documentation verifying our nonprofit status is required to utilize this workspace. Pam is assisting with obtaining the necessary document from the IRS. Mary will keep the Board updated on the process.

Pam updated the Board on plans for the next training class for Gene, who was unable to attend today's meeting. Gene has contacted Diane Humes and Cindy Howard to solicit feedback regarding planning for future training classes. Due to vacation schedules, no progress has been made, but they will discuss and make recommendations soon.

Pam also reported on actions related to determining interest in chartering a bus for the Annual Meeting. An email was sent to chapter members, but responses were low. Pam will bring the topic up at the August chapter meeting, but it is likely that carpooling will be the best option.

**New Business:**

Pam next discussed the August chapter meeting. She will be out of town prior to the chapter meeting, but will get the slides for the meeting to Chuck Snyder. She asked anyone that has information to share with the chapter to send it to Chuck. Jesse Monzingo will share information about the photo contest during the Announcements section of the meeting. Pam also shared that the Zoom meeting will start at 5:00 in an effort to provide some socializing time for Zoom participants.

## **Board Reports:**

### **President (Pam House)**

Previously, it had been discussed that the Galveston County Master Gardeners had extended an invitation to the chapter to attend their August meeting. Pam has not received further information regarding the event but will try to find additional information to share.

She also reported that she has met with the Spring Training Class Representatives and shared responsibilities and procedures.

Meade LeBlanc, Treasurer, was not in attendance, but Pam reported that there have been no unusual expenses. Two of the three scholarships have been distributed to date.

### **Membership (Patty Trimmingham)**

Patty shared the GBAC Membership Report via email to Board members. In summary, impacts were higher than July of last year. Additionally, volunteer service hours were down from June, likely due to the heat. There was no change in the fall or spring training class certification status this month. She also reported that one member transferred out of the chapter, and we had one new person transfer into the chapter.

### **Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)**

Jo reported that it is a slow time for volunteer service. She has received a few requests for projects. Jo also shared that she is coordinating with Highland Lakes TMN Chapter, who are visiting the area in September. One day of the visit will include activities at Texas A&M – Galveston and another day will be at Galveston Island State Park. Larry Brasfield is coordinating a work project with the group.

### **Advanced Training (Mike Pettit)**

Mike shared via email a list of past and future AT programs with the Board prior to the meeting. The book club met on July 10, 2023, and thirteen participants discussed *The Book of Hope – Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Douglas Abrams and Jane Goodall. On July 22, 2023, 29 attendees participated in a tour of the League City Weather Station. Upcoming programs include our chapter meeting on August 3, 2023, “A Flight Plan: Conservation Needs Through the Eyes of Your Feathered Friends”, by Lisa Gonzalez, a presentation on “Hummingbirds” by Martin Hagne from Gulf Coast Bird Observatory on August 9, 2023 at 6:00 via Zoom, a presentation via Zoom on September 25, 2023 at 7:00 by Chris Marshall from Texas A&M – Galveston, “Movement of Sea Turtles and Experimental Nest Project” and the second of half the book study group’s discussion of *The Book of Hope – Survival Guide for Trying Times* on August 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

He also reported that the first in-person AT since COVID, the tour of League City Weather Station, was “fabulous.” Registration went well, the staff was enthusiastic, and everything was great.

### **New Class (Diane Humes)**

Diane reported that a few members of the Spring 2023 class were still missing class hours, and that Mason Gilfoil may invite them to Sea Center Texas to make hours up.

### **Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nassrullah)**

Mohammed summarized the report he shared with the Board prior to the meeting. He shared that he is developing plans to have a booth at the Galveston County Hispanic Heritage Month event in September. He continues to work on obtaining speakers for Community ATs, but so far has not had success. He is also developing a list of items to be included in a GBAC JEDI kit for outreach activities. Additionally, he is working with the Clear Lake Islamic Center to develop a plan to create a pollinator garden, a vegetable garden, and a solar system. He is also discussing with the Iman Academy to begin an after-school birding club. He is working with Eowyn Johnson on this project. Mohammed also proposed that the JEDI Mission and Vision Statements be published on the GBAC website. After some discussion about this, it was recommended that he communicate with Julie Massey on how best to do this.

### **Communication (Mary Dobberstine)**

Next, Mary shared updates on her recent activities. Chuck Snyder has been posting chapter content to his YouTube channel. He has asked if the chapter can start their own channel and if possible, he would transfer videos to the new location. She is also researching our contract with Constant Contact to determine whether we should broaden and/or expand our services. Additionally, she has been receiving requests for participation in Fall Festivals and would like to know if there is a process in place to determine which ones the chapter participates in. She will be discussing this with other members. Mary was pleased to share the success of Maureen Nolan-Wilde’s article about the Blue Button. It has been shared extensively and viewed by over 62,000 people. She also continues to work with Karen Hazen and Sara Snell to inventory outreach kits stored at Carbide Park.

Mary then requested \$50 for the Chapter’s Photo Contest awards. She also expressed appreciation to Jesse for helping with the project. Mohammed made a motion to approve \$50 for the contest awards, Lisa seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Class Reps Fall 2022 (Laura Clark and Abhi Prasad)**

Laura gave kudos to Patty for the video of the injured sea turtle that Patty transported to the Houston Zoo. She also expressed appreciation for Patty’s class hours report. Laura shared that she has taken some classmates on turtle patrol to help with hours. Abhi

reported that one classmate had asked about remote opportunities. He said that Patty and Tracy responded with several ideas. He may send the information to other class members. Overall, he said the class is doing well.

### **Class Reps Spring 2023 (Corlis Simmons, Lynn Porfirio and Jesse Monzingo)**

Corlis stated that she had nothing new to report, other than she had received Patty's class report. Lynn reported some classmates have reported zero hours, she plans to contact them.

### **Other Business**

The August Board Meeting will be on August 29. Pam questioned whether anyone would be interested in meeting in person. Mike expressed concern about driving to Carbide Park during evening traffic for a meeting that usually lasts less than an hour. Pam indicated that it would be an extended agenda which would include reviewing progress on goals, discussing officer succession and the end of the year meeting. Laura suggested that we meet at Spring Creek Barbecue, which has a meeting room. She also volunteered to make arrangements with the restaurant. It was decided that we would meet in person at 5:30 p.m. at the restaurant.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle