

GBAC BOARD SEPTEMBER MEETING
Via Zoom
September 25, 2024

Attendees via Zoom: Gene Fisseler, Mary Dobberstine, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Sharon Tirpak, Mike Petitt, Diane Humes, Mohammed Nasrullah, Tracy Walpole, Denise Correll, Terri Bell, and Jesse Monzingo. Also present was Vivian Allen. Absent members included Pam House, Sydney Jeffcoat, Corlis Simmons, and Brandi Keller.

Gene Fisseler, President, notified members of the meeting date and agenda via email on September 15, 2024. All meeting participants are able to communicate with each other via Zoom.

Gene called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The quorum requirement was established by Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary.

Gene reviewed the agenda.

Review and approval of minutes:

The minutes of the August board meeting that had been previously emailed to the Board were offered for discussion. **A motion was made by Tracy and seconded by Mike to approve the minutes as written/corrected. The motion passed unanimously.**

Officer Reports:

- **President (Gene Fisseler)**

Gene reported that Pam would be unable to attend due to a family emergency, but wanted to share that scholarship applications were mailed out to local school counselors today. The committee is planning to select recipients by the end of November so that they may attend our December chapter meeting.

He also reported on the nominating committee's progress. The position of Vice President is open for next year. Therefore, the committee will be seeking a candidate to fill this position.

Gene also shared that he is working with Tracy and Sharon to provide more information on the chapter's website about who to contact if a member is interested in learning about specific opportunities or areas of interest.

Finally, Gene discussed the approved scholarships for the state's Annual Meeting. His original candidate for the full \$500 scholarship is unable to attend, so he will grant three \$100 scholarships to attendees based on "above and beyond" dedication to the chapter.

- **Vice President (Mary Dobberstine)**

Mary reported on plans for the October chapter meeting. Chloe Dannenfelter of American Bird Conservancy will discuss "Making a Splash: Bird Conservationists Addressing Plastic Pollution." Additionally, we will be collecting supplies such as paper towels, tissues, crayons, and pencils to support Galveston ISD teachers. We will also celebrate our 2024 GBAC Chapter Photo Contest winners and showcase the 2024 Beach Hero Art Display.

Additionally, Mary is working with Eowyn Johnson to create a presentation for the state meeting's Chapter Project Contest. Sandy Parker, who has created presentations for the contest in the past, is also helping.

Furthermore, Mary and Jenny Dudley will be discussing with Brandi impact reporting and what additional data Brand may need for her reporting needs.

Mary also shared that she is working with Terri and Denise to plan the December "Year End" chapter meeting. The new class is responsible for table decorations at the event.

Finally, she shared that Maureen Nolan-Wilde announced that she is stepping down from managing the chapter's Facebook page, so Mary is looking for someone to step into this role.

- **Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)**

Nothing to report.

- **Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)**

Meade sent a copy of the financial report on September 20, 2024. She summarized that there has not been much activity since last month. She did initiate a discussion about the expense of purchasing meat for the chapter's December meeting and asked about alternatives. It was decided that buying less meat would lower the expense and minimize waste.

Lisa made a motion to accept the report as presented. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)**

Mike previously shared a GBAC AT Report with board members. The “Water for a Growing (and Hopefully Flowing)” presentation was a good program he reported, but unfortunately only 23 attendees participated. Upcoming presentations include “Benefits of Bats” on October 1, “Taxonomy” on November 14 and a JEDI community presentation, “The Karankawa People of the Texas Gulf Coast: Facts, Fictions, and Forgotten Histories” on October 29.

- **Communication (Mary Dobberstine)**

Mary is requesting that any fliers to other outreach pieces that will be shared with the public be reviewed by her first. There are State office branding standards that must be met before distribution.

- **Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nasrullah)**

The JEDI team is planning a community presentation, “The Karankawa People of the Texas Gulf Coast: Facts, Fictions, and Forgotten Histories” on October 29.

- **Membership (Tracy Walpole)**

Tracy shared the September Membership Report with board members prior to the meeting. In summary:

- The chapter has 244 active members.
- There are 13 “in training” members from the previous class.
- There were approximately 1,200 volunteer service hours and 80 advanced training hours reported in September. Totals for the year are approaching last year’s total.
- September milestones include 2,500 volunteer service hours for Cathy Corley and 250 volunteer service hours for Patricia Steinke.
- Two new members transferred in from other chapters.

- **Outreach (Lisa Hardcastle)**

Lisa reported that the committee met this week. There were discussions and clarifications regarding volunteer service vs. outreach activities, correct impact data reporting, recruiting more volunteers for outreach events, and a showcase of outreach kits. Lisa plans to have a “mock” outreach table at our next chapter meeting to demonstrate what outreach looks like. It was suggested that she solicit testimonies from members who have participated in outreach activities to encourage others to volunteer. Lisa also reported that there will be an outreach table at an upcoming event at NASA.

- **Training Class (Diane Humes)**

Diane shared a concern that this month's issue of The Midden was not mailed to members in time for them to receive it prior to the chapter meeting. She would like to make sure that the mistake does not happen again in the future.

- **Volunteer Service (Sharon Tirpak)**

Sharon reported that she met with Patty Trimmingham and Sharon Diaz to review advanced training and volunteer service opportunities in the Volunteer Management System. They removed redundant and non-used opportunities. The list was updated and uploaded to the system. An email with the new list was also sent to chapter members.

She also met with Gene, Tracy, and Patty to discuss the "What We Do" page on the chapter's website. The page will be updated to be more descriptive of the activities listed.

Other Reports

- **Chapter Advisor**

Brandi was unavailable to attend, but Gene shared that she is looking for volunteers for the Master Gardeners Fall Fest at Carbide Park on October 12, 2024. She would like to have the wingspan activity and turtle excluder device (TED) exhibited by master naturalists at the event.

- **New Class Representatives (Denise Correll, Sydney Jeffcoat, Terri Bell)**

Denise reported that Sydney drafted and sent an email to the class members, encouraging them to continue working toward certification. The representatives are also making plans for the December meeting.

Old (unfinished) Business

- Mary reported on plans for the October 5 chapter event. The monofilament team will have a table set up, Lisa and Jenny will lead optional bird walks, the outreach team will have a table set up, members will participate in a beach clean-up and a picnic will be held to encourage social interaction of members. Twenty-two people have signed up.

Gene proposed that the chapter provide beverages (water and soft drinks) and cookies to participants.

Sharon made a motion that the chapter provide up to \$200 for beverages and cookies for the October 5 event. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

none

Announcements

none

Next meeting

- The next board meeting will be October 30, 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle