

Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
September 23, 2025
Via Google Meet

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Robin Novak, Sharon Tirpak, Julie Massey, Anthony Soliz Rocha, and Mary Jean Salzer.

Absent members were Chloe Stifler, Mohammed Nasrullah, Denise Correll, Tracy Walpole, and Mary McElligott.

Also present was Brandi Keller, Chapter Advisor.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the August board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on September 16, 2025. All meeting participants were able to communicate with each other via Google Meet.

Welcome and Call to Order

- The board meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Establishment of Quorum

Lisa Hardcastle established a quorum.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Gene made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda Items which include the August 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, GBAC Financial Summary, YTD through September 15, 2025, and 2024 GBAC Financial Review Report. The motion was seconded by Jenny. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcement

Mary was pleased to announce that Meade LeBlanc has been awarded the Native Plant Society of Texas's *President's Award* for outstanding service on the 2025 Executive Committee. Kudos to Meade!

Old Business

- **Chapter Service Days – September 27 and October 4**

Sharon updated the board on plans for the chapter service event at Galveston Island SP on September 27. Approximately 25 members have volunteered for the event. She has emailed these members with instructions on where to meet and the plan for the day. Four of these volunteers will be involved in outreach activities, the rest will work in the plant nursery. The Superintendent of the park has reserved the pavilion for the chapter members to enjoy lunch.

Jenny reported on plans for the chapter service event on October 4 at University of Houston – Coastal Center. About 20 people have signed up for the event and an email will go out to them with details soon.

Mary reminded the board that the purpose of these events is for chapter members to network with other members while giving back to the community.

New Business

- **Financial Review**

The financial review was included with the consent agenda items and there was no further discussion.

- **Dragonfly Bingo Prizes**

Mary had previously emailed board members with options for the design used for prizes, asking for feedback. She shared the winning design with the board this evening. Mary has priced pins and stickers, and participating members will be allowed to choose one. After discussion, **Sharon made a motion to spend \$81.00 of chapter funds to purchase 50 stickers and 50 pins for Dragonfly Bingo prizes. Robin seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Officer Reports

- **President** (Mary Dobberstine)

The state presidents' meeting is not scheduled until next week, so there Mary did not have much to report. If anything important arises from the meeting, she will email the board. She asked the board to begin thinking about year end items such as Treasures of the Bay awards and board positions for next year.

- **Vice President** (Jenny Dudley)

Jenny reported that our chapter meeting will be held October 2. A "save the date" email went out to the chapter and a reminder email will go out soon. She is also preparing for the year end chapter meeting on December 4. The recent training class members will be responsible for table centerpieces, and she will be asking for assistance in setting up and breaking down the room after the event.

- **Treasurer** (Meade LeBlanc)

Nothing to report.

- **Secretary** (Lisa Hardcastle)

Nothing to report.

- **Immediate Past President** (Gene Fisseler)

Gene has begun making plans for the 2026 scholarship committee and will meet with a past committee member this week. He would like to work with our partners such as Galveston Bay Foundation, Environmental Institute of Houston, Exploration Green, etc. to encourage young people involved with those organizations to apply for the scholarships.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training** (Robin Novak)
The Heritage Book Club met recently with ten members present. The *Native Bee* presentation on August 2, 2025, attracted 45 members. Upcoming training opportunities include *Walking with Fireflies* on September 25, *Land Meets Sea* at the October 4 chapter meeting and *Shell Yeah!* By Cindy Howard in November. Events for 2026 are being planned, with three events already scheduled. Robin raised questions regarding how the chapter can post recorded advanced training videos so that members can access them. The current practice needs to be reconsidered, and she is open to suggestions. Mary suggested looking into using our Google account to create a YouTube channel. Mary Salazar suggested several people from the recent training class that may be able to assist Robin.
- **Community Engagement** (Mohammed Nasrullah)
Mohammed was unable to attend, but it was reported that he has been busy with the pollinator garden project and will be recognized at the October chapter meeting.
- **Outreach** (Denise Correll)
Denise was unable to attend but communicated with Mary to inform her that she has engaged volunteers for several upcoming outreach events – *Nature Nurture Festival* in Baytown, *NASA Health Safety Day*, and the *League City EcoFest*. Additionally, the community engagement committee will take lead on outreach for the *ABNC Fall Festival* and *Moody Gardens Monarch* event.
- **Membership** (Tracy Walpole)
Tracy was unable to attend but sent membership notes to the board prior to the meeting. The report, as of September 7, 2025, reflects:
 - 257 active members
 - 2,414.25 volunteer service hours for August 2025; 32,987.5 YTD
 - 181.5 advanced training hours for August 2025; 3,222.75 YTD
 - 19 of the 29 members of the 2025 training class have certified
 - Chuck Snyder has reached the 5,000 hours volunteer service milestone
- **Volunteer Service** (Sharon Tirpak)
Sharon reported that August has been a quiet month for her. She does respond to occasional questions regarding which opportunity to code volunteer service hours.
- **Communications** (Chloe Stifler)
Chloe was unable to attend. Mary reported for Chloe that the chapter Photo Contest has kicked off and members can submit photographs online. A new twist this year is that chapter members will be voting to select winners.
- **Training Class** (Julie Massey and Gene Fisseler)
Gene reported that an outline of dates for the 2026 training class have been tentatively determined. There are 90 people who have express interest in the

training class. He also expressed a need for the chapter to consider identifying members who can become the future leaders of the training classes.

Other Reports

- **Class Representatives** (Anthony Soliz Rocha, Mary Jean Slazer and Mary McElligott)

Mary Jean reported that she has reached out to classmates who are struggling to meet certification requirements to gently support their efforts. Anthony reported doing the same.

- **Chapter Advisor** (Brandi Keller)

Brandi had many items of interest to share with the board:

- Due to recent changes at the County Extension Office, there will be only two administrative assistants to support five agents. Darla will be assisting her with Coastal and Marine which include GBAC, but also is responsible for 4-H needs, which keep her busy. Cindy Lienen is helping Brandi organize volunteers to manage the front desk and other light tasks at the office.
- A *German-American Nature Based Solutions* workshop is coming up. Mary Salazar and Maureen Nolan-Wilde will participate in this event.
- She reported that the Beach Heros Art Exhibit she recently attended was one of the “coolest events” she has ever attended.
- On October 22, the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension will be hosting a *Marine Debris Cleanup and Fishing Line Survey* at the Texas City Dike. The GBAC Monofilament team is involved in this. Additionally, new fishing line collection containers have been installed on the dike, and the city is working with the team to collect used fishing line.
- Brandi is working with a local bat rehabber to plan training for interested chapter members and community members who may have a role in rescuing injured bats.
- The Dolphin Challenge event is tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2026. It will be a busy event, and she will need assistance.
- She is working on end of year summaries which include data from the GBAC TMN program. She will share pertinent information with us along with survey data she recently collected from chapter members.

Closing

- **Review Action Items**

None

- **Next Meeting**

October 28, 2025, at 6:30 PM

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary