

**Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
October 28, 2025
Via Google Meet**

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Robin Novak, Denise Correll, Julie Massey, Anthony Soliz Rocha, and Mary McElligott.

Meade LeBlanc, Mohammed Nasrullah, Tracy Walpole, Sharon Tirpak, Chloe Stifler, and Mary Jean Salzer were absent.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the September board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on October 21, 2025. All meeting participants were able to communicate with each other via Google Meet.

Welcome and Call to Order

- Welcome and call to order.
The board meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.
- Establishment of quorum
Lisa Hardcastle established a quorum.

Chapter member Laura Clark provided the board with an update on the bat project. Data collected by chapter volunteers was submitted to the state in August. Eleven of the twelve local bat species were detected during monitoring. This is up from the number of species detected last year. The data also reflects an increase in the number of individual bats detected during the project. She has developed outreach documents containing information on the twelve species found in our area and bat conservation. Laura also shared that the project has partnered with organizations including Armand Bayou Nature Center, Cedar Bayou Trails and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project has included outreach activities with local Girl Scouts, garden clubs, and a local elementary school. Future goals for the project include increasing the number of chapter members involved. Additionally, Laura is hopeful that the chapter will increase the budget for next year to cover the \$399 software required for the project.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Lisa made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda Items; the motion was seconded by Gene. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **Chapter Event Days**
Jenny provided a report on the two events held in October. The workday at Galveston Island State Park was successful and she was told that our members were able to complete in four hours what it would normally take for them to accomplish in four weeks. Jenny commented that the weather was beautiful for the

UH-Coastal Center workday. She also noted that many volunteers had never volunteered at planting events prior to this opportunity.

- **Year End Celebration**

Mary reminded the board of the upcoming December meeting which is an opportunity to celebrate the past year. Chapter members are invited to attend with a guest and enjoy dinner provided by the chapter. The Treasures of the Bay awards will be announced at the event. Mary also announced that new for this year will be an electronic Google form used to make nominations. She encourages all board members to make nominations.

Jenny shared a spreadsheet used to organize the event. There is a need for some additional help, and she is asking for volunteers. She also shared that she has been investigating the costs for the meal and is seeking advice from the board to reduce the cost. After some discussion, it was decided that we have ordered too much food in the past and cutting back on the amount of food ordered would be appropriate.

- **Dragonfly Bingo Prizes**

The Dragonfly Bingo contest entries are due this week. Prizes have been ordered, and Mary is excited for the chapter members to see them.

New Business

- **State Annual Conference Updates**

Mary provided a brief report on the recent state conference. Twelve chapter members attended the event in College Station. Our chapter's entry in the Chapter Project competition, Glow Patrol Firefly Survey Team, won first place. Chapter member, Cindy Howard presented *Jellies, Man o' Wars and Dragons: Some Toxic Marine Life*, and it was announced that the Bobcat will be the 2026 re-certification pin. Next year's annual meeting will be held in Waco.

- **Day Away – Board Retreat**

The board's annual Day Away planning retreat has been tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2026. Mary is hoping that we will meet at the Stewart House in Galveston Island State Park.

Officer Reports

- **President** (Mary Dobberstine)
No additional information to report.
- **Vice President** (Jenny Dudley)
No additional information to report.
- **Treasurer** (Meade LeBlanc)
Meade was unable to attend.

- **Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)**
Lisa announced that a workday is scheduled for November 19 at Dick Benoit Prairied Preserve in League City.
- **Immediate Past President (Gene Fisseler)**
The nominating committee has identified Karen Garvin as a candidate for Treasurer for the upcoming year. Notification will be sent to chapter members. Additionally, the scholarship committee has met. In addition to high school seniors, the committee will be accepting applications from current college students and individuals who are returning to college after time away. Furthermore, applications have been provided to volunteer coordinators of organizations that our members volunteer with frequently.

Gene also reported that two of last year's three winners have claimed their scholarships, leaving \$2,000 in limbo. If the money is not claimed by December 31, 2025, it is possible that this money could be used for a scholarship for 2026. Additionally, there is \$1,800 in the chapter's budget for scholarships to use for 2026. He is recommending the board consider soliciting members for donations to be used for scholarship awards in the future. Julie mentioned that in the past, the board has agreed to use chapter funds for scholarships.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training (Robin Novak)**
Robin asked whether any information was shared at the state conference regarding posting advanced training videos electronically for member access. Mary said there was no clear solution but suggested that they discuss options later.

Robin reported that the Heritage Book Student met recently with nine members present. Upcoming presentations include shells by Lisa Hardcastle in November, Attwater Prairie Chickens in January, diurnal raptors in February, bird migration by Kristine Rivers, mosquitoes and ticks, wastewater, and native grasses. The team is also planning a field trip for chapter members to the Deer Park Prairie in the spring.
- **Community Engagement (Mohammed Nasrullah)**
Mohammed was unable to attend but Mary reported that a workday for the pollinator project has been scheduled.
- **Outreach (Denise Correll)**
There have been, or will be, several outreach events this fall. Two hundred people stopped by the outreach table at the Nature Nurture Festival in Baytown earlier this month. Approximately 150 people attended the Rosenberg Library's Harry Potter event that we participated in. A NASA event scheduled for October has been postponed and League City's Ecofest is scheduled for November 8. Additionally, she is looking for volunteers for the Armand Bayou Nature Center's Fall Festival in November.

- **Membership (Tracy Walpole)**

Tracy was unable to attend but sent a report prior to the meeting. Membership data as of October 5, 2025, reflects:

- 260 active members
- Volunteer hours for September – 2,763.75 (YTD – 36,059.5)
- Advanced training hours for September – 222.25 (YTD – 3,436)
- Two initial certifications in September and 12 re-certifications
- Service awards for September:
 - 250 hours – Lynn Porfirio and James Walpole
 - 500 hours – Ralph Fixel
 - 2,500 hours – Gene Fisseler
 - 5,000 hours – Carolyn Miles and Chuck Snyder
 - 20,000 hours – Marie Asscherick

- **Volunteer Service (Sharon Tirpak)**

Sharon was unable to attend.

- **Communications (Chloe Stifler)**

Chloe was unable to attend but Mary reported she is working on the chapter's photo contest.

- **Training Class (Julie Massey and Gene Fisseler)**

There will be a meeting of the training team next week. The next class is tentatively scheduled to start on the third Thursday of February and finish in April. The classes will most likely be held in the evening and will include four Saturday sessions.

Other Reports

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

Anthony reported that most classmates have found their niche for volunteering and continue to accumulate required hours. They are also making plans for the December meeting.

- **Chapter Advisor (Brandi Keller)**

Brandi was unable to attend.

Announcements

None

Review Action Items

None

Next Meeting – November 18, 2025 (one week early due to Thanksgiving)

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary