

Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
April 28, 2026
Via Google Meet

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Karen Garvin, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Robin Novak, Anthony Soliz Rocha, Denise Correll, Tracy Walpole, Sharon Tirpak, and Mary McElligott.

Also in attendance were Cindy Liening and Patty Jones.

Absent members: Mary Jean Slazer, Julie Massey and Brandi Keller.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the March board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on April 15, 2026. 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.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

- **Anniversary Swag**
Lisa informed the board about plans to mark the chapter's 25th anniversary. Three hundred lapel pins were purchased for \$719.00 and are expected to arrive before the June chapter meeting. Chapter members have ordered 86 shirts so far, and Mary Christian has requested 48 additional shirts for the chapter store. Orders will close on Friday, with the final order being placed on Monday. Lisa hopes that the shirts will also be delivered by the June meeting.
- **Government Documents**
Jenny noted chapter members must be informed of changes to the Chapter Operating Handbook before May 20 for a vote at the June meeting. **Sharon moved to accept the changes to the Chapter Operating Handbook. Lisa seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**
- **Video Project**
Mary M. gave the board an update on the 25th anniversary video project. She has a team of four working on the videos. Four videos have been completed so far.

New Business

- There is no new business.

Officer Reports

- **President** (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary was pleased to report that 135 members attended the April chapter meeting in person or via Zoom. She also expressed appreciation for all the volunteers who helped make the training class a success. Additionally, Mary provided the following information from the state:

- The Texas Master Naturalists program has been selected by Texas by Nature Conservation Wrangler, an accelerator program, for strategic planning assistance. Through the Conservation Wrangler program, the TMN Program will receive tailored support to develop a strategic plan, along with a sustainable strategic planning process that the TMN Program can utilize into the future.
- The May TMN Tuesday's topic will be grant writing strategies for chapters.
- The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held October 22 – 26 in Waco.
- Jesse Monzingo has agreed to organize the chapter's photo contest for the second year. More information will be sent to chapter members soon.

- **Vice President** (Jenny Dudley)

Jenny shared that the speaker at the June chapter meeting will present on the topic of arboviruses, viruses transmitted to humans primarily through the bites of infected arthropods, mainly mosquitoes and ticks.

- **Treasurer** (Karen Garvin)

Karen informed the board that she will be out of town for most of May.

- **Secretary** (Lisa Hardcastle)

Nothing to report.

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

Gene stated that all 33 trainees who started in February finished the classwork. Several volunteered to be New Class Representatives, and their names will be announced on Thursday.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training** (Robin Novak)

A presentation on soil microbiology will be offered on May 5 to chapter members. Robin also reported that she and her team are planning an "AT Day" on November 14. There will be two presentations in the morning, a break for lunch, and then a presentation in the afternoon. Topics include "Daytime Phenomena" and "Water, Land and Sky" by Cindy Howard.

- **Community Engagement** (Anthony Soliz Rocha)
Anthony has discussed the changes to the Community Engagement team and reports that everyone is on board. He plans to meet with them in person next month. Currently the team is looking for new speakers.
- **Outreach** (Denise Correll)
The outreach team has been busy at the following events, Bay Area Plant Swap Meet – 90 visitors; Laporte Spring Festival – 119 visitors; and Texas Coastal Roundup – 118 visitors. She is recruiting volunteers for the following events, ABNC Spring Fling, STEAM festival at Pasadena ISD and Artist Boat on June 6.
- **Membership** (Tracy Walpole)
Tracy provided board members with a membership report for March 2026 prior to the meeting. Highlights include the following, members accrued 4,802.5 volunteer service hours and 371.5 advanced training hours in March; 17 members have recertified; two members obtained 500 hours of service and one reached 1,000 hours of service. Additionally, she reports that the state continues to update the Volunteer Management System. The state is also updating the user and admin guidebooks.
- **Volunteer Service** (Sharon Tirpak)
Sharon reported that she has been receiving fewer emails regarding questions about volunteer service, indicating things are going well.
- **Communications**
No report.
- **Training Class** (Julie Massey)
Gene reported for Julie. He attended a meeting with other chapters' training class directors. He was remarked at how well our training classes work, compared to other chapters.

Other Reports

- **Class Representatives** (Mary Jean Slazer and Mary McElligott)
Nothing to report.
- **Chapter Advisor** (Brandi Keller)
Brandi was unable to attend but asked Mary to share the following information:
 - Happy National Volunteer Month, she is appreciative of all we do;
 - She will host two community engagement interns this summer;
 - The Texas General Land Office hosted the 2026 Coastal Roundup in Galveston. She is grateful to the chapter members who volunteered at the event.

Closing

- **Next Meeting**
 - May 19, the date is changed due to the Memorial Day holiday.
- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary