

Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
May 19, 2026
Via Google Meet

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Anthony Soliz Rocha, Denise Correll, Tracy Walpole, Sharon Tirpak, Ty Walker, Joey Martinez, and Lee Ann Walden.

Karen Garvin, Robin Novak, Julie Massey, and Brandi Keller were absent.

Also in attendance were Laura Clark and Mary McElligott.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the April board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on May 12, 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 6:30 PM.
- Establishment of quorum
Lisa Hardcastle established a quorum.

Mary welcomed the 2026 Spring Training Class Representatives, Ty Walker, Joey Martinez, and Lee Ann Walden (alternate). She then asked all board members to introduce themselves to Ty, Joey and Lee Ann. Mary will meet with them on May 26 to discuss their responsibilities.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Gene made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda Items (approval of April 28, 2026 board meeting minutes, approval of a minor clerical correction to the March 2026 board meeting minutes, and financial reports for the period ending May 5, 2026) the motion was seconded by Jenny. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **25 Anniversary Updates**

Lisa reported that the lapel pins have arrived and will be distributed at the June chapter meeting. She hopes the shirts will also arrive in time for distribution at that meeting.

Mary McElligott reported that seven of the 25th anniversary videos have been recorded. One, featuring Mason Gilfoil, was posted on social media today. When asked whether the videos could be shared with members who do not use social media, Mary said she would investigate options.

New Business

- **Beach Hero – School Teacher Supply Drive**

The Beach Hero team has requested that we conduct a school supply drive at our August meeting like we did last year. **Sharon made a motion to ask chapter members to bring school supplies to the August chapter meeting so that they may be distributed to the schools and assisted living facility that participate in the Beach Hero program. Joey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

- **State Annual Meeting**

Our chapter has traditionally provided a \$1,000 sponsorship for the State Annual Meeting, and Mary proposed continuing that level of support this year. **Ty made a motion for the chapter to provide a \$1,000 sponsorship to the 2026 Texas Master Naturalist State Annual Meeting. Gene seconded the motion and the motion passed.**

- **Bat Monitoring Program**

Laura reported that the bat monitoring program has been approved by the state for volunteer service hours and officially began last week with several new volunteers. Texas City Prairie Preserve and Galveston Island State Park were added as monitoring sites, and a local Girl Scout troop installed two bat boxes at Armand Bayou Nature Center, where bat hikes have also begun. Hope and Russell Cole will assist with data analysis. Laura recently presented a bat lesson to more than 500 students at Ross Elementary School in League City, and bat bridge surveys are now underway.

Officer Reports

- **President** (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary reminded the board that Darla Cox sends cards to chapter members for occasions such as illness or death. The chapter recently received a note from the widow of a former member expressing how much he enjoyed being a Master Naturalist. Mary encouraged board members to contact Darla when a card should be sent.

- **Vice President** (Jenny Dudley)

Jenny reported that updates to the Chapter Operation Handbook are nearly complete, but the document is not yet ready to present to the chapter. She recommended that the board approve the revisions at the June board meeting and present them to the chapter for approval in August.

- **Treasurer** (Karen Garvin)

Karen was absent.

- **Secretary** (Lisa Hardcastle)

Lisa had nothing to report.

Immediate Past President (Gene Fisseler)

Gene had nothing to report at this time.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training** (Robin Novak)
Robin was absent.
- **Community Engagement** (Anthony Soliz Rocha)
Anthony reported that the chapter will have a table at the Juneteenth celebration in Galveston. Additionally, Ruth Nasrullah will give a presentation at the event.
- **Membership** (Tracy Walpole)
As of May 3, 2026, members have volunteered 5,312 hours of service and accrued 433.5 hours of advanced training. There are three 2026 class members who completed initial certification requirements, 25 chapter members who re-certified, two who obtained 250 hours of volunteer service hours, three at the 500 hours level, one at the 1000 hours level and one at the 2500 hours level.
- **Outreach** (Denise Correll)
Recent outreach events include participation at the Spring Fling at Armand Bayou Nature center in which 133 people visited our booth and STEAM Day at Keller Middle School in Pasadena in which 115 students and staff visited our booth. In June, the chapter will have a table at the Artist Boat World Ocean Day event.
- **Training Class** (Julie Massey/Gene Fisseler)
Gene was pleased to share that the training class has finished with all 33 new trainees completing class work. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the over 100 volunteers who made the class a success.
- **Volunteer Service** (Sharon Tirpak)
Sharon shared a conversation she recently had with a new chapter member regarding the guidelines for volunteer projects. In summary, approved projects should be within our chapter area and be coordinated events with set locations, dates, and times. Simply going to the beach and picking up trash is not an example of an approved project.

Other Reports

- **Class Representatives** (Joey Martinez, Ty Walker, and Lee Ann Walden)
Joey reported that she has been staying connected with several class members discussing their volunteer activities. Ty would like to see everyone from the class certify and it to be a "top" class. They will meet with Mary soon.
- **Chapter Advisor** (Brandi Keller)
Brandi could not attend.

Closing**Announcements**

- The chapter meeting will be at Carbide Park on June 4th.

Next Meeting

- The next board meeting will be June 30, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary