

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER  
 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 August 13, 2018  
**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS & NEW CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE**

	<b>OFFICERS</b>		Sam Womble	✓	Evelyn Penrod		Joedy Yglesias
✓	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson	✓	Gary Poole		<b>CLASS 42 OBSERVERS</b>
✓	Donald Ewers		<b>MEMBERS</b>		Keeley Porter	✓	David Bordelon (Class 42 rep)
✓	Jeanette Geiman	✓	Mariana Outlaw		Liz Robbins		Ashley Green (alternate)
✓	Stan Drezek	✓	Pam Ball		Nancy Thoss		<b>CLASS 43 OBSERVERS</b>
	<b>ADVISORS</b>		Michael Britt (Class 41)	✓	Karen Stevenson	<sup>na</sup>	Fall 2018
	Judit Green	✓	Camille Gong		Tyler Sanderson (Class 40)	<sup>na</sup>	Fall 2018

Note: **Quorum=10**: there are 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors. New Class 43’s observers will be named with the start of New Class 43 in the Fall.

*With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.*

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**MINUTES** There being no objections, the emailed corrected Minutes for last month’s meeting stand as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** There being no objections, last month’s Treasurer’s reports stand as communicated. The treasurer praised former AAMN president, Anton Hajek. Anton has collected \$453 at our first four general meetings and secured another \$1,900 from community restitution fees through his law practice, all for the TMN Endowment Fund.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Stan Drezek, Secretary**, announced that the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA; HR 4647) was up to 81 bipartisan sponsors. Should the federal law pass it could mean about \$60 to \$80 million per year for Texas in support of species with the greatest conservation needs under the TCAP (Texas Conservation Action Plan). David Bordelon, Class 42 Observer and 2019 Board Member, graciously agreed to be liaison to the Texas Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife.

**Stan Drezek, Secretary**, reminded us that the CMOP (Chapter Management and Operation Protocols) states on page 8 “When a Texas Master Naturalist speaks before groups on natural resource subjects they may accept unsolicited expense reimbursements or gifts of nominal value of \$25 or less.” Our discussion clarified when a person is not representing themselves as a MN and speaking on non-natural resource subjects this does not apply. Also, organizations may donate directly to AAMN any amount, as long as the donation does not go through a MN.

**Martha Cray, President**, announced, after a brief recess for the Executive Committee to convene, she was appointing Mariana Outlaw to fill the vacant Community Outreach position on the Board, effective immediately.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology**, updated us on the Demonstration Garden at Phil Hardberger Park (West). Ground-breaking will occur later in August, planting day the week of 9-17, and a grand-opening will coincide with the Tricentennial event and land-bridge dedication on 10-6.

**Gary Poole, State Representative**, reported that the COH Revision Committee started with the TMN COH as a template and added to it any additional points in our own AAMN COH. The committee is checking over that it captured everything needed and soon the COH will go to Board members for review of positions and/or the whole document.

**Martha Cray, President**, announced she had sent in a letter of support to the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, after Debbie Reid's comments at the last Board meeting and requests from GEAA, as our goals are mutually aligned.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Stan Drezek, Secretary**, made a motion "That the AAMN chapter reimburse the State Representative up to \$300 to attend the annual TMN meeting." Stan pointed out the COH calls for both the President and State Representative's attendance at the annual meeting. We already had approved \$300 for the president. After discussion Karen Stevenson seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

**Pam Ball, Activities Information**, presented a request for collaboration from Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club. She will send out the information to MNs to see if there is someone who would be willing to take on their project.

**Martha Cray, President**, reported on a proposed closer working relationship with Green Spaces Alliance. However, Tyler Sanderson was on military duty tonight and she suggested tabling until he could be here to discuss his request with us.

**Martha Cray, President**, reported on KLRN's Spring Live. Fortunately, having filled the vacant Community Outreach position, the Board could ask Mariana Outlaw to contact KLRN and pin down the specifics of this event(s).

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, ADVISORS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND/OR STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Sam Womble, AgriLife Advisor**, was not present.

**Judit Green, TPWD Advisor**, was not present.

**Jessica Alderson, TPWD Advisor**, was not present.

**Liz Robbins, Past President**, was not present.

**Donald Ewers, Vice President**, had no vice-president report.

**Gary Poole, State Representative** reminded us that registration for the TMN annual meeting is still open.

**Pam Ball, Activities Information**, said she was virtually up-to-date with processing all requests.

**Joedy Yglesias, Programs**, was not present.

**Mariana Outlaw, Community Outreach**, was just appointed tonight and next month will be her first report.

**Keeley Porter, Historian**, having had to travel back to England, nonetheless, submitted this report: "Continuing to work with TMN staff and their 20th Anniversary Project. They have our chapter photographs of the AAMN Chapter's first 10 years and also asked for one of our 20-year commemorative t-shirts, which they will use in a special display. Thanks to all those who submitted images in support of the project!"

**Camille Gong, Hospitality**, apologized for the parking and limited ice cream at the July 10<sup>th</sup> social at the Witte. Martha added the Witte could not be nicer but we learned from this experience the problem with Tuesday free nights.

**Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology**, mentioned in July only 31% of our email list (746 strong) opened the newsletter but that was probably due to summer vacations.

**Nancy Thoss, Membership**, was providing post-surgical support for her husband and could not attend tonight.

**Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Committee**, said we received 41 applications, accepted all 41, and 36 have already confirmed for class 43. She reminded us we are all welcome to attend any of their sessions. Orientation will be 5 to 8 pm 8-30 and classes 12:30 to 4:30 pm Thursday afternoons. There will be two pre-Class ATs: one on Trees and one on iNaturalist. Enhanced mentoring will be a focus of this year's training.

**Tyler Sanderson, New Class 40 Representative**, had a military commitment tonight and could not attend.

**Michael Britt, New Class 41 Representative**, was not present.

## REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

**Lissa Martinez, Alamo Area Children Organized to Replant Natives (ACORN)**, stated that ACORN is evolving once again. Teacher Training will be at the BLC on 9-22 (Saturday) and BLC field trips Monday thru Friday the week of 10-22.

**Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership (AFP)**, said the AFP was in vacation mode at the present.

**Friends of the SA Natural Areas (FoSANA)**, vacant, no representative.

**Pam Ball, Headwaters at Incarnate Word (HIW)**, presented exciting developments at the Headwaters. The upper field project for the Circle of the Springs is finished. Pollinators are going strong. There will be a showing of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring on the Tuesday after Labor Day. Third Friday Bird Walks resume in September, Patty Leslie Pasztor will be the guide. September 23 will be a Pollinator Plant Workshop and October 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon is Native Wildlife and Habitat Celebration on the grounds of the historic Brackenridge Villa. CPS Energy will provide a tree giveaway.

**Donald Ewers, National Park Service (NPS)/San Antonio River Authority (SARA)**, was stepping down from the SARA Advisory Council and, fortunately for us, Joedy Yglesias, is taking over. Barry Walker, an MN and SARA employee, will be the new coordinator over the committee. There are quite a few staff re-assignments going on at SARA but Michael Gramely is still our contact for the moment until the changes are complete. The new SARA Park Program Coordinator is Nicki Apostolow.

**George Ozuna, Medina River Natural Area (MRNA)**, reported upwards of 24,000 invasives have been removed in the last 18 months by the Salsa squad. Don Pylant has retired and Cathy Justice is the interim Park Manager. George said she is knowledgeable and has a good rapport with MRNA staff. George and Olivia Tapia and their Salsa squad will be honored at the NPSOT annual meeting. George said with the recent NPSOT-SA grant of \$1,900 and the \$2,000 pending from AAMN there was enough to seed the new Butterfly Meadow.

**Drake White, PHP Conservancy**, was not present.

**David Borderlon, Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife**, tonight accepted becoming the new liaison.

**Patsy Kuentz, Land Heritage Institute (LHI)**, is scheduled to come and report only after each quarterly LHI Board meetings.

**Tyler Sanderson Green Spaces Alliance (GSA)**, had a military commitment tonight and could not attend.

**Michelle Garza, Texas Waters Specialist Program**, could not attend but see Attachment 1 for her report.

**Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (MLAC)**, was not present.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

## ATTACHMENTS (1)

**ADJOURN** The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. to allow time for socialization before the General Meeting.

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Stan Drezek, Secretary

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Martha Cray, President

## ATTACHMENT 1: Report of Michelle Garza, liaison, Texas Waters Specialist Program

Here is the Texas Waters Specialist update for July/August:

1. Lissa and I hosted a Texas Waters Webinar on Coastal Ecology and Issues on August 7, 2018 from 6:30-7:30pm at Eco Centro. We had four attendees, a staff member from Eco Centro, a community member, Lissa and myself.
  2. Moving forward on for the Eco Centro webinars, we are working with Meredith Miller and staff to bring more folks in. We had 50 people say they were interested in attending but only a few showed up. We may do an activity prior to the webinar to get more people out.
  3. We also thought about adding to the event page information;
    1. On the FB event page, we can share the TPWD website, with the webinar registration information, to allow those folks that can't make it out to watch on their own.
    2. We could include on the invite, TPWD's intro as well: Texas Waters Specialist: Through this program, we want to develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas. Questions? Please direct them to Melissa Alderson, Conservation Education Manager, [melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov).
    3. They can also contact myself with any San Antonio Texas Water Specialist questions (see contact info at bottom): The next webinar is "Our Changing Climate and the Impact on Texas' Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats (Texas Waters Ch. 8). Texas has a rich natural heritage, which raises the stakes for risks from climate change and other factors. For example, Texas ranks third in the nation for endemic vertebrate species, with 126 such species found nowhere else on the globe. However, Texas has a total of nearly 180 threatened or endangered animals and plants and an additional 58 vertebrates that are accorded high priority in the Texas Conservation Action Plan. These species would be the most vulnerable to climate change and complicating factors such as habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Lissa and I will host a viewing at Eco Centro from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Details can be found at Eco Centro's FB Page, [https://www.facebook.com/pg/EcoCentro1/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/EcoCentro1/events/?ref=page_internal) and you can register to view it on your own here, <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>.
- Lissa will be sharing this webinar with her SA Climate Ready technical working group.
5. A group is forming in Kerrville of people interested in going through the TWS certification. They have reached out to myself and Lissa to discuss possibly working together. They have not set a starting date yet, but they want to make sure that anyone interested, knows they exist, and are welcome to join. The point of contact is Charles Laird and his email address is, [lairdcharles@gmail.com](mailto:lairdcharles@gmail.com).
  6. Lissa also had a great idea to create Continuing Education Credits for these webinars as a way to pull more people into them. I would like to explore this option with Eco Centro and other entities that can help.

Thank you,

Michelle E. Garza  
Alamo Area Texas Master Naturalist, Texas Waters Specialist Liaison  
<https://txmn.org/alamo/>  
Storm water Analyst, Environmental Sciences  
San Antonio River Authority  
O: (210) 302-3265 | C: (210) 859-8867 | [megarza@sara-tx.org](mailto:megarza@sara-tx.org)  
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ALAMO AREA CHAPTER  
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
August 13, 2018

**MINUTES**

*President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 6:55 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.*

Nancy Thoss was providing post-surgical support for her husband and could present the pin awards tonight.

Jeanette Geiman acknowledged to the General membership what she had said to the Board. Longtime AAMN member and former AAMN president, Anton Hajek, has collected \$453 at our first four general meetings and secured another \$1,900 from community restitution fees through his law practice, all for the TMN Endowment Fund. Go, Anton!

Anton Hajek, continued his “passing the hat” for the TMN Foundation tonight at our General Meetings after commenting we were the lead chapter in these efforts.

Martha then introduced our speaker, Debbie Reid, Technical Director of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. She gave an informational presentation that explored current policies, codes, and maintenance practices related to wastewater/storm water management that are shaping the ecology of the San Antonio urban environment and their impact on air and water quality.

The talk was well-received and the meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the question and answer session.

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Stan Drezek, Secretary

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Martha Cray, President