

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 January 8, 2019
MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS & NEW CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE

	OFFICERS		Sam Womble	✓	Mariana Outlaw		Joedy Yglesias
✓	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson	✓	Evelyn Penrod		CLASS 44 BOARD LIAISON
✓	Donald Ewers		MEMBERS	✓	Gary Poole		TBD Spring 2019
✓	Jeanette Geiman	✓	Pam Ball	✓	Keeley Porter		
✓	Stan Drezek		David Bordelon (Class 42)	✓	Liz Robbins		CLASS 45 BOARD LIAISON
	ADVISORS	✓	Wanda Huffins	✓	Nancy Thoss		TBD Spring 2020
	Judit Green	✓	Wanda Huffins (Class 43)	✓	Karen Stevenson		

Note: **Quorum=10**: There are 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors; however, there are only 18 Board Members as Wanda Huffins is currently serving both as Hospitality Director and Class 43 Board Representative.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

MINUTES There being no objections, the emailed corrected Minutes for November 2018 stand as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT There being no objections, last month’s Treasurer’s reports stand as communicated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Cray, President, thanked Board Members for their courtesy last year and encouraged us to give attention to the speaker, not participate in side conversations, and speak only when recognized by the person who has the floor.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, gave an update on the TMN Endowment Fund applauding our chapter’s efforts in raising \$4,000 last year. We were helped both by Anton Hajek’s work and a \$250 donation from the Native Plant Society of Texas-SA. We will be presenting a certificate of appreciation to Anton.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, reported every Board Member in the room had turned in the required Conflict of Interest form but there were a few still outstanding.

Stan also reviewed the six 2019 Committees and we decided to have Stan write for Pam to send out an email encouraging MNs to consider contacting a committee chair this month and joining a committee. We hope to approve the committee assignments in our next meeting.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, reported that the 1-12 grand opening of the Demonstration Garden will be delayed until after a 1-17 workday and completion of the mulching. Every 3rd Thursday will be a workday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gary Poole, State Representative, reported the Board will vote on the revised COH in February. Anyone needing an updated copy can contact Gary. A two-thirds vote is necessary.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, explained a \$2,000 reduction in proposed 2019 expenses due to having been able, after all, to direct those funds in 2018 to the Chaparral Demonstration Garden at MRNA as originally planned. Pam moved, Karen seconded, and the motion to so amend the budget was unanimously approved.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, then provided the Board with a draft process to budget five \$200 stipends for attending the annual TMN meeting. There was a great discussion on how to word the “financial need” intent (possibly using the language in the new MN application) and whether we ought to consider ten, not five. Jeanette will go back and rework the language with the Executive Committee and bring it back for discussion next month. The general consensus was that encouraging and financially supporting attendance at the annual meeting was a great thing to do.

NEW BUSINESS

Stan Drezek, Secretary, explained his renewed interest in our Talking Point series on the AAMN website and two actions (1) a newsletter article inviting participation of members in developing new topics and editing existing ones (VSH approved) and (2) a one-page correlation between the Class 44 training topics and the Talking Point series. Stan gave some examples of why he thought the Talking Points are especially useful to MNs.

Martha Cray, President, as recommended by Karen Stevenson, will propose Tod Smith to the officers, advisors, and Past President (per our by-laws) as the Class 43 Board member, freeing Wanda Huffins from that role. Wanda will be continuing as Director of Hospitality and serving on the New Class Training Committee focusing on a mentor program.

Liz Robbins, Past President, responding to Bill Woller’s need for assistance with picking up engraved name tags now that Ron Tullius can no longer do it, outlined the need. Jeanette Geiman, since she would have to receive the \$25 checks anyway, volunteered to get with Bill and see if she could accomplish what Bill needs.

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, had no report to make.

Donald Ewers, Vice President, had no report to make.

Gary Poole, State Representative, mentioned a Wildlife Tax Evaluation workshop and a 3-18 University of Houston at Clear Lake surface water quality testing event. Contact Gary for more information.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, stated only a few of the critical organizations have not submitted activity approvals.

Joedy Yglesias, Programs, was not present.

Mariana Outlaw, Community Outreach, had no new information to report.

Keeley Porter, Historian, had no report to make.

Wanda Huffins, Hospitality, asked us to be sure to sign up to bring “sweet” and “savory” treats.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, mentioned a new Facebook group (TX MN Alamo Chapter Members), similar to a chat group, for MNs only. Currently it has four members. She also said 34% of the emailed newsletters were opened.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, reminded us to get in those 2018 hours ASAP.

Karen Stevenson, New Class Training, reported 35 applications in hand, applications close 1/31, and they are expected to approve 50 to 55 for Class 44.

David Bordelon, New Class 42 Representative, was not present.

Wanda Huffins, New Class 43 Representative, had no report as a new class representative.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, Alamo Area Children Organized to Replant Natives (ACORN), reports ACORN is growing again and Year 2 of the 80 campus model is going well. Two new projects are: Seed collecting and seed planting.

Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership (AFP), said Saturday 1/26 is the Annual Jammin' Jams Fruit and Nut Tree Adoption to Be Held at the Pearl. Volunteers will, unfortunately not get a tree.

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

Pam Ball, Headwaters at Incarnate Word (HIW), reviewed some of their events including Ken Kramer speaking in conjunction with the 2nd Saturday film on water sustainability. Also mentioned were a February 2nd training event on Invasives and a February 10th iNaturalist training. See their website for details regarding these events.

Donald Ewers, National Park Service (NPS)/San Antonio River Authority (SARA), teased that SARA continues to meander. But Donald has been instrumental in helping get corporate groups including SARA to use HIW for retreats.

George Ozuna, Medina River Natural Area (MRNA), reported so many invasives removed that MRNA must be nearing perfection, were it not for the continual resurgence of non-native species. The \$2,000 2018 AAMN grant allowed the purchase of 87 lb. of seed and Douglas King Seed worked to get George what he needed and will store the seed until a propitious time to plant. Removal of Johnson Grass has been a real hassle. George is averaging 18 volunteers a week. They are now focusing on training more field guides.

Drake White, PHP Conservancy, said right now she is focusing on her 3rd Saturday series.

David Borderlon, Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, was not present.

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

Tyler Sanderson Green Spaces Alliance (GSA), was not present, but MN Penelope Boyer reported concerns with getting enough MNs to volunteer for Picture Your World. An interesting discussion resulted emphasizing the need for organizations to cultivate volunteers, describe their available roles, and these be compelling roles for volunteers. Martha asked Penelope to write an article for the newsletter about Picture Your World.

Michelle Garza, Texas Waters Specialist Program, explained the work she, Lissa, and Joedy are doing to set up Texas Waters Specialist webinar small group sessions at Eco Centro in an effort to attract the public as well as MNS. Please see the attached two-page write up of their work and the program.

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (MLAC), was not present at the Board meeting.

Pete Hernandez, Native Plant Society of Texas - San Antonio Chapter (NPSOT-SA) was not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

ATTACHMENTS: (1) Texas Waters Specialist (2) Class 43 Representative

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. to allow time for socialization before the General Meeting.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

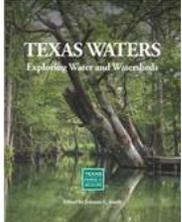
Attachment (1) Texas Waters Specialist: Update 1/8/2019

For more information on the program and to download the Manual, see excerpted information in black below and visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram>

Texas Waters: Exploring Water and Watersheds

With the [Texas Waters](#) curriculum, we want to inform and educate the citizens of Texas about the most precious natural resource Texas possesses, its water. Many challenges face our state concerning water, particularly in our aquatic habitats, the water for wildlife. Texas Parks and Wildlife values the natural and cultural resources of Texas and we want there to always be drinkable, swimmable, and fishable waters in our great State.

This curriculum will allow Texas Master Naturalists and other concerned citizens to earn a [Texas Waters Specialist](#) designation and then start giving back to their community by performing [volunteer-service](#) in areas like:



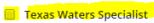
- Water focused educational activities such as fairs, festivals, events, outreach,
 - Projects such as habitat restoration, creek cleanups, water quality testing/monitoring, aquifer recharge/karst feature flagging and clearing, etc., or
 - Demonstrations like runoff models, runoff landscape features such as dry creek beds, rain gardens, etc.
- [Download](#) your copy.

Program Requirements: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>

Accumulate at least 8 hours of Advanced Training utilizing the Texas Waters curriculum:

- Attend Texas Waters events, sessions, and field trips at the [Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting](#)
- Attend Texas Waters webinars (Limit 4 hours). If you missed any of the webinars, you can still use them to earn AT by forming a small interactive study group and watch the recorded webinars (below) with discussion.
- Small group interactive study (Use the chapters in the curriculum and the "Questions to Consider" to guide your study and discussion.
- Other approved Texas Waters learning activities such as [Texas Stream Team](#) and [CoCoRaHS](#) training (Limit-4 hours)*
 - All other volunteer events that should count for Texas Waters Certification, need to be pre-approved by Melissa Alderson. Send them to her in an email. Then when you want them to count towards your Texas Waters Certification, find the training listed in VMS and click the box labeled Texas Waters Specialist, see the

This activity qualifies for the following specialization:

box highlighted in the picture here: 

2019 Texas Waters Webinars*

- January 16th 6:30-7:30 pm CST - "Apple Snails" with Romi Burks, Biology Professor, Southwestern University at Eco Centro.
- February 26th 6:30-7:30 pm CST - "Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647)" with Kelly Simon, Urban Wildlife Ecologist, TPWD at Eco Centro.
- March 19th 6:30-7:30 pm CST - "Senate Bill 2: Instream Flow Study on the San Antonio River" with Gordon Linam, Stream Ecologist, TPWD at the San Antonio River Authority.
- April 23rd 6:30-7:30 pm CST - "The Reilly Elementary School Stormwater Retrofit: Water as a Resource and Education Tool" with Staryn Wagner, Environmental Scientist, City of Austin Watershed Protection Department at Eco Centro.
- May – TBD at Eco Centro.
- June 18th - 6:30-7:30 pm CST - "Freshwater Mussels in Austin, TX" with Liz Johnston, Environmental Program Coordinator, City of Austin Watershed Protection Department at Eco Centro.
- July – TBD at Eco Centro.
- August 20th 6:30- 7:30 pm CST - "Devils River: A multi-disciplinary approach to saving one of the last great wild rivers in Texas" with Sarah Robertson, Aquatic Biologist, River Studies Program, TPWD at Eco Centro.

*Study Groups on TWS Workbook

- Required for TWS certification
- 30 min before and after the webinars at Eco Centro, SA River Authority (March 19th)

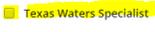
Texas Waters Specialist: Volunteer Registration and Reporting Guide

Texas Master Naturalists should enter their Advanced Training hours under the "**AT: TX Waters Certification Training**" opportunity for AT credit. The hours required to obtain certification and for community service are not on top of existing chapter requirements; instead, can be counted toward your annual chapter requirements.

If you are recertifying as a Texas Waters Specialist, you need to do 10 hours of volunteer service* (that has been pre-approved and/or is listed on the TPWD website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/twops>

- All other volunteer events that should count for Texas Waters Certification, need to be pre-approved by Melissa Alderson. Send them to her in an email. Then when you want them to count towards your Texas Waters Certification, find the training listed in VMS and click the box labeled Texas Waters Specialist, see the box highlighted in the picture

This activity qualifies for the following specialization:

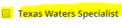
here: 

Annual Renewal Requirements:

Participate in at least 10 hours of volunteer services* in the area of water and watersheds. Projects should be pre-approved. Some examples can be found [here](#).

- All other volunteer events that should count for Texas Waters Certification, need to be pre-approved by Melissa Alderson. Send them to her in an email. Then when you want them to count towards your Texas Waters Certification, find the training listed in VMS and click the box labeled Texas Waters Specialist, see the box highlighted in the picture

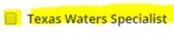
This activity qualifies for the following specialization:

here: 

Volunteer opportunities*: see TPWD website for requirements, AAMN website, SARA Watershed Wise Warriors website, and others mentioned above for volunteer opportunities!

*Remember when reporting these Texas Waters volunteer hours in VMS, find the approved training and click the box labeled

This activity qualifies for the following specialization:

Texas Waters Specialist, picture here: 

If you have additional questions about the Texas Waters Specialist Certification, please reach out to Melissa Alderson, Conservation Education Manager, melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov or me.

Joedy, Lissa and I are hosting the 2019 Texas Waters Webinars at Eco Centro, and the March 19th webinar at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) 100 E. Guenther location. We booked the room 30 min. before or after the webinar to discuss the webinar and/or the chapter that goes a long with the webinar's topic for group study credit. Let us know if you have any questions about the webinar showings at Eco Centro and SARA or the study groups!

Thank you,

Michelle E. Garza

Texas Waters Specialist, AAMN Liaison

Alamo Area Texas Master Naturalist, Class 38

Stormwater Analyst, Environmental Sciences

San Antonio River Authority

O: (210) 302-3265 | C: (210) 859-8867 | megarza@sara-tx.org

600 E. Euclid Ave. | San Antonio, TX. 78212 | www.sara-tx.org

Resources:

- ▶ Texas Parks and Wildlife
 - ▶ <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram>
- ▶ Alamo Area Master Naturalist
 - ▶ <https://txmn.org/alamo/texas-waters/>
- ▶ Eco Centro
1802 N Main Ave., San Antonio, Texas
 - ▶ Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EcoCentro1/>
 - ▶ Website Events Calendar: <https://www.alamo.edu/sac/about-sac/college-offices/eco-centro/events/>
- ▶ San Antonio River Authority
100 E. Guenther St., SA, TX. 78204
 - ▶ <https://www.sara-tx.org/>
 - ▶ Watershed Wise: Warrior, Citizen Scientist, Volunteer Gardener
 - ▶ <https://www.sara-tx.org/watershed-wise/>

Attachment (2) Class 43 Representative

Note: As the paragraphs below state (1) notice of the President's recommendation was given at the Board meeting and also in the draft Board minutes and in the President's email, well more than the three-day requirement, (2) email provided all required persons the opportunity to participate, and (3) the paragraph below documents the result of voting. As a result, the following paragraphs were emailed to all Board Members January 14, 2019 which was the same day the election was canvassed.

Martha Cray recommended at our last Board meeting Tod Smith to be Class 43 Representative replacing Hospitality Director Wanda Huffins who was carrying class representative duties as well as being Hospitality Director.

Martha conducted the "election" and emailed me this afternoon that "Tod's appointment is confirmed".

It being passed January 1st, Tod Smith immediately becomes Class 43's representative on the AAMN Board.

Stan Drezek
Board Secretary

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 8, 2019

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

Nancy Thoss then presented the pin awards to those present.

Lissa Martinez and Michelle Garza on behalf of Joedy Yglesias, Programs, introduced our webinar: "Our Changing Climate and the Impact on Texas' Fish, Wildlife, and Habitats" (Texas Waters Curriculum Chapter 8) with Katharine Hayhoe, PhD, Texas Tech University Climate Scientist.

There were introductory comments about the context of climate change in SA and time for wrapping up comments and observations at the end. The webinar was extremely well received.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at about 8 pm at the conclusion of the discussion after the webinar.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President