

**Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
August 26, 2025
Via Google Meet**

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Robin Novak, Mohammed Nasrullah, Denise Correll, Sharon Tirpak, Julie Massey, Mary McElligott and Anthony Soliz Rocha.

Also in attendance was Jesse Monzingo.

Absent members: Tracy Walpole, Chloe Stifler, and Mary Jean Salzer.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the May board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on August 13, 2025. All meeting participants were able to communicate with each other via Google Meet.

Welcome and Call to Order

- The board meeting was called to order at 6:31.

- Lisa Hardcastle established a quorum.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Jenny made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda Items; Mohammed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **2025 HEB Pollinator Garden Grant**
Mary was happy to announce to the board that the HEB Pollinator Garden Grant application submitted by Mohammed has been selected for funding. The chapter will receive \$4,000.00 for the garden at the Clear Lake Islamic Center and work will begin soon.

- **Chapter Service Days**
Jenny shared that currently there are 12 people signed up for the event on September 27 at Galveston Island State Park (GISP) and 11 people for the event on October 4 at University of Houston – Coastal Center. Another email will go out to the chapter and the dates will also be entered on the chapter calendar. Denise will coordinate outreach efforts for GISP.

- **Records, Retention and Carbide Storage Room Files**
Meade reported that she will meet with Ellen Gerloff and Cindy Liening to review and purge unnecessary financial records stored at Carbide Park.

- **Membership Milestone Plaques**

The membership committee has requested that the chapter continues the tradition of engraving members' names on small metal tags to affix to plaques commemorating volunteer service milestones. Because the plaques have not been updated in a few years, the committee will need to order and engrave approximately 50 additional tags. The estimated cost will be between \$10 -\$15 each, or up to \$750.00.

Gene made a motion to approve up to \$750.00 for the membership committee to purchase and engrave metal tags to update the chapter's milestone plaques. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business

- **Dragonfly Bingo Prizes**

Notice of the contest will be included in the next edition of The Midden. Completed entries are due October 31.

Gene asked about people completing five Bingo squares without covering a whole row. Mary will investigate creating a winning category for this situation.

- **State Meeting Contests**

Mary reminded the board of upcoming contests at the state meeting in October. She has been reaching out to members who are photographers, asking them to consider submitting entries. She will also look at what photographs are on SmugMug. She also offered to prepare an entry for the chapter project contest highlighting the Glow Patrol Firefly Survey Team, which the board was eager for her to do.

Officer Reports

- **President** (Mary Dobberstine)

With the departure of Ashley, Mary shared that if you need a room to meet in at Carbide Park, contact Brandi. Mary will be soliciting chapter members to take part in a steering committee to plan the chapter's 25th anniversary next year. Additionally, Mary reported that the state will be asking members to complete online surveys to help with long term strategic planning. Partners will also be asked to complete surveys in mid-September. Brandi will also be asking for members to complete surveys for her planning purposes.

- **Vice President** (Jenny Dudley)

Jenny announced the completion of the Financial Review. A copy will be sent to board members so that it can be approved at the September board meeting.

- **Treasurer** (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade shared with the board a GBAC financial summary, profit/loss statement and a restricted funds report prior to the meeting. She had nothing additional to report.

- **Secretary** (Lisa Hardcastle)

Nothing to report.

- **Immediate Past President** (Gene Fisseler)
Nothing to report.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training** (Robin Novak)
Robin shared that there are only six members of the Heritage Book Study group. The leader could use some help soliciting more members. Please let him know if you have ideas. Recent advanced training activities include *Navigating the Tides of Change: Updates from CCA* (39 attendees), *Invasive Plants of Concern: Identification & Management Strategies* (30 attendees), and the Texas Archaeology presentation at the August chapter meeting (107 attendees). Upcoming events include Native Bees on September 2, Fireflies on September 18 and *What the Shell?* in November.
- **Community Engagement** (Mohammed Nasrullah)
Nothing to report.
- **Outreach** (Denise Correll)
Denise shared that there are several upcoming outreach events. She will be sending out information to chapter members to ask for volunteers.
- **Membership** (Tracy Walpole)
Tracy was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She did share the following membership information (as of 8/3/25) via email:
 - Active members – 253, in training – 16, associates – 32, inactive – 343 and interested – 24.
 - Volunteer service hours for July – 3,380.75, advanced training hours – 133.5.
 - 2025 training class – 16 of 29 participants have certified.
 - Tom Solomon reached 35,000 volunteer service hours.
- **Volunteer Service** (Sharon Tirpak)
Sharon continues to send emails to Alan to forward to the chapter via Constant Contact. She has also asked members to notify her of participation in boards of local nonprofits. Sharon asked for clarification on the term "partner." Julie shared that partners are those entities with which we have a "two way" relationship. Our members volunteer for these organizations and the organization provides our chapter with some type of compensation, such as use of meeting space.
- **Communications** (Chloe Stifler)
Chloe was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

- **Training Class** (Julie Massey)
Julie reported that she has a list of 90 people interested in becoming a master naturalist. She and Gene will need to begin planning in September.

Other Reports

- **Class Representatives** (Anthony Soliz Rocha and Mary McElligott)
Anthony reported that his classmates are excited about the Bingo contest. He also asked if there was a way to get AT events listed in the chapter calendar. The AT team will investigate this.
- **Chapter Advisor** (Brandi Keller)
Brandi was unable to attend, but Mary shared that Sea Grant will be the sponsor for the upcoming Plastic Pollution Symposium. Additionally, the Dolphin Challenge event is scheduled for February 7, 2026, and will need volunteers from our chapter. Furthermore, Brandi is looking into bat rehabilitation and may work with us to put together some opportunities for this.

Announcement

Gene announced that on September 28, at 4:00 p.m., there will be a screening of the documentary, Chasing the Tide, at University of Houston – Clear Lake. There will be a discussion panel after the screening which will include Suzanne Simpson from GBF. He hopes that many chapter members will attend.

Closing

- **Review Action Items**
none
- **Next Meeting**
September 23, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary