

**TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST CHAPTER MEETING**  
**Blinn College W. J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Building**  
**July 15, 2023**

Advanced training was **Georgean and Paul Kyle** presenting on chimney swifts. Their presentation explained the declining numbers of chimney swifts and gave suggestions on what can be done to improve the numbers.

**Mark Brown** from the Brown Ranch gave a presentation on land management and restoration of prairies. Mark and his wife Cheryl were the 2023 recipients of the Leopold Conservation Award for their work on their property.

New Member presentations were:

- **CJ Claverie** discussing Drought Resistant Texas Native Plants. She reminded the chapter to plant drought resistant plants when adding to their gardens.
- **Deb Miller** presented “A Face Only a Mother Could Love” about opossums and explained that possums are different from opossums and shared examples of the differences.
- **Karen Dean** spoke about Interpretation with Children and how to instill your love of nature in others.

The September meeting will have AT on drones.

The Business meeting began at 12:12 p.m. with the minutes from the last meeting being accepted as distributed. Those Board Members present were President, Sheri Wilcox; Vice President, Norbert Dittrich; Treasurer, David Hessel; Secretary, Patti Brown; and Directors: Communications, Lori Buffum; Membership, Chris Morrison; Marketing, Ken English; and Karen Gardener, Education.

**President’s report:** Sheri Wilcox gave the President’s report. We are still searching for a Treasurer for the 2024-2025 term. The 2023 TMN annual meeting will be held October 12-15 in McAllen. Registration opens in early August.

Our summer Education Expo and summer gathering will be August 20 from 2-4:30 p.m. with booths and activities to help members learn about our educational programs.

**Treasurer’s report:** David Hessel asked that expense reports be submitted as soon as possible after the expense is incurred.

**Membership Director’s report:** Chris Morrison presented the membership report, a copy of which is attached.

**Education Director's report:** Karen Gardner reported that we were invited to present at the BEST Science Camp in Bellville. We are working on plans for new activities, including building a rainfall simulator.

**Marketing Director's report:** Ken English identified a number of upcoming marketing opportunities for which he will be recruiting volunteers.

**Communications Director's report:** Lori Buffum is seeking a volunteer to help with the website calendar. Carol Gaskamp was introduced as the incoming editor for the GLC Tidings.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

PATTI BROWN, SECRETARY

**Membership Report – Gideon Lincecum Chapter**  
**July 15, 2023**  
**Chris Morrison**

**Since the May 15, 2023 meeting:**

**Initial Certification** – Green Dragonfly Pin and Certificate (40 volunteer & 8 AT hours since graduation)  
Debra Salcedo (2022 Class)

**Recertification for 2023** – Texas Ecoregions Pin  
Connie Shortes  
Jim Wilson

**Milestones:**

**250 Hours All-Time** – Bronze Dragonfly pin  
Chuck Babb

**500 Hours All-Time** – Pewter Dragonfly pin  
Susan Scanio

Congratulations to those who initially certified or re-certified already this year. Remember that maintaining annual certification isn't a requirement for remaining in TMN, but it is strongly encouraged. Keep logging those hours! Each volunteer hour is worth the equivalent of over \$23 in federal grants.

PLEASE go into VMS and **look at your profile**. Log in to VMS and click "Edit my Profile" on the bottom left of your Dashboard page. Several of you have moved, changed your email address, your emergency contact isn't correct any more, or other things. Please go through everything and check it again.

Please see me if you have not yet picked up a pin awarded previously.