

**Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
Chapter Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2024
Fayette County Extension Office, LaGrange**

The meeting began at 9:35 AM with an Advanced Training presentation from chapter member Marvelyn Granger, who spoke about carpenter bees in her presentation “The Story of a Snag and a Carpenter Bee.” This was followed by an AT presentation from David Bezanson, Land Protection Strategy Director for The Nature Conservancy's Texas chapter. He spoke about conservation easements and the Elder Prairie, a 200-acre prairie located just west of Chappell Hill.

We heard from another of our scholarship winners, Garrett Nedd from Austin County on his plans for higher education.

The chapter meeting was called to order at 11:25 by Sheri Wilcox, president. There were 34 chapter members present, 3 guests, and 3 members of the 2024 GLC Training Class. Board members attending were Sheri Wilcox, Lori Buffum, Betsy Palkowsky, Connie Shortes, Swee Leng Rapatz, Jaci Elliott and Betty Scardino.

Minutes for the November 18, 2023 chapter meeting were approved as distributed.

President’s report: Sheri Wilcox reported that a Texas Waters Specialists team was being formed in TMN GLC. The focus will include the Texas Stream Team (water quality testing and riparian assessment), Impaired watersheds (Mill Creek, Middle Yegua) and other water related projects as developed by the team. The team will be meeting by Zoom on the third Tuesday’s of the month, in the evening.

Vice President’s report: Swee Leng asked that any suggestions for new AT opportunities be forwarded to her. In addition, she welcomes suggestions for speakers for future meetings as well as possible locations. The budget is limited so keep that in mind. She also asked for donations of hand made gifts for the speakers. The value of the gifts should be under \$25. The presentation at the March meeting will be on Nature Photography.

Treasurer’s report: (as relayed by Sheri Wilcox) The 2024 budget is under development. Requests for funding from officers, directors and project leaders should be sent to Karen Dean. The 2024 budget will be presented for approval to the chapter at the March meeting. Members may pay their 2024 dues to Sheri Wilcox today.

- Membership report: Chris Morrison provided a report to Betsy Palkowsky prior to the meeting. The following awards were earned.

- 2023 Recertification – Barbara Broucher, Judy Deaton, Norbert Dittrich, Marvelyn Granger (Double Certification), Annette Holdeman, Matt Holdemann
- 2023 Initial Certification – Trey Granger

Marketing report: Ken English was not present but Sheri relayed that volunteer requests for outreach opportunities will be sent to the chapter as needed. These will also be listed on the calendar which can be accessed on the website.

Education Report: Karen Gardner provided information to Sheri prior to the meeting. The Education Team in 2023 and 2024 is working to update and improve the team offerings and materials. Additionally, much progress has been made to reach more groups in the five county area. The Education Expo will be repeated this year on August 18th. The Expo is an opportunity for chapter members for food and fellowship and to see materials available for community education and learn about areas they may want to contribute. Scheduled education events are on the calendar on the website. Requests for volunteers are sent out to the group as needed.

Training Class report: The 2024 training class has 19 interns. Monday night Zoom sessions will be available to all chapter members and will count as AT. Chapter member attendance for field trip sessions will only be available as space allows. Project leaders are encouraged to do a short presentation on their projects to the training class. This a valuable opportunity to find new volunteers for the various projects.

Communications Report: Lori Buffum reminded us that the chapter website contains a lot of information on Chapter activities. The chapter also has a Facebook page which is public but only approved chapter members can post to the group. Lori is the administrator. She also asked for an additional volunteer to help maintain the website. Carol reminded the chapter that items for the newsletter are due February 2nd.

New Business:

No new business.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Submitted by Betty Scardino
GLC Secretary