

**Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
Chapter Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2024
Lee County Extension Office
Giddings, TX**

The Chapter Meeting was preceded by Advanced Training presentations by:

Lori Buffum – Power Up Your I-Naturalist
Sheril Smith and Claire Marks – Groundwater 101
Georgia Canfield – The Timber Rattler

The AT portion of the meeting took place from 9:30 to 11:20 a.m.

The chapter business meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m. by Sheri Wilcox, president. There were 26 chapter members present and 4 guests. Board members attending were Sheri Wilcox, Lori Buffum, Karen Gardner, Swee-Leng Rappatz, Chris Morrison, Betsy Palkowsky and Betty Scardino.

Minutes for the September 21, 2024 chapter meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's report: Karen Dean was not able to attend. She provided a report to Sheri which was shared with the group. The annual budget will be presented at the January meeting for approval. Karen will be requesting board members, directors and project leaders to submit their 2025 fund requests no later than November 30th. Annual dues are due. The amount is \$25 per member and can be paid via Pay Pal, cash or checks.

Presidents Report: Several chapter members attended the Texas Master Naturalists annual meeting held the last week of October in San Marcos. The 2025 meeting will be held in College Station. Tentative dates are October 16th - 19th pending the NCAA football schedule. TMN-GLC may be asked to host events for the meeting due to the proximity to the venue. The next chapter activity will be the Volunteer Appreciation event held December 8th.

Vice-Presidents Report: Swee-Leng discussed AT opportunities already scheduled for 2025 chapter meetings.

Membership report: Chris Morrison reported that 13 chapter members were re-certified since the last meeting and 3 of those members also completed initial certification in 2024. Julie Itz and Ann Ray received the Gold Dragonfly Pin for a milestone of 1000 hours of service. Connie Shortes received the Pewter Dragonfly Pin for a milestone of 500 hours of service. Karen Dean and Tim Rackley received the Bronze Dragonfly Pin for a milestone of 250 hours of service.

Chris also gave some further instruction on inputting hours for AT and service. She requested that identifying details of the event be included but opinion or actual data does not need to be entered into VMS.

Recognition was given to Chapter Members who were certified as Water Specialists in 2024. Wanda Anglin, Georgia Canfield, Trey Granger, Marvelyn Granger, and Sheril Smith received the initial certification. Chuck Babb, Maria Braun, Denise Turner and Sheri Wilcox received re-certification for service in 2023.

Education Report: Karen Gardner reported on some upcoming activities including the quail necropsy activity at Brenham Junior High on December 18th. Karen also encouraged members to attend the Annual Meeting in 2025 due to the wide ranging topics that are covered.

Training Class Report: It was reported that the initial training link for 2025 has gone live on the website and 6 applications have been received.

Communications Report: Carol reported that the deadline for the next newsletter will be December 1st.

Marketing report: Ken English was not able to attend the meeting but Sheri reported on Outreach activities which included fall festivals at Lake Somerville and at Stephen F Austin State park. Both had high attendance at the TMN-GLC booth.

Volunteer Service Projects:

Scheduled Adopt-a-Highway activities have been curtailed recently due to highway maintenance but Jaci Elliot wanted the group to be reminded any clean up activity of a public roadway can be counted as volunteer hours.

The Bat Monitoring Project team reported on the logistics of the activity that took place earlier this year along with the preliminary data that was collected. The chapter is receiving a second monitor next year so it is hoped that additional chapter members will be able to participate.

New Business:

HEB has given the The Texas Master Naturalist Program a \$50,000 grant to be used only pollinator related programs. Each chapter has the opportunity to apply for a portion of the grant. Ideas are being generated to formulate the grant application for our chapter.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Submitted by Betty Scardino
TMN-GLC Secretary