

**Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
Chapter Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2025
Winedale Historical Complex
Winedale, TX**

The chapter business meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Sheri Wilcox, president. There were 47 chapter members, 13 members of the 2025 training class and 4 guests attending. Board members attending were Sheri Wilcox, Lori Buffum, Swee-Leng Rappatz, Chris Morrison, Ken English, Connie Shortes and Betty Scardino.

Minutes for the November 16, 2024 chapter meeting were accepted as distributed.

Presidents Report:

Sheri announce that the chapter received a \$3000 grant from H. E. B. to support the work being done in Pollinator Gardens. The grant money will be used for education signage at the groups pollinators gardens. The money came from a \$50,000 grant that HEB gave the The Texas Master Naturalist Program to be used for pollinator related programs.

The 2025 Texas Master Naturalists Annual Meeting will be held in College Station October 16th - 19th. TMN-GLC will be asked to host events for the meeting due to the proximity to the venue. Other volunteer opportunities will be presented as the planning develops.

Dues should be paid by January 31st.

Treasurer's report: Karen Dean was not able to attend. She provided Sheri the 2024 financial report and the 2025 budget which were shared with the group.

Marketing report: Ken English reported that many of the 2025 training class members heard about Texas Master Naturalists either from our membership or from our outreach activities. Some upcoming activities include Washington County and Giddings County Wildlife Associations annual meetings, the Washington county wildlife tax evaluation program, the Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival, the Burton Cotton Gin Festival and the Honeybee Jubilee.

Communications Report: Lori Buffum discussed the Facebook page, the google group and the website. Carol Gaskamp reported that the deadline for the next newsletter will be February 1st.

The meeting was temporarily suspended at 10:00 am for an AT presentation by Landscape Ecologist, Professor Humberto Perotto Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. The presentation was titled "Range Lands and Spatial Information in the 21st Century."

The chapter business meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

Training Class Report: Connie Shortes reported that the training class for 2025 has begun and many of the members of the training class were in attendance at the meeting. She thanked the training class committee and the Buddies group for their support.

Education Report: Karen Gardner was not present she passed information on to Sheri for reporting. Upcoming activities are ramping up including activities at both Brenham ISD and Giddings ISD this spring along with many others. Karen or Lori Buffum will send out requests for volunteers for the events.

Membership report: Chris Morrison reported that for 2024, 7 chapter members were re-certified since the last meeting and 3 members completed initial certification. B. R. Koehler received the Gold Dragonfly Pin for a milestone of 1000 hours of service. Chris mentioned that unused VMS categories were retired. She reminded members that a VMS category can be added back in if it is needed. She also discussed the need for adding impact data to projects in VMS but stressed that only one individual per event should be adding the information.

Vice-Presidents Report: Swee-Leng thanked Jim Weatherly for the bird boxes he builds and donates to the chapter to use as gifts for the meeting speakers. They are very much appreciated by the chapter and those who receive them.

The March meeting will be held at the Washington County Extension office and the AT subject will be a new state citizen science program titled "Time to Explore". Other TMN chapters will be invited.

Swee-Leng will invite all 5 county wildlife biologists to the July meeting for a round table discussion

New Business:

Wanda Anglin from the chapter Water Team mentioned that they would have a training session for water testing of rivers and streams and all members were welcome to attend. Also there will be opportunities to volunteer for a program called Trash Free America. Training will be held for Riparian Repair Evaluation to allow members to assist land owners in assessing their property.

The Bat Monitoring Project team reported that land owners who participated in 2024 will be receiving information on bats found on their property. The chapter will receive a second monitor so additional chapter members will be able to participate this year. The monitoring period for 2025 will be April 28th through June 27th.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Betty Scardino
TMN-GLC Secretary