

**Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
Chapter Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2025
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Columbus, TX**

The chapter business meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Sheri Wilcox, president. There were 46 chapter members and 13 guests attending. Board members attending were Sheri Wilcox, Lori Buffum, Swee-Leng Rappatz, Jaci Elliot, Ken English, Chris Morrison, Connie Shortes and Betty Scardino.

Minutes for the May 17, 2025 chapter meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's report: Karen Dean was not able to attend. She provided Sheri the current financial report. There were only a few items to note since the last meeting. There were a few new expenses including a few project expenses and the remaining costs from the 2025 training class. There was no new income since the previous meeting.

Membership Report: Chris Morrison reported that 2 members received initial certification and 13 chapter members were re-certified since the last meeting. Trey Granger received the Bronze Dragonfly pin for a milestone of 250 lifetime hours of service. Betsy Kalkowsky received the Gold Dragonfly pin for 2500 all-time hours. Chris asked members to insure that they are entering their hours under the correct opportunity.

Marketing Report: Sheri reported for Ken English that like marketing activities were slower for the summer months but would accelerate in the fall.

Volunteer Projects: A new Adopt-a-Highway project was started in Colorado County. Contact Wanda Anglican, Jaci Elliot or Maria Dahlburg for more information. Water quality testing throughout the chapter was also highlighted.

The business meeting was stopped at 10:00 a.m. for the AT portion of the meeting which was a panel of the Wildlife Biologists from the GLC-TMN five county area. Lori and David Hessel moderated a question and answer session "Ask your Biologist" which lasted until 11:30 a.m. The business meeting resumed at 11:42 after a short break.

Vice-Presidents Report: The next board meeting will be by August 29th, all chapter members are welcome to attend. The next chapter meeting will be Saturday, September 20th, it will start at 9:30 a.m. The AT portion of the meeting will be a talk by John Ferguson. He will speak about fall planting of trees and the benefits to wildlife. Swee-Leng encouraged members to participate in prescribed burn training. She will send out the details of the next training class to the chapter.

Education Report: Karen Gardner was unable to attend but Sheri reported that there are not usually events in summer but will begin again in the fall. She also mentioned that the chapter is looking for a new education director as Karen would like to step down.

Presidents Report: Sheri highlighted a few programs that are coming up including a full day AT opportunity in Giddings sponsored by the Lee County Wildlife Association on July 25th. Several chapter members will be making presentations.

Washington County Wildlife association will be holding their annual fund raiser. The main speaker will be Steve Nelly a grand master of Texas conservation. His talk will be titled "Lessons from Leopold".

The Fayette county chapter of the native prairie association will hold their annual seminar. The title of the event is "Five Tools of Prairie Restoration".

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting will be held in College Station October 16th to 19th. The agenda is on-line. Registration will start on August 1st. Two scholarships for \$250 each will be offered to chapter members who have not attended before and need financial assistance to participate.

The second half of the business meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

After the meeting concluded the attendees celebrated the chapter's 20th anniversary.

Submitted by Betty Scardino
TMN-GLC Secretary