

Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
Chapter Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2025
New Ulm Lions Club
New Ulm, TX

The chapter business meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Sheri Wilcox, president. There were 39 chapter members and 5 guests attending. Board members attending were Sheri Wilcox, Lori Buffum, Karen Gardner, Chris Morrison Swee Leng Rappatz and Betty Scardino.

Minutes for the July 19, 2025 chapter meeting were accepted with one change to the color of the dragonfly pin awarded to Betsy Palkowsky for 2500 service hours.

Treasurer's report: Karen Dean was not able to attend. She provided Sheri the current financial report which was shared with the chapter attendees.

Vice-Presidents Report: The next board meeting will be October 31st, all chapter members are welcome to attend. The next chapter meeting will be Saturday, November 15th. It will start at 9:30 a.m. and will be held at the Nails Creek Pavilion at Lake Somerville State Park. The December Volunteer Recognition Event will be held on December 7 at the Fayette County Agrilife building in LaGrange, Texas. Details will be sent to the members prior to the event.

Presidents Report: Sheri highlighted more information regarding the chapter's founding in honor of the 20th anniversary celebration. The first training class started in April 2005 and concluded in April 2006. Belinda and Jim Weatherly are still active members from the 2006 class. Debbie Copeland and Gene Luhn are from the 2007 class and Judy Deaton, Daniel Lewis Cindy Rodibaugh, Dottie Schoeneberg and Charlotte von Rosenberg were in the 2008 class.

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.

A silent auction is held to support miscellaneous expenses incurred by TMN during the meeting like snacks and beverages. Donations for the auction of nature related items would be much appreciated. Two scholarships for \$250 each were awarded to chapter members who will attend the meeting for the first time.

Membership Report: Chris Morrison reported that 5 chapter members were re-certified since the last meeting. Of the 5, John Pritchard received both initial certification and re-certified in 2025. Wanda Anglin and Carey Soderstrom received the Bronze Dragonfly pin for a milestone of 250 lifetime hours of service.

Chris pointed out to members that there was still time to re-certify for 2025. Hours must be entered by December 31st.

The business meeting was stopped at 9:55 a.m. for the AT portion of the meeting which lasted until 10:36 a.m. the presentation was “Tree Planting at J&D Farm” by John Ferguson. The business meeting resumed at 10:50 after a short break.

Marketing/Outreach Report: Upcoming events include:

November 1, 2025 there will be Father of Texas event at San Felepe de Austin Historic site. On November 8th there will be the Grand Re-opening at the Washington-on-the-Brazos Historic Site. On November 21st TMN-GLC will host a booth at the new landowner program “Roots to Results” event in Lee County.

Communications Report: Lori reported Carol Gascamp will no longer be editing the newsletter after the end of the year. Laura Smith will be taking over those duties. In addition, Krystyna Westfield will begin managing and updating the website and Cheryl Noland will begin assisting Lori with management of the Facebook page

Volunteer Projects: The chapter is hoping to become more active in volunteering at the Attwater Prairie Chicken Project by participating in conjunction with the Coastal Prairie Chapter. The effort will be led by Jean Stipelcovitch from the Coastal Prairie chapter but a co-lead would be welcome from TMN GLC. Texas Waters group is very active in water quality testing. Adopt-a-Highway in Columbus has several activities scheduled and river clean-up activities are also taking place. One of the Brazos River water activities is receiving a conservation award. BR Koehler has been recognized for over 7000 entries into CoCoRaHS. Addition volunteer projects include the Pollinator Habitats, Native Seed propagation and nature walks

Education Report: Education events will start again in the fall. The chapter is looking for a new education director as Karen would like to step down. Karen will remain on the team to focus on content development but an individual who is energetic, enthusiastic and organized is desired to serve as team lead and schedule activities and volunteers for the events.

Training Report: Registration for the 2026 training class is active on-line. So far 5 applications have been received.

New Business: There have been some issues with members receiving the google group e-mails. If individuals are not receiving the e-mails then contact Chris Morrison and she can check if individuals have been dropped from the list inadvertently.

A question was raised regarding what information needs to be retained by project leaders and members of project teams. This policy should be reviewed and then clearly disseminated to the chapter.

The second half of the business meeting was adjourned at 11:32 p.m.

Submitted by Betty Scardino
TMN-GLC Secretary

