

**OCTOBER 23, 2023 MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE  
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER**

**Meeting Location:** Riverside Nature Center  
**Time:** 2:02 p.m.

**Attending in Person:** Jeff Schwarz, Carla Stang, Ron Scoggins, Patti Guin, Dot Maginot, Mark Hults, and Jane Jamison

**Attending by Zoom:** Kim Ort, David Matthews, Deb Youngblood, and Vern Crawford

**Absent:** David Drake

**Also in Attendance:** Lisa Marler

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**Online Voting for Selection of Nominating Committee:**

On October 19, 2023, President Jeff Schwarz solicited an online vote by the Board for approval of two additional members of the Nominating Committee. His nominees were Vern Crawford and Deb Youngblood. On October 21, 2023, President Schwarz reported that a majority of the Board had voted in favor of Vern Crawford and Deb Youngblood serving on the Nominating Committee, with Carla Stang serving as chair.

**Online Voting to Fill Treasurer Vacancy:**

On October 20, 2023, President Jeff Schwarz solicited an online vote by the Board for approval of a replacement for the position of Treasurer as the current Treasurer, Ron Scoggins, was moving out of state. President Schwarz nominated Dot Maginot to fulfill the duties of Treasurer for the remainder of 2023. A majority of the Board responded by email, voting in favor of Dot Maginot to fill the position of Treasurer for the remainder of 2023.

President Jeff Schwarz called the October 23, 2023 Board meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – Patti Guin**

Secretary Patti Guin submitted the minutes from the September 25, 2023 Board meeting. On motion of Carla Stang, seconded by Jeff Schwarz, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer – Dot Maginot**

Dot Maginot reported that total income for the month of September was \$545 and total expenditures were \$2,232.31, with an ending bank balance of \$21,517.06. One check in the amount of \$4.16 payable to Frank Garcia was still outstanding. It was reported that a comparison of our budgeted income for 2023 and actual year-to-date income revealed our income figures were down due to no fall plant sale and a decrease in merchandise sales. It was also pointed out that expenses are up due to the large purchase of computer

equipment (\$4,347.50) in May that was not accounted for in the budget. In an effort to increase income, the Board discussed the possibility of charging Chapter membership dues. Carla Stang made a motion to table the issue of charging membership dues and bring it up for discussion at the annual retreat. Jeff Schwarz seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Patti Guin then made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Mark Hults seconded the motion, and the report was unanimously approved.

### **Vice President – Kim Ort**

Kim gave a brief report on the end of year party and confirmed that she would obtain RSVPs through Sign-Up Genie or through a similar electronic application.

### **Past President – Carla Stang**

Carla stated that the general information update to the Chapter Operating Handbook was 100% complete and positional revisions were completed for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Advanced Training, Class Representative, Past President, and State Representative. She indicated that remaining revisions to be completed are Membership, Volunteer Projects, Communications, and President, and she would try to have these completed prior to the November deadline in time to send out to members for a vote at the November Chapter meeting.

### **New Class Committee – Jane Jamison**

Jane went over the survey responses that were recently obtained from the new class members. She stated that 31 class members were given surveys, and 27 surveys were turned in. Sixteen (16) surveys were signed and nine (9) were turned in unsigned. She reported the following survey responses with reference to Zoom:

1. Were Zoom classes a factor in taking this course – 13 responded yes; 14 no.
2. Have you or will you attend a chapter meeting in person – 18 responded yes; 9 no.
3. Have you or will you attend a chapter meeting on Zoom – 20 responded yes; 7 responded no.

Jane also gave her thoughts on what improvements could be made for next year's class.

### **Membership – Dot Maginot**

Dot reported that we have 54 people who have indicated they are interested in attending the next TMN class, and we currently have 206 active members in the Membership Directory. She reported 14 new recertifications for the month, bringing the total year-to-date recertifications to 134. Additional membership statistics can be found in her written report filed in the Board of Directors' folder located on OneDrive.

### **Communications – Mark Hults**

Mark orally reported that the Texas Star newsletter was published on October 17, 2023, and that the Pollinator Garden and LMAP request branded email accounts have been established. He commented that even though the branded email accounts were established, it was up to the project leaders to use them. Mark also announced that the new Speakers Bureau website has been developed and he was waiting on feedback from President Schwarz. President Schwarz asked for clarification on the number of people participating on the live feed to Facebook of the Chapter Meeting and Advanced Training session. Mark confirmed that the total number of participants reported included both Zoom and in-person attendees. For additional information and statistics, please refer to Mark's written report filed in the Board of Directors' folder located on OneDrive.

### **Volunteer Service Projects – David Drake**

Due to the absence of David Drake, no oral report was given. His written report can be viewed in the Board of Directors' folder located on OneDrive.

### **Advanced Training – Deb Youngblood**

Deb Youngblood submitted her written report which indicated that to date there are currently 482 advanced training events that are or have been available for 2023, totaling 1,090.25 hours. Her report also indicated that as of October 20, 2023, there have been 455 AT events that have already occurred, with the total number of hours reported for those events being 1,017.50. Deb had prepared a graph which reflected larger increases in the reporting of AT hours during the months of April and September and pointed out that the reason for this was due to conferences being held during those two months which provided more AT hours.

### **Chapter State Representative – Vern Crawford**

Vern had nothing to report at this time.

### **New Business**

**2024 Officer and Director Positions:** President Schwarz presented the timeline of the election of officers. He stated that before November 12, the Nominating Committee will put forth a slate of officers. At the Chapter meeting held on November 27, there will be an election for the officer positions, which will include the proposed slate of officers put forth by the Nominating Committee and any additional candidates that are nominated from the floor. Sometime after the November 27, 2023 officer elections, President Schwarz will recommend candidates for the various appointed Director positions. President Schwarz made a motion that the recommended candidates for Director positions be placed before the Board for approval at the January 2024 Board meeting. Jane Jamison seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**2024 Board and Chapter Meeting Dates:** Kim Ort presented the proposed dates for the 2024 Chapter meetings. These dates will now be submitted to UGRA for approval before the January Board meeting, where they will be placed on the agenda for final approval. Deb Youngblood reported that she had discussed having the Board meetings and Chapter meetings on the same day with various people at the Annual Meeting. She stated that everyone she spoke to was amazed that we did that and did not think it was a good idea. She reported that the best scenario she received from her conversations with others at the meeting was as follows: The Board would meet via Zoom and the Chapter meeting would be held one week later. President Schwarz made a motion that we table this discussion for the new Board to decide. Dot Maginot seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Apache Tree Project:** Dot reported that Jack Davis is the lead on the Apache Tree Project and Jack indicated that the project was upset with the TMN Hill Country Chapter because our organization did not publicize photographs of the class members receiving the donated trees. Dot stated that they had requested 100 trees and planned to donate them to the 2022 class members and their mentors, and any trees left would go to the 2023 class members. Jack agreed to pay one-half of the cost of the cages, which they estimated the total cost would be \$1,143.00. The Chapter would pay the remaining one-half of the cage expense. Pick up of the trees would be at Jack Davis's ranch on December 2. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided they would prefer to reduce the number of trees to 60 and only allow the 2023 class to receive the donated trees.

**Speakers' Bureau:** Following a brief discussion, Patti Guin made a motion that the TMN Hill Country Chapter adopt a Speakers' Bureau, with Mark Hults as leader, and that Mark will send out an email to all Board members outlining details of the project. Jane Jamison seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Deb Youngblood stated that she would provide Mark with a list of requirements with which the speakers must comply to qualify to speak at an advanced training event.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Patti Guin made a motion that we adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

### **Online Voting – Apache Tree Project**

On October 31, 2024, the Board approved the following language submitted by Deb Youngblood regarding the Apache Tree Project:

1. Get all 100 trees from Apache Corporation.
2. Approve a limit of \$400 of Chapter funding for cage material to be given away with each tree, if needed.
3. Give caging to those participants who need it.
4. Ensure all 2022/2023 students get at least one tree, or if there are enough, two trees (Clarification by President: Jack Davis to use a draw system to place class members in priority order; second trees to be given away to class members until the 100 trees are taken.)
5. If there are leftover trees, the trees are to be given in the following order:
  - To Class Directors, helpers and others who have worked hard to ensure this year's class is the resounding success it has been.
  - Put the remainder in the silent auction to recover the cost of the trees and/or the caging.

The results of the voting were: Those in favor and who stated they agreed with Deb Youngblood's language: Deb Youngblood, Patti Guin, Mark Hults, Vern Crawford, Kim Ort, Carla Stang, and Jeff Schwarz. Those in favor but were silent on Deb's language: Dot Maginot and David Drake. Those opposed: None.

Respectfully submitted:  
**Patti Guin, Secretary**