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For more information: D'Ann Williams, Communications Chair

communications@midcoast-tmn.org / 214-334-7959

Mid-Coast Chapter Master Naturalists' Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser Blooms with Success

Rockport, TX – September 22, 2025 – The Mid-Coast Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists is thrilled to announce the resounding success of its annual plant sale fundraiser, which raised an impressive \$18,000 to support conservation and restoration projects across eight Texas counties, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary as a chapter this year. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation of \$10,000 to underwrite the event. Additionally, we received numerous propagated plants from chapter members, with hundreds from the Formosa Plastics Corporation, USA. The Chapter successfully placed over 2,000 native plants in Texas gardens, fostering biodiversity and sustainable landscapes.

In addition to the plant sale, the event served as a platform to engage the public on critical conservation efforts, particularly the importance of planting milkweed to support Monarch Butterfly populations during their migration through our region to Mexico. Attendees learned about the vital role native plants play in preserving local ecosystems and supporting pollinators.

The funds raised will fuel the Mid-Coast Chapter's diverse, mission-driven initiatives, aligned with the Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas. Some projects we do that are special to our coastal region:

- **Animal Rescue:** Supporting the rescue and rehabilitation of birds, sea turtles, and dolphins along the Texas coast.
- **Coastal and Migratory Bird Conservation:** Protecting vital habitats for coastal and migratory bird species.
- **Monarch Butterfly Engagement:** Promoting milkweed planting and habitat preservation to support Spring and Fall migrations through here.
- **Oyster Bed Conservation:** Advocating oyster mariculture to enhance and repair oyster habitats
- **Native Plant Education:** Creating demonstration gardens and leading habitat restoration projects to showcase the benefits of native plants.
- **Protecting Our Waterways:** Conducting abandoned crab trap removal, debris cleanups, water quality testing.
- **Youth and Adult Education Programs:** to inspire community action.
- **Mid-Coast Archeology and History:** Preserving and sharing the cultural and historical heritage of the region.

The Mid-Coast Chapter is committed to making a lasting impact in Aransas, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria counties. The success of this year's plant sale underscores the community's dedication to preserving Texas's natural and cultural heritage for

future generations. Many communities and organizations rely on dedicated volunteers, such as those in the Texas Master Naturalist Program, to implement youth education programs, operate parks and nature centers, and provide leadership in local conservation efforts. This addresses the critical need for well-informed volunteers in community-based conservation.

Thank you to all who attended and supported this event, contributing to the success of our mission to promote conservation and environmental stewardship!

For more information about the Mid-Coast Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists or to get involved, please visit www.midcoast-tmn.org



Chapter Member, Patrick Hardigan, showcased the importance of planting native Zizotes Milkweed for Monarch Conservation.



A Young visitor clearly enjoyed “Eating Like a Bird” as she mimicked the feeding habits of the Northern Cardinal.