

MINUTES
MID-COAST CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
JULY 12, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™, Inc. Board of Directors met on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382. The meeting was hybrid.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. President Steve Ferguson presided at the meeting, and Mid-Coast TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM for 3.25 hours CB: Chapter Business/Chapter Meeting.

Meeting Attendance

A total of twenty-four members were present. Board members consisted of eleven in-person and two using the OWL/Zoom chat function, constituting a quorum. In addition, thirteen members in standing were in attendance.

Secretary's Report by Ele Chew

The Mid-Coast Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:25 PM, at the Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office at 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas 78382. A total of fifteen members were present. Board members consisted of seven in-person and one using the OWL/Zoom chat function, constituting a quorum. In addition, seven members in standing were in attendance.

President Steve Ferguson presided at the meeting, and Mid-Coast TMN Secretary Ele Chew recorded the minutes, which were posted on the chapter website.

Brigid Berger moved to accept the minutes as published on the chapter website, and Amy Nowlin seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report by Julie Hejducek

Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist Inc.
Aransas County AgriLife Extension Service Office, 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Texas
Treasurer's Report as of: 06/30/2025

Beginning bank balance checking as of 06/01	\$37,562.65
Plus CD	13,315.74
Plus MM	7,085.50
<u>Total beginning cash as of 06/01</u>	<u>\$57,963.89</u>

Checking account balance as of 06/01	\$37,562.65
Less cleared items	-1,637.70
Less outstanding items	
Operating bank balance as of 06/30	<u>\$35,924.95</u>

CD account balance as of 06/01	\$13,315.74
Plus interest (recorded at maturity)	
CD bank balance as of 06/30	<u>\$13,315.74</u>

**Note: Interest will be credited to the account at the end of its 4-month term in August.*

MM account balance as of 06/01	\$7,085.50
Plus interest	8.74
MM bank balance as of 06/30	<u>\$7,094.24</u>

Checking as of 06/30	\$35,924.95
Plus CD as of 06/30	13,315.74
Plus MM as of 06/30	7,094.24
<u>Total cash as of 06/30</u>	<u>\$56,334.93</u>

Three bank reconciliations completed 07/01
Quicken Backup completed 07/01

YTD Total Revenue as of 06/30	\$5,623.50
Less YTD Total Expenses as of 06/30	5,687.22
Net Loss as of 06/30	<u>\$ 63.72</u>

The Board of Directors of the Ed Rachal Foundation has approved an award to the Chapter in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for the plant sale expenses.

Prosperity Bank's BillPay has changed procedures in that requests are submitted as ACHs instead of checks. This means that when I submit in BillPay, the amount is automatically cleared in the bank. They system then sends a check in the US Mail since there isn't any banking information for an ACH. I am not able to determine if the check sent by Prosperity was cashed by the recipient since the amount already cleared the bank. Once I submit a request in BillPay, it takes 1 week for BillPay to release the check, and then another week in the US Mail. If you haven't received your check in 2 weeks from the time you submit your request, please let me know.

Board of Directors Reports:

- President Report
 - New Board Members
 - Great News for MCTMN
 - 25th Anniversary Celebration
 - \$10,000 Ed Rachal Foundation Grant
 - Aransas Pathways Sunset Kayak Paddle
 - MCTMN-RFHS Mentoring Program
 - TMN Annual Meeting
- Vice-President Report

July 12 Chapter Meeting
History and update on Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust with guest speakers Diane Wilson, executive director of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper, and Steve Raabe, trustee for the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust
- Treasurer Report—2025 Budget Overview Budget Actuals
- Membership & VMS Reports
 - Membership Report
 - VMS Update
- Advanced Training Director — Update
- Initial Training Report — IT Progress Report
- Projects Report — 2025 Projects Update
 - Volunteer hours
 - ICF game camera photo processing
 - SABP shoreline cleanups
 - Oyster gardening
 - Pollinators for Texas updates
 - Hummer Fest and native plant sale
 - Requests to MCTMN
- Technology Report —No report
- Communications Report

- Corpus Christi Hooks Game!
- HEB TMN Pollinator Collective Grant
- Plant sale
- Newsletter
- Outreach
- Dropbox
- Website review
- Plant Sale Report
 - Update
- Past President Report
Candidates for Vice-President, Secretary, and Technology Officer
- Class Representative Report
- Chapter Advisor Report — No report
- Awards

Old Business

New Business

Initial Training Director Transition

Jeremy Miller, the initial training director for 2023-2025, motioned Tatum Dunn as the new initial training director and Margaret Durst as her assistant. Kate Geer-Miller, co-initial training director with Jeremy Miller, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tatum Dunn, the new initial training director for the class of 2026, proposed to keep the class size at twenty students and the training fee at \$150. Jeremy Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Honorary Membership for Charlie Belaire

Ele Chew motioned to make Charlie Belair an honorary member of the Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalist program, and Amy Nowlin seconded the motion. Charlie's contributions to the Right of Way Project and his advocacy for native habitats are just a few of his many achievements. The motion was passed unanimously.

In provision 7.2 of the operating handbook, specifically in section CH, 7.2 E, the chapter has the option to honor an individual for exceptional service by granting them honorary membership. Honorary members enjoy the same rights and privileges as other members, with the exception that they do not pay dues and are not allowed to vote, hold office, or chair committees.

RFHS-MCTMN Naturalist-Student Mentoring Program

Chapter Advisor Amy Nowlin moved to form a steering committee to develop a mentorship program with high school students after Communication Director D'Ann Williams voiced a concern concerning the program for the need of our chapter to have an understanding following safe environment policies with minors. Project Director Greg Simons seconded the motion, and the board approved it. The steering committee will consist of President Steve Ferguson, Chapter Advisor Amy Nowlin, Bill Burge, and Rachael Diaz, who is a MCTMN and the Science Department Chair at RFHS. The discussion highlighted the importance of implementing a safe environment policy and developing an appropriate curriculum.

Initial Training Proposed Application Changes

Membership Director Kim Ballard presented **Phase I Modifications to the Wufoo Application Form**. These modifications included adding the order of acceptance and proposed new fields. Vice President Brigid Berger made a motion to accept the recommendations, which Chapter Advisor Amy Nowlin seconded. The proposal was passed unanimously. See details in the [Phase I Modifications to Wufoo Application Form](#) link. The committee will move forward with Phase II.

Chapter Leadership Award

Vice President Brigid Berger nominated Debbie Minns for the Chapter Leadership Pin in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the financial growth of our Mid-Coast chapter. See details of recognition in the following [Chapter Leadership Pin](#) link.

Adjournment

Vice President Brigid Berger moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 PM, and IT Director Tatum Dunn seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ele Chew

Mid-Coast Chapter Secretary

REPORTS AND AUXILIARY MATERIAL TO THE MINUTES

President Report by Steve Ferguson

New Board Members

- Tatum Dunn - Initial Training Director
- Nicole Reagan - Representative for the class of 2025
- Huge thanks to Jeremy Miller and Kate Geer-Miller

Great News for MCTMN

- 25th Anniversary Celebration - D'Ann Williams and Greg Simmons
- \$10,000 from Ed Rachal Foundation - Tracy Bennett, Julie Hejducek, and Debbie Minns
- Aransas Pathways: Sunset Kayak Paddle - MCTMN volunteers provided significant leadership for the event

MCTMN - RFHS Mentoring Program

- Approval from RFISD and RFHS
- Formation of Steering Committee - Steve Ferguson (chair), Bill Burge, Rachael Diaz, Amy Nowlin, and volunteer mentor (to be named)
- More discussion in New Business

TMN Annual Meeting

TMN's 2025 annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 16th through Sunday, October 19th in College Station.

Annual Meeting Timeline

- ~~May 16 – Call for presentation proposals deadline~~
- Jul 1 – Meeting agenda shared
- Aug 1 – Registration opens
- Aug 31 – Early registration ends
- Sep 20 – Registration ends
- Oct 7 – Chapter project fair presentations (#TMNTuesday)

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Vice President Report by Brigid Berger

The next Chapter Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2025, 10:00 am at the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension Building's Auditorium, 186 Henry Barber Way, Auditorium, Port Lavaca and via Zoom.

The advanced training opportunity will focus on the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust. Guest speakers Diane Wilson, executive director of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper and Steve Raabe, trustee for the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust will explain the history and the latest update on the numerous local and regional projects funded by the trust.

See attached program announcement.

As this program will be of interest to the regional public, a Constant Contact event will be created to allow the public to register for the event and receive the Zoom link. The event will be shared on social media and with regional news outlets. Chapter members will receive the Zoom link via email and will not be required to register.

Submitted by: Brigid Berger, Vice President



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
MID-COAST CHAPTER



MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST



Free & Open to All

SATURDAY
AUGUST 9, 2025
10:00 AM

Calhoun County
AgriLife Extension
Auditorium
186 Henry Barber Way
Port Lavaca

Join us in person or via Zoom as Diane Wilson and Steve Raabe explain the history and the latest update on the numerous local and regional projects funded by the trust.



DIANE WILSON

Diane Wilson is a fourth-generation fisherwoman, author, activist, and mother of five. She has fought petrochemical industry on the Texas Gulf Coast for 36 years, launching environmental campaigns, demonstrations, hunger strikes, climbed towers, and even attempted to sink her boat in the fight against local industrial polluters. She has been jailed multiple times for civil disobedience. She is executive director of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper. In 2019, Wilson and Waterkeeper won a 50 Million settlement and zero discharge of plastic in a Citizen Clean Water suit against Formosa Plastics, Texas in Point Comfort, Texas. She was the recipient of the Goldman Environmental Award in 2023. She lives in Seadrift, Texas.



STEVE RAABE

Mr. Raabe is the Trustee for the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a Licensed Professional Engineer. Mr. Raabe has thirty-eight years of project management, water resources planning and engineering experience previously working for the San Antonio River Authority and private consulting engineering companies.

Chapter business meeting to follow program.
Contact: vicepresident@midcoast-tmn.org

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Treasurer Report by Julie Hejducek as of 06/2025

2025 MCTMN BUDGET

	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 06/2025	\$ Difference
REVENUE	Revenue			
Member Dues	Annual dues (\$15/person average x 100 paying members)	1,500	685	815
Initial Training Fees	Initial training (20 @\$150 FOR 2025 class)	2,515	1,315	1,200
Gross Plant sale	Hummerbird	14,500		14,500
Book Sales	Book Sales to ANWR	600		600
Badge Replacement	Cost to replace lost badge	50		50
Interest Income	Interest income from checking .15% (\$25), money market 1.51% (\$75), and CD 3.25% (\$400)	500	223	277
Misc Other (Donations)	Unsolicited donations less than \$250	3,000	3,401	401
TOTAL REVENUE	Total Revenue	22,665	5,624	17,042
EXPENSES	Expenses			
Administrative				
President Expenses	25th Celebration, supplies, misc(moved to Outreach)			
VP Expenses	Supplies & other expenses incurred by VP, MS products \$36, misc	250	66	184
VP Expenses for Meetings - Capital Exp	No capitol expected			
Storage Rental	Kool storage, \$93/month	1,200	558	642
Shed Purchase		0		
Shed Rental		0		
Secretary's Supplies	Paper, ink, postage, other supplies	100		100
Treasurer's Supplies	Ink \$65, MS products \$36, storage container \$10, paper \$10, misc	200	97	103
Treasurer - Capital Expense	No capitol expected			
Historian and scrapbook	Toner, Paper, Scrapbook pages, Storage, etc.	100		100
Project Director Expenses	Pollinator garden \$3000, Unforeseen \$500	3,500	1,498	2,002
Project Expense - Monarch Tagging Project	Monarch tagging kits, nets and habitat			
Project Expense - costs associated with 25th Anniversary	Misc anniversary costs not associated with Hooks Game	1,000	62	938
Membership	Plaques (2 cases @\$171 ea) - \$342 name badges - \$13*25=\$325	667	281	386
Communications - Website & Technical	Website domain name \$15, SR hosting \$290 & improvements \$270; Wufoo online data support \$350; Zoom license \$150, Quickbooks \$540, Cloud storage \$240, Transitioning \$300	2,330	325	2,005
Communications - Online Newsletter, Signups & Facebook Ads	Const Contact 10x\$12=\$120 Boosted FB ads 10x\$12=\$120 \$306 plus General Marketing Signup Genius \$211, Boosted FB add for HummerFest \$200 Misc 100	920		920
Communications - General Marketing	Plant Sale Yard signs - 100, Misc. Other: Thank you card stationary \$100	200		200
Communications - Public Outreach - Hooks Game & Misc.	Hooks Game Stickers - \$530, Chapter Brochure \$260, Winter Texan Day, Misc. Events	1,240	536	704
Communications - Outreach - Capital Expense	Will concentrate on 25th anniversary / Hooks Game			
PO Box Rental	Post Office box rental - Fulton 12 months @ \$150	150	150	
Discretionary	\$150 annual donatioin to TMN, \$200 non standard honorarium	350		350

	2025 BUDGET EXPLANATION	2025 BUDGET	ACTUALS as of 06/2025	\$ Difference
Square Expense / Bank Expense	Misc expense from Square transactions and bank fees	50	22	28
Total Administrative		12,257	3,595	8,662
Advanced Training	Instructor/speaker fees	0	0	0
Training - Initial				
Boat / Touch Tank Fees	RV Katy for Bay and Barrier Island Ecology	850	675	175
Books - Purchased	19 Statewide Curriculum (TAMU Press, \$665), 19 My Brush Country Backyard, \$456	1,300	420	880
Instructor Fees	Honoraria or expense reimbursements (1 X \$250 assumed)	250		250
Venue	Fees	75		75
Contingency Fund	Other expenses (15% contingency)	0		
Supplies & expenses	Note pads, printing, binders, badges, etc.	700	877	177
Scholarship	Earmark for potential 2025 class applicants (2@\$90)	180	120	60
Misc	Ambassador/training committee pizza meeting	150		150
Total Initial Training		3,505	2,092	1,413
Plant Sale				
HummerBird Fee	Booth Space For outside space	150		150
Plants	Plants purchased	5,000		5,000
Sales Tax	Tax for sales other than 2 "free days".	200		200
Fees - Square	2.9% transaction fee for credit cards (60.0% of sales)	300		300
POS Square Expense	One month of hot spot	55		55
POS Hardware/Software - Capital Expense	Square purchase			
Plant Sale Educational Materials/Eqpt	Printed plantcare handouts and educational posters	700		700
Supplies & Misc expenses	\$50 labels/square, \$250 misc includes Square refill paper \$15	300		300
Inventory Supplies	500 gallon pots	550		550
Marketing	Banners, posters, and social media boosts	800		800
Equipment Upgrades - Capital Expense	200 Carrier trays	200		200
Total Plant Sale		8,255		8,255
TOTAL EXPENSES		24,017	5,687	18,330
TOTAL NET INCOME (YE)		1,352	64	1,288
TOTAL PLANT SALE NET INCOME (YE)		6,245		6,245
CAPITAL EXPENSE				

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Membership Director Report by Kim Ballard

As of June 30th, the Mid-Coast Chapter had 128 members eligible to report hours. The change from May resulted from one transfer in and four reclassifications from Active to Associate based on TMN-defined criteria.

For June, 70 members reported 1177.75 volunteer service hours and 126 advanced training hours across 23 opportunities for a value of \$29,986.25 (\$23/hr).

Year-to-date, 103 members (80% of total eligible) have reported 7760.25 volunteer service hours and 816.75 advanced training hours across 52 opportunities for a value of \$197,271. (\$25/hr).

An updated roster was sent out in June, and a new roster is scheduled for August. If you need an updated roster before then, please email hourskeeper@midcoast-tmn.org

The website will be updated soon with the June 2025 numbers presented above.

Six applications have been received for 2026 Initial Training. This was prior to the application link being disabled on the JOIN! page. There are currently six unconfirmed deferrals. Confirmation will occur prior to the application link being re-enabled September 1st.

Phase I Modifications to Wufoo Application Form

Phase I - Wufoo Application Form

1. Order of Acceptance

- This is Section 7.3.5 of the Chapter Operating Handbook
- Kris has added to the JOIN! page of our website
- Should be added at the beginning of the application form

To join the Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, Inc., please complete and submit this application. Our Membership Chair will contact you **immediately**. New Members come into the Chapter through the training program. Applicants are accepted in this order:

- (1) Mid-Coast area applicants deferred from the previous year's training
- (2) Former members needing to retake training
- (3) Residents of the Mid-Coast Chapter area
- (4) Other applicants deferred from the previous year's training
- (5) Applicants from adjacent counties with no TMN chapter
- (6) Applicants from nearby counties that have a TMN chapter
- (7) Applicants from other areas of Texas

Phase I - Wufoo Application Form (cont.)

2. Proposed New Fields

- Preferred Name inserted
- Preferred Method of Contact
- Clarification of County of Residence if not in Mid-coast Chapter
- Checkbox for Background Check Consent (this will include an explanation that this will occur via TPWD prior to Orientation)
- Checkbox indicating interest in scholarship possibility
- Commitment to Service Section

- **VMS Update Report by Cindy Hielscher**

VMS News from TMN:

- Multi-Factor authentication for eCoordinator to be reset coming soon
- Record deletions policy at TPWD annual purge
 - Recategorized members who paid dues but have not charged hours in more than ten years
 - For records deleted (Inactive or Deceased), names and hours are retained on a stub for reporting purposes
 - If a member returns to the program after deleted, the member will need to fill out a new application including background check and request to create a logbook entry.
 - No current updates for the ongoing VMS upgrade.

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Advanced Training Report by Debbie Kucera

There have been about 95 approved AT for 2025.

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Initial Training Report by Jeremy Miller & Kate Geer-Miller

- Graduated 17 new members on June 7
 - 5 certified at graduation
 - 2 double certified at graduation
- Youtube videos of all recorded zoom training sessions will be released to the chapter
 - Videos will be unlisted on YouTube
 - Links will be sent via email for access to ensure only members will have access
 - New video recording links will be released upon completion of each new session in 2026
- Welcome Tatum Dunn as the new Initial Training director and Margaret Durst as her assistant

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Projects Report by Greg Simmons

- In 2024, 27% of our volunteer hours were in Q3 which I found surprising. The summer heat will slow some projects such as the McAlister property cleanup.
- WRC never seems to slow down plus the native landscape restoration is looking good.
- Last year the ICF game camera photo processing extended into Q3 which I assume is occurring this year as well.
- SABP shoreline cleanups are pushed to Oct 18 this year.
- Oyster Gardening is new this year and being led by Amy Nowlin
- GISP's 1st paddling program today was blown out.
- The "Pollinators for Texas" team, including Donna Bailey (Port Lavaca), Bill Burge (ANWR), Janet McCrea (Coletto Creek), Brigid Berger (Port O'Connor Elementary), Vickie Wilson (Rockport Post Office), and Margie Wilkins (Matagorda Heritage Park), has made progress at all sites.
 - Donna Bailey is taking the lead on mid-year report due July 31..
 - Signage for pollinator gardens is completed thanks to Brigid Berger and the team.
 - HEB gave us 470 free plants initiated by Margie Wilkins. Turks cap, Salvia Furman's Red, Eupatorium, Blackfoot Daisy, Rudbeckia Goldsturm. This was a very generous offer, but I have some mixed feeling because most are not plants adapted to our area. Margie Wilkins had some delivered to Matagorda. Most were delivered to Rockport where they were transported to AgriLife, and where we are trying to keep them for the Native Plant Sale.
- HummerFest and the Native Plant Sale

Requests

- Assistance with pollinator gardens at Aransas Pass Community Garden is lacking support
- Amy Nowlin is exploring details of VS opportunities at Riverside Park in Bay City. Looks like there is plenty to do if we are interested.
- Bobbi Rankin appeal for ANWR volunteers

Communications Report by D'Ann Williams



Communication Committee Report – July '25

Administration | Historian | Newsletter | Outreach | Publicity | Website

Committee's oversight areas as per our Bylaws

Hooks Outreach!



- **Thank you to all who helped out and came out!**

- We reached directly or indirectly

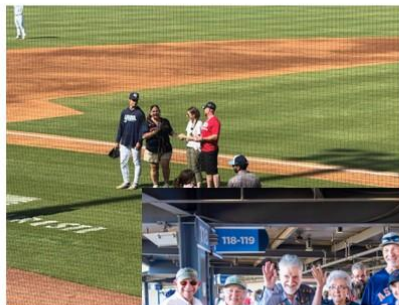
4,223

- **100+ TMNs attended**

- **We are on the schedule for the 1st weekend in June in 2026**

- Is this okay?

- Will strive to have a more interactive table like the South Texas Chapter had on display – will need to up our outreach budget



HEB Grant

- Brigid - Great job on the HEB Pollinator Signs!
- Sent out a Facebook post with the new signage and volunteers at work at Rockport Post Office
- I am waiting for the 6 month grant report and will post more
- Send me your photos of other signage you install at each of the other locations!



Next Focus – Plant Sale

- Need to do a Press Release for Ed Rachel Grant!
- Signup Genius – Platform needs to be created
- Social Media and Signage
 - Will update to be simpler to read
- Will discuss updated budget with Debbie Minns post-grant ☺
- Will have Outreach Table again – do we have space?



General

▪ Outreach

- Our chapter is doing more!
 - Rockport Ecosystem Summit Table focused on watershed – Maureen Crocker
 - Thank you to Matagorda Sea Grant for use of your watershed interactive – Amy Nowlin
 - Rockport Baptist Church VBS Night – Chelse Watson even brought a snake
 - We need to invest in more and better interactives. Ex. - Our own watershed tool.

▪ Dropbox Initiated

- The executive cmte. needs to discuss who can access.

▪ Website Review

- Thank you to Cindy for your work on the website.
- I need to fix some links, etc.
- I may have a new chapter person that may be interested



Plant Sale Report by Debbie Minns

The Hummer Mall will be located at the Fulton Convention Center through 2029. The Chamber of Commerce has communicated to us our options for Plant Sale placement during the Hummerbird Celebration. The plant sale team discussed the options and found each one to have significant deficiencies, of either space limitations or lack of utilities. The team is looking at several nearby options that would not be part of the Hummerbird Celebration, as a last resort.

The Plant Sale received a grant from from the Rachal Foundation and there was discussion about how those funds would be used.

Liz Smith reported that Mary Wilkens obtained a donation of over 400 plants from HEB. Many have been placed with Partnering Gardens and some remain in TMN members' care awaiting the Plant Sale.

Tracey Bennett is working on a grant request to fund the expenses of the Plant Sale. I have made an unofficial budget that includes some things that are not in our current approved budget. I'm requesting advise on how to handle this unofficial amended budget.

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Past President Report by Bob Cunningham

The Past-President serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee pursuant to the Chapter Bylaws. As appointed by President Steve Ferguson, the Nominating Committee comprises Chapter members D'Ann Williams, Linda Swickheimer, Gary Ward, and Amy Nowlin.

The primary purpose of the Nominating Committee is to identify and recommend candidates to serve as Officers for the one-year term commencing in January 2026. The Committee may also assist in identifying candidates as committee chairs, for recommendation to the President for his discretionary appointments.

Officers:

Current Secretary Ele Chew and Vice-President Brigid Berger have indicated a desire to step down from their respective positions during or at the end of 2025. Ele Chew has expressed an interest in assuming the Vice-President position upon Brigid's resignation. Janet Cunningham has volunteered for the Secretary position, replacing Ele.

Ele and Janet will shadow the current incumbents to learn the duties of their respective roles and will stand for election at the annual membership meeting in November, subject to full Nominating Committee and BoD recommendation in October. Nominations for additional candidates should be submitted to me for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

Nicole Reagan has been elected by the Class of 2025 as Class Representative. We welcome her to the Board.

Current President, Steve Ferguson, has indicated an intention to serve for another year. Julie Hejducek likewise is expected to continue as Treasurer.

Committee Chairs:

Initial Training: The current Initial Training directors, Jeremy Miller and Kate Geer- Miller, are not continuing in that position; their term expires upon providing their report at this July meeting of the Board. The Board is grateful for their multiple years of exemplary service as IT directors.

President Steve Ferguson advises that Tatum Dunn (Class of 2025) of Goliad has volunteered to serve as the next Initial Training Director. Margaret Durst (also Class of 2025) has agreed to serve as Tatum's assistant, but not as a formal co- director. Steve and Jeremy are excited to have Tatum in the IT role and for Margaret to assist. The Board thanks them for their willingness to serve.

Advanced Training: The current AT director, Debbie Kucera, recently announced she is resigning from that position.

Technology: The recently created position of Technology director remains open.

Mentoring: President Steve proposes forming a Mentoring Steering Committee to guide the new program being initiated at Rockport-Fulton HS. Chapter member Rachael Diaz, who is the RFHS Science Department Chair, has agreed to serve on that committee. Interested members should contact President Steve.

All Chapter Members are asked to consider participating in these leadership positions, and to identify and reach out to members who may be qualified and willing to serve in:

- (i) any of the Officer positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer or the Secretary;
or
- (ii) any of the open Committee positions: Advanced Training, or Technology.

Please refer nominations or interested members to me or President Steve.

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Class Representative by Nicole Reagan

New 2025 Class Representative: Nicole Reagan

17 classmates

7 initial certifications

4 very close to initial certification

2 recertified



Class of 2025—Front row, left to right: Pamela Anderson, Jeri Manjaris, Kim Draper, Brianna Hanselman, Nicole Mullen, Nicole Reagan, Frank Solis, Mark Croudy, Karen Dorgan, Dan Dorgan. **Back row:** Jessica Ruble, Debbie Fisher, Debbie Troup, IT Director Jeremy Miller, Lauren Martin, CeCe Fitzgerald, Margaret Durst, Nicole Nelson, Jarrett Kemen, Tatum Dunn

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Meeting Attendance

Board members in attendance: Kim Ballard-Membership, Brigid Berger (Vice President), Ele Chew-Secretary, Bob Cunningham-Past President (Zoom), Steve Ferguson-President, Julie Hejducek-Treasurer, Debbie Kucera-AT(Zoom), Jeremy Miller (IT), Kate Geer-Miller (IT), Amy Nowlin (Chapter Advisor), Greg Simmons-Projects, Chelsea Watson (Class Rep), D'Ann Williams-Communications

Other chapter members in attendance: Bill Burge, Janet Cunningham (Zoom), Kim Draper, Tatum Dunn, Margaret Durst, Patrick Hartigan, Cindy Hielscher-VMS Administrator, Debbie Minns (Plant Sale), Nicole Reagan (Zoom), Karen Lee Rystad (Zoom), Linda Shirey, and Deb Troup.

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Awards

Initial Certification enamel dragonfly & plaque— Presented: Margaret Durst pin (still needs plaque). Not presented: Karen Dorgan, Mary Wilkins, Laura Lee, Sally Crofutt, Larry Green, Martha McLeod

Milestone Awards

250-hour bronze dragonfly—Presented: Cynthia Baker

Silver 500-Hour Milestone dragonfly—Presented: Jeremy Miller and Liz Smith. Not presented: Karen Barton, Marilyn Stewart, Janet James, Cindy Hielscher

Gold 1,000-Hour Milestone dragonfly –

Polished Silver 2,500-Hour dragonfly – Not presented: Bob Friedrichs

Gold/Diamond 5,000-Hour dragonfly –

Leadership Award –

Recertification Pins

2022 Lightning Whelk—Not presented: Karen Barton, Karen Benson, Rebecca Bootzin

2023 TX Ecoregions—Presented: Bob Friedrichs. Not presented: Karen Benson, Kayla Clark

2024 Rattlesnake—Presented: David Clark (picked up earlier), Bob Friedrichs, Dee Mahaffey. Not presented: Chris Andersen, Laura Andersen, Karen Benson, Kayla Clark, Debra Dhams-Nelson, Bobby Garner, Judy Goodner, Wilfred Korth, Martha McLeod, Robyn Savage, Scott Swanson, Gary Ward

2025 Roadrunner – Presented: Julie Hejducek, Jeremy Miller, Amy Nowlin, Sally Scroggs, Linda Shirey, Greg Simmons. Not presented: Cynthia Baker, James Black, Jim Case, Maureen Crocker, Linda Daley, Patrick Hartigan, Mike Hejducek, Badley Jones, Kris Kirkwood, Ray Kirkwood, Wilfred Korth, Debbie Kucera, Clare Martranga, Martha McLeod, Robyn Savage, Debbi Roskey, Scott Swanson

TPWD Water Awards 2023 awarded in 2024

Not present: Marueen Crocker

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Chapter Leadership Pin

Debbie Minns is being awarded the Chapter Leadership Pin in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the financial growth of our Mid-Coast chapter.

Over the past two years, Debbie has successfully led the native plant sale, resulting in a net profit of over \$16,000. In her role as Plant Sale Coordinator, she managed dozens of chapter members and oversaw the sale of hundreds of plants. Debbie also incorporated a monarch and milkweed outreach component and established a valuable partnership with the Formosa Agriculture and Ecology Research Center to grow and provide plants for sale. Throughout this process, she adeptly navigated the uncertainties of annual changes in venue locations. Additionally, Debbie is a pleasure to work with, calmly addressing questions and crises while facing each challenge with kindness and humor.

The nominating review committee, which included Cindy Hielscher, Kimberly Ballard, Steve Marwitz, and Brigid Berger, unanimously approved the nomination on July 10, 2025. The Chapter Leadership Pin is awarded to chapter members for their leadership service to the operations, growth, and improvements of the chapter. Debbie was nominated by Vice President Brigid Berger. As per the guidelines of the award, she will receive the pin at the chapter meeting in August.

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