

**North Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program Board Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
In person at REI, 5929 E. Northwest Highway**

Board Members Present

Rebecca Posten - President	Susan Sattell - Vice President
Alan Lusk - Co-Treasurer	Malette Reed - Co-Treasurer
Carrie Robinson – Volunteer Projects Dir.	Cale Chapman – Secretary
Kelly Martin - Membership Director	Tim Gibson - Communications Dir.
Ginger Greatens - DE&I Director	Anne Edwards - Training Class Director
Shelby Smith – Youth Development Dir.	Kenneth Saintonge - State Rep.
Bruce Stewart - Immediate Past President	Ashley Steel - Community Ed. Director
Chris Torres – Training Class Rep.	Matthew Orwatt – AgriLife Advisor
Sam Kieschnick – TPWD Advisor	

Board Members Absent

Bruce Stewart
Chris Torres

Guests Present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Rebecca Posten. A quorum was present.

Rebecca reported that Brenda Catlett asked if we would consider buying a big tent. This is not in the budget, and she wanted to know if it can be added to the budget. The tent could be stored in the storage unit and be used for big chapter projects. A motion for approval passed.

Approval of February 2, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes*

Minutes of the February 2, 2025 Board Meeting, which were distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting were put forth for approval.

Acknowledgement and Referral for Audit of the January 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025 Financial Books*

The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Detail for the period January 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025, which were made available to the Board in advance of the meeting, were put forward for approval.

Noting COH critical dates:

None.

Consent Agenda*

A motion was made and seconded to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 2024 Audit Committee Report – Susan Sattell

The audit found that financial records for 2024 records accurately represent the organization's activities. It was suggested that guidelines for checks be reviewed by those whom they concern. Last year the market money balance decreased, and the board is encouraged to reduce these reserves in ways that benefit the community and organization. Rebecca moved to approve the report and the motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND ACTIONS

Secretary: Cale Chapman

A last-minute change to a section of the minutes draft from February has been uploaded to Dropbox.

Co-Treasurers: Alan Lusk and Malette Reed

Malette reported that someone has reached out to members who have not paid dues, and as a result, we cleared 39 invoices. 69 invoices are unpaid as of today. 80% have been paid, which is a slight decrease since last year. Susan mentioned that she would

like members who donate extra to the program to be rewarded. Rebecca offered to write thank you cards to those who do. Rebecca wishes to be able to show members what dues money goes to.

Volunteer Projects Director: Carrie Robinson

Carrie presented the annual report for projects in 2024. Seven new projects were started in 2024. Project leaders submit info on their projects. Carrie provided a summary of metrics regarding projects for 2024. Carrie reported that we are currently well staffed as far as project leaders go. There are three project leaders that chose not to certify, though they are considered active. One project leader is no longer active so Irving Ecotourism will be inactivated until another project lead is identified.

Membership Director: Kelly Martin

Nothing to report.

Training Class Director: Anne Edwards

This week marks the 6th class and things are going well.

Communications Director: Tim Gibson

Three to five members have expressed interest in working the newsletter. There are discussions on timing and other details. One member set up a Discord workspace for discussion. All are invited to join this instance to review or participate in the discussion. Tim talked with past chapter Communication Directors about the history and the cessation of publication of the Dragonflyer. The justification was that Mailchimp statistics showed that the newsletter was not being read. Current newsletter discussions via Discord are being held on Thursdays at 7:00pm. We currently do not have any process to collect stories and history of the chapter. A newsletter can be a good resource for this function. Shelby suggested that a yearbook publisher like Treering might aid the chapter in creating a yearly historical record for the chapter. The current chapter historian/archivist is Cachet Petty.

Tim is also working on finding a firm technical webmaster to maintain and optimize the performance of the website. There are optimization issues that need to be worked out. Rebecca suggested hiring an expert in website optimization and noted that there are numerous on-line resources for finding professionals such as Fiverr.

Youth Development Director: Shelby Smith

Shelby and Ginger have been discussing the way that the young naturalist program is being charged or not charged. It is not the same across the board. We want it to be fair and equitable. Some facilities are charging fees for hosting. Shelby and Ginger are working with Cedar Ridge Preserve, which raises funds for itself. We want to be sure

that the community can access the program. Cedar Ridge Preserve wants to charge \$125-150. Shelby and Ginger are wondering how to go about it and whether we should continue working with Cedar Ridge. It was expressed that our goal should be teaching kids about nature rather than making other organizations money. Carrie doesn't think this would be any different than our support for other groups that charge, such as Discovery Gardens. Rebecca wonders how this program would be branded. She would prefer that the program be branded in the name of the organization since we are only providing volunteers and are not benefitting financially from fees that we do not charge. We want a clear understanding of where the chapter stands before meeting with the director at Cedar Ridge Preserve.

Shelby is noticing that TR Hoover, after working with them for three years, is finally taking the lead on nature projects outside the scope of the Monday and Wednesday lessons they receive from Master Naturalists. To be able to release the love of the outdoors and nature education to others in the community has been our goal from the beginning of the Ideal/Bonton Project. She hopes it's beginning to be realized.

Community Education Director: Ashley Steel

The speaker's bureau is vacant. A speaker request comes in from an outside party and while sometimes it is well organized, sometimes it is not. Speakers take a lot of time to put together presentations. It would be easier to put together presentations for someone else to present. It would be nice to ask people to speak and already have a presentation for them to use so that they don't need to create one from scratch. A repository of presentations could be kept for people to use to present.

DE&I Director: Ginger Greatens

The DEI community is looking to coordinate an accessibility talk for the June 5th chapter meeting. There will be a workshop the following day in the morning at one of our partner sites. Hope to invite staff at JBS to work together on addressing accessibility. The new class may pilot a new accessibility form to explore any room for growth for field trips regarding accommodations. Ginger reported that the first Diversity and Engagement social club is active. This is for cultural experiences and does not involve AT or VH. Ginger wants to avoid costs, and friends and family are welcome. She is exploring what activities people may be interested in most.

State Representative: Kenneth Saintonge

No new news. Kenneth plans on meeting with people who have connections to other chapters. He spoke to members of other chapters at a recent Irish festival. He is interested in communicating with members of bordering chapters. Rebecca thought it could be a great session for Kenneth to teach master naturalists in order to help train them to do community outreach.

Past President: Bruce Stewart

Bruce is absent.

Training Class Representative: Chris Torres

Chris is absent.

Vice President: Susan Sattell

July 13th may work for the summer social. June 29th is another option if the 13th doesn't work. NTMN is not very active in August. Facilities: Susan has not been able to speak to anyone on the reservations team for Dallas College. There has been a turnover of staff at Dallas College and the new management does not want us to be there for free. Sponsorship covers us this year. We do not have anything in writing prior to the week before use. Next year we may not be able to depend on Dallas College. Susan hopes to get a list of requirements for various facilities in order to explore other possibilities. Susan would like to meet Neil Kaufman of Brookhaven College in person to discuss a path forward regarding facilitation of chapter meetings.

President: Rebecca Posten

Rebecca shared that for the April chapter meeting, a representative from a local recycling center will be speaking.

ADVISORS INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

- a. Texas Parks and Wildlife: Sam Kieschnick – Sam expresses gratitude.
- b. Texas AgriLife Extension: Matthew Orwat – Matt is looking for additional sites for a gardening program which already has multiple local cohorts. Matt is also looking for funds to continue a program involving a three-hour course, held at local elementary schools, in 2026.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, it was **moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:19 pm. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cale Chapman
Secretary