

**North Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program Board Meeting
Monday, May 5, 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	Ashley Steel - Community Ed. Director
Shelby Smith – Youth Development Dir.	Matthew Orwatt – AgriLife Advisor
Cale Chapman – Secretary	Sam Kieschnick – TPWD Advisor
Kelly Martin - Membership Director	Tim Gibson - Communications Dir.
Ginger Greatens - DE&I Director	Charlie Marshall/ Erin Mollet - Training Class Dir.

Board Members Absent

Anne Edwards - Training Class Director	Malette Reed - Co-Treasurer
Carrie Robinson – Volunteer Projects Dir.	Kenneth Saintonge - State Rep.
Bruce Stewart - Immediate Past President	
Chris Torres – Training Class Rep.	

Guests Present:

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

AgriLife 4H

Kimberly Randall was introduced by Matt Orwatt, who shared about how the American Rescue grant allocated funds for the Teens to Teachers program. This program equips teens to teach younger kids. Areas of learning involve agriculture, natural resources, gardening, etc. Thirty youth were sent from Dallas County to Washington DC for the Ignite Summit, but the grant did not cover all of the travel.

Kimberly shared a presentation about the Ignite Summit, which occurred on March 12-16. Kids got to network and participate in workshop, where they learned career-oriented and survival-oriented skills, an experience without the burden of monetary cost.

Kimberly solicited a board donation. After discussion about the alignment of a donation with NTMN's mission, the board voted to donate \$500 to the group, and invited 4-H student representatives to make a short presentation to NTMN's June chapter meeting; there, they would have an opportunity to solicit individual donations from NTMN members.

Approval of March 31, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes*

Minutes of the March 31, 2025, Board Meeting, which were distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting, were approved.

Acknowledgement and Referral for Audit of the January 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025 Financial Books*

The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Detail for the period January 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025, which were made available to the Board in advance of the meeting, were put forward for approval.

Noting COH critical dates:

Board members were asked to report to the board on members achieving early certifications and milestones.

Consent Agenda*

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES AND ACTIONS

Secretary: Cale Chapman

Cale is gathering names, term dates, and contact info of board members.

Co-Treasurers: Alan Lusk and Malette Reed

None.

Volunteer Projects Director: Carrie Robinson

Absent. Carrie reported via email prior to the meeting on Wellness in Nature, a newly approved project that offers nature experiences to the communities seeking ways to engage with nature to enhance their quality of life and well-being. The program is focused on adults, including older adults or others with accessibility needs. The activities include guided nature walks and group activities that allow members to learn and share about nature topics, tailored to meet group accessibility needs and interests.

Membership Director: Kelly Martin

Nothing to report.

Training Class Director: Charlie Marshall and Erin Mollet

Charlie and Erin have begun their work as new class leaders for the Class of 2026. Charlie shared updates on NTMN's newsletter and involvement by NTMN members. The first edition will be published in July, then quarterly thereafter. A project will be featured each time. Charlie suggested seeking grants. Sam saw no issues with seeking grants but noted that the state would probably want to be aware of any grants the chapter is pursuing.

Communications Director: Tim Gibson

Tim said that strides have been made in some aspects of website optimization. He also initiated a discussion about whether the board should provide honorary memberships for MNs whose memberships have lapsed, but who are still active in the community. The board discussed ways to award outstanding NTMN members and the possibility of reviving the Awards Committee.

Youth Development Director: Shelby Smith

Texas Wildlife Expedition went well. There was a good showing of eleven naturalists at LLELA.

Community Education Director: Ashley Steel

The chapter used to have a speakers bureau and Ashley said requests for NTMN presentations are increasing. Many people are willing to do the talks but are unable to put time in to create presentations for each speaking engagement. Ashley updated the board on a new committee that is working on creating a shareable repository of basic presentations that can be tailored to individual engagements. Topics recommended so far include: pollinator gardens, existing/living with bobcats and coyotes, birds, and how

individuals can support nature. Speakers will be able to give talks without needing to create content or material to present.

DE&I Director: Ginger Greatens

Ginger reported that we are on target for Patty Bonnen at the chapter meeting. Patty will also be hosting a workshop at TRAC, and Ginger requested support in spreading the word to other Master Naturalist chapters, in order to ensure a good turnout. Sam affirmed that Patty is allowed to sell her book outside the chapter meeting room

The DEI committee will be offering training on what to do about animal bites and other things like that. This will be an in-person training with a basic scope.

State Representative: Kenneth Saintonge

Absent.

Past President: Bruce Stewart

Absent.

Training Class Representative: Chris Torres

Absent.

Vice President: Susan Sattell

Our chapter meetings will look a little better starting next month because two additional volunteers will be helping with audiovisual needs. This year's Summer Social on July 13 will be a lot like last year's, although the theme is Scarborough Fair, and Rebecca is bringing in a speaker on Dallas heat islands so attendees can earn an hour of AT.

President: Rebecca Posten

No updates.

ADVISORS INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

- a. Texas Parks and Wildlife: Sam Kieschnick – Sam reports that Dallas placed fifth in the iNat city nature challenge, and he expressed his gratitude.
- b. Texas AgriLife Extension: Matthew Orwat – Master Gardeners have a new AgriLife team member, a horticulture agent. She is a master arborist, master bee keeper and irrigation specialist. Matt went to a forestry training on May 27, and he is now going to be offering a Citizen Science teacher training for teaching the youth about forestry. He is also interested in developing a separate training for

master naturalists on how to be a Citizen Scientist. Matt wants to offer two trainings per year to Master Naturalists.

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

DRAFT