

A Glimpse into 2023

Article & photo by Roberto Gaitan Rio Grande Valley Chapter

New Officers

As our 20th year of service comes to a close, we have a slate of officers that have volunteered to lead us into 2023.

President – Roberto Gaitan (Class of 2014)
1st Vice-President – Robin Gelston (Class of 2019)
2nd Vice-President – Yvette Cano (Class of 2022)
Treasurer – Elizabeth Hosick (Class of 2021)
Secretary – Carolyn Cardile (Class of 2009)

Pending any nominations for these roles from our membership and our formal election process in December, I would like to thank Robin, Yvette, Betsy, and Carolyn for their willingness to devote their time and energy to our chapter for 2023. It is enjoyable to help on a project, to volunteer with a partner, to staff an outreach event, etc., but we can not do any of that without the chapter leadership that keeps our organization going.

Gone but not too Far

Absent from our officer list is Barbara Peet. As you know, Barbara has served as Second Vice-President for several years and stepped up to help us tackle the virtual world. Last year Barbara took the role of New Class Training Director from Joni Gillis, who had served in that role for several years, and, though Barbara has stepped down from the Officer list, she will continue as our 2023 New Class Training Director.

Third Year as President

If elected, I will be entering my third and final year as your President. I have been glad to use my technical background to guide our chapter through the challenges we faced in the virtual world. I am thankful you have had the confidence in me to try new things and redefine our new normal.

In order to ensure our success in 2023 and beyond, I encourage anyone wishing to take a leadership role in our organization to let me know. With various committee, event, and outreach roles, you don't have to be an officer to help out. Today your officers and directors wear multiple hats and it does wear us down. We can only keep up our pace for a while before we tire. We need your help.

While I am looking forward to my third year as President, I am a firm believer that new leadership is vital for an organization to be healthy, innovative, and agile. We don't know what new challenges we will face in the future but we need someone that can bring a fresh perspective in every leadership role we have or in every activity we perform.

2023 TMN Annual Meeting

As we continue with our “normal” work in 2023, I am excited that our 2023 TMN Annual Meeting is coming to the Rio Grande Valley. It is the 23rd Annual Meeting but it marks the 25th Anniversary of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. It is also the first time the Annual Meeting has ever been to the RGV.

The event will bring some challenges as any event like this will do, but this is the 23rd event. I have no doubt that our State Leadership has learned a thing or two on how to run these. Our role will be to help as much as we can to ensure its success. My hope is our chapter will step up and let our pride in our home shine as we showcase the uniqueness of our region.

Keep an eye and an ear out for further details on the event plans. We will be meeting with Mary Pearl Meuth and Michelle Haggerty from the State Office soon and will share what we know as soon as we can.

