**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Via Texas AgriLife Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting License**

**Kathy Pittman,** **President**,called the meeting to order.

**Attendance—**Approximately 40 members in person; 20 virtual and 4 guests

**Refreshments provided by Brazoria County Library System – Thanking everyone who volunteered for Summer Library Program.**

**Agenda**

* Welcome, Recognize visitors
* Volunteer hours, Certifications and Milestones - John B
* AT Presentation – “Freshwater – Life Blood of the Bays”

Leslie Hartman, TPWD Ecosystem Leader for Matagorda Bay

* Break
* Reports/Announcements
	+ Financial Report - Don
	+ Fall Intern Class - Mary/Melanie
	+ State Conference - Connie
	+ Outreach Opportunities - Ruby
	+ Volunteer Opportunities - Oron
	+ Advanced Training Opportunities - Kristine
	+ Fall Field Day – Kristine
* Meeting AT and VT hours

 Adjourn

**Volunteer Hours and Recertifications—**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Initial Certifications** | **Recertifications** | **Milestones** |
| Matt Forster | Brenda Martin | Angela Griffin (500 hours) |
| Sherri Matheson | Karen Mosis |  |
|  | Malcolm Mosis |  |
|  | Brenda Stitt |  |

**VMS Hours**

Hours through August 2022

 Month YTD

 VT 760 8,482

 AT 52 1,160

 Impact data through August 2022

Adults 746 6,416

Youth 1,135 20,906

Total 1,881 27,322

* Pins were available for pick up during break.

**Featured Speaker – Leslie Hartman, Texas Parks and Wildlife – Ecosystem Leader for Matagorda Bay - “Freshwater – Life Blood of the Bays”**

BIO - Leslie Hartman is a native of Pittsburgh, PA and has several advanced degrees – but since none are from any Texas Universities, we’ll skip those. She has been a resident of the Gulf Coast for over 30 years, and for the last 15 years she has served as TPWD’s

Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader. In this position, she and her team serve as stewards for Matagorda and East Matagorda Bay. They collect samples year-round, interview fishermen, rescue turtles and generally monitor the health of the Bays. Ms. Hartman personally has years of specialties under her belt – shrimp, crabs, invasive species and freshwater inflows. Her current professional focus is scientific communication – translating science to English.

**Financial Report -Don**

 August 2022

Beginning Balance $12,772.84

Revenues 775.01

Expenses 159.71

Ending Balance $13,388.14

**Fall Intern Class Update – Mary Schwartz**

* Classes began Tuesday August 23rd
* Graduation Saturday November 12th 1pm
* Volunteers needed for Training Team and to assist with Field
* Trips
* How can YOU help?

• Personal invitation/Word of Mouth/Talk up what you do as a

Volunteer/Bring a friend to a meeting!

• Advertising/Sharing information on social media and via emails to

friends/family.

• Branding – WEAR YOUR TMN GEAR!!! “Not just for volunteering!

**State Conference – Connie**

* State Conference October 20th-23rd at Omni Houston.
* Registration open until Sept 28th.
* Registration Fee
	+ Full Event – $390
	+ Two Day (Friday and Saturday only) – $375
	+ One Day (Friday OR Saturday only) – $200
* Sign up to help staff registration/help desk.
	+ Email Connie Stolte at conniestolte@gmail.com
* We are submitting the Spider Survey to the Chapter Project Fair Competition. Contact Melanie Hollenshead if you would like to help with the project entry.

**Public Outreach Opportunities – Ruby Lewis**

* Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)

 Saturdays, Sept 17th & Sept 24th - 8am to 12pm

* Surfside Nature Fest Saturday, Oct 8th - 10am to 3pm

**VT Opportunities – Oron Atkins**

* Exploration Green Workday: Wednesdays, 8:30am to 11:30am – contact Christie
* Taylor
* GCBO Nursery Garden Workday: Thursdays, 9am to 12pm – contact Chris Kneupper
* GCBO Plant Watering Crew: thru 9/30 – contact Celeste Silling/Martin Hagne
* Beach Sweep: 10/3, 8am Quintana Jetties – contact Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
* Basic Fishing Clinic SCT: 9/17 & 10/15, 9am to 2pm – contact Mason Gilfoil
* BCPD Trail Workday Hanson Park: 9/15, 8am to 12pm – contact Mike Mullenweg
* Apple Snail Harvesting at Hudson Woods: contact David Heinicke
* Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey: contact Melanie Hollenshead
* Adopt a Loop for TMN: contact Debbie Nance

**AT Opportunities – Kristine Rivers**

* “Texas Coastal Exchange: 1000 Mile Living Shoreline Project” (Jim Blackburn) – via

Zoom on Tuesday, September 20 at 6pm. TMN-GBAC. Free (registration is limited).

* “Grazing as a Tool for Habitat Management” (Steve Nelle) – via Zoom on Thursday,

September 29 at 12pm. Wild at Work: A Stewardship Series. Free/$5 donation.

Registration: texaswildlifeassociation.salsalabs.org/wildatworksep2022/

* Beginner Birding Series (Kristine Rivers) – via Zoom on Mondays at 7pm through

October 31. 8-week series of interactive classes. $5/class or $30/series.

Registration: birdingforfun.com/events/

* Next Level Birding Workshops (Kristine Rivers) – via Zoom on Thursdays at 7pm

(Ongoing; drop in any time.) $10 per workshop. Registration: birdingforfun.com/events

**Fall Field Day – Kristine Rivers**

* Wednesday, October 12, 2022, Texas A&M University – Galveston
* Registration online – Deadline September 30

**Agenda**

* + Oyster Gardening 101 Maureen Nolan-Wilde, TMN – Galveston Bay Area Chapter, Director – Beach Hero Program Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research:
	+ New Directions for Sea Turtle Conservation in Texas - Kari Howard, Sea Turtle Rescue and Recovery Manager, Texas A&M University at Galveston Theresa Morris, Sea Turtle Hospital Manager, Texas A&M University at Galveston
	+ Guided Tours of Sea Life Facility / Lunch
	+ Neighbor Woods: Replanting Trees in Galveston Street by Street Priscilla Files, Senior Arborist & Executive Director, Galveston Island Tree Conservancy Alice Anne O’Donell, Chair, Galveston Island Tree Conservancy

**Other Items - Kathy**

* Peer Recognition Committee – looking for volunteers.

 Contact Kathy at pittman@tmn-cot.org

* Nominations Committee – need recommendations for
* Secretary position. Contact Mickey at dufilhos@hotmail.com
* Nov. 6 will be family picnic. Potluck and Birds of Prey Program
* Tom Morris is planning a Whooping Crane Boat Tour Feb. 15 for $85.00
* Send pictures and news items for our newsletter to Lisa Myers at news@tmn-cot.org
* Send pictures and news items for social media to Angela Griffin at ask4angela@gmail.com
* Questions/comments from members?

**Meeting was 1 hours AT and 0.5 hour plus 0.5 hour travel time VT**

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Jeffreys, Secretary

CC: Board Members
 Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary, Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu