**Texas Master Naturalists  
Cradle of Texas Chapter**

**General Meeting**

**Wednesday January 11th, 2023, 7:00 PM**

**Agenda**

* Welcome and recognize visitors Kathy Pittman
* Volunteer hours, Certifications, Milestones John Boettiger
* AT Presentation – Mel McKey, TMN-COT member Jimmy Salinas
  + “Seashells of Brazoria County” (and beyond!)
* Break
* Announcements
  + 2022 Review Kathy Pittman
  + Financial Report Don Sabathier
  + Volunteer Opportunities Oron Atkins
  + Outreach Opportunities Ruby Lewis
  + Spring Intern Class Update Melanie Hollenshead
  + Annual AT Event Kristine Rivers
  + Final Items Kathy Pittman
  + Meeting AT and VT hours Kristine Rivers
  + Adjourn

**Volunteer hours, certifications, milestones – John Boettiger**

* **Recertifications CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

Phil Huxford Ruby Lewis

Carolyn May-Monie Tom Morris

Ken Sluis Linda Sluis

* **1000 Hour Milestone *Cindy Goodrum***
* **4000 Hour Milestone --***Lisa Myers* Way to go Lisa! Congratulations

Impact Data – Through December 2022\*

* Hours Month YTD
  + VT - 999 13,317
  + AT - 58 1,923
* Impact Data
  + Adults 117 11,276
  + Youth 194 24,763
  + Total 311 36,039

\**Data not considered Final until mid-February*

***THANK YOU***

*Paul Cason, TPWD Chapter Advisor* has elected to step down as Chapter Advisor and is “passing the torch” on to Jordan Kieffer, TPWD, Volunteer Coordinator for Sea Center Texas.

*We are indebted to Paul for his guidance and leadership and look forward to working with Jordan as our new TPWD Advisor in the future!*

**Featured Speaker – Mel McKey  
*“Shells of Brazoria County.”***

Mel’s working experiences include 3 years teaching school, 5 years in a Mariculture development project including overseas assignments and 36 years Superintendent of the Velasco Drainage District.

Lifelong natural  interests have included farming, bird hunting, birding, all water related avenues - fishing, shells, snorkeling, scuba, boating.

**BREAK – 10 Minutes**

*Thank you to these members who brought refreshments this evening!*Mickey Dufilho Pat Jeffreys  Jo Myers Lorna Witt

**2022 Highlights - Kathy Pittman**

* 15K+ hours VT/AT
* 36K persons impacted.
* 67 members recertified, 5 initial interns
* Staffing various events - Spring Fling, Summer Camps, Fall Festivals, Sea Center Shark Week, GCBO XHX, BNWR & FOBWR Open Houses
* Jim Calvert, 2022 TPWD Distinguished Volunteer
* Spring AT Event in March
* May Field Trip to Nash Prairie with Susan Conaty
* IN PERSON Library programs Returned!
* IN PERSON Fall Intern Training
* Fall AT Day at Texas A&M Galveston Sea Turtle Rescue and Sea Life Facility
* DEEP programs Returned.
* Fall Family Picnic and Birds of Prey Program
* Monthly Beach Sweep at Quintana
* Construction Projects
* Spider Hunts
* Adopt A Loop and Bio Blitzes
* Year 4 Shrike Monitoring Project
* Apple Snail Busting
* State Annual Conference – sponsorship and scholarships

**Financial Report – Don Sabathier**

December 2022

Beginning Balance $ 7,763.76

Revenue Summary 523.93

Expense Summary 81.92

Ending Balance $ 8,205.77

*Annual Dues of $25 are now payable – See Kathy after the meeting*

**Volunteer Opportunities – Oron Atkins**

* **Exploration Green Work Da**y – every Wed, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM – contact Christie Taylor
* **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
* **Beach Sweep** – 1/9 & 2/6 - 8 AM to 10 AM, Quintana Fishing Pier– contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
* GCBO Surfside Crab St Wetland Cleanup – 1/14 9am to noon
* **Dunes Day** – 1/21, 9 AM to 12 PM, Stahlman Park – contact Mike Mullenweg
* **BCPD Trail Work Day Hanson Park** –TBA - 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
* **Pearland Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Workday** –day and Locations TBA, 8 AM to 11 AM
* **Nurdle Beach Patrol** – Jace Turnell – self-directed
* **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey** – Melanie Hollinshead - self directed
* **Adopt a Loop for TMN** – contact Debbie Nance - self directed.
* **Boardwalk Maintenance & Construction** – TBA – contact Oron Atkins
* **Resoft Park Workday** – 1/28 – see calendar for more details

**Outreach Opportunities – Ruby Lewis**

* **Sea Center Nature Day** – 3/25 10 am to 3 pm
* **DEEP Sessions @ BNWR**– Contact Ed Barrios at ed77566@Comcast.net

February 28th March 23rd

March 2nd March 28th

March 7th March 30th

March 9th April 4th

March 21st

* Ed Barrios and Phil Huxford talked about the Brazoria Palm, and that the next Refuge Walk was going to be Friday Jan 20th at the Palm Unit.

**Spring Intern Class Update– Melanie Hollenshead**

* Training to start mid-February
* Training will take place throughout the year.
* Appeal for Training Team Members
* Appeal for Intern Mentors
* Schedule by end of January
* Online survey - watch your email !

**2023 Advanced Training Day, Saturday February 25th, 2023**

* Join us via Zoom for our 6th Annual AT Day!
* Our theme this year is “A Look Back at Texas History” covering a variety of related topics.
* Contact Kristine Rivers at Kristine@birdingforfun if you would like to give a presentation or join the planning committee.

**Final Items - Kathy Pittman**

* Questions from the floor
* Whooping Crane Trip – get your reservation in to Tom Morris ASAP! Tom Morris - 979-297-4678 or tmorris44@comcast.net

Mail your check to Tom @

321 Linden Ln

Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Send your pictures and news items for our newsletter to Lisa Myers - **news@tmn-cot.org**  Submission deadline is 5:00 PM on Thursday before the General Meeting. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.

**Meeting AT and VT hours – Kristine Rivers**

* VT hours – 1.25
* AT hours - 1

**Attendance - 29 in person and 22 virtual**

Next Meeting – Wednesday February 8th, 2023 – 9:00 am meeting, 8:30 am social time

Bring a Friend! - *Hope to see you here!!!*

-