



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:02 p.m. – 8:05 p.m. (HYBRID)
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:02 p.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

- Introduction of our visitors - Kathy welcomed and introduced our guests, including Sam Dufilho, Ruth Whaley (mother of Barbara Whaley), David McGinty and Sarah Weller, Senior Manager, International Coastal Cleanup, attending as our guest speaker for advanced training via Zoom. We also recognized Beverly Walton, Class of 2019, who is moving out of the area, and John Minkert.
- Agenda additions or corrections - None presented.
- Approval of the General Meeting Minutes - The Minutes of the June 14, 2023, General Meeting were sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. M. Cornell and J. Martin made motions for a vote, and the minutes were approved.

Vote - Proposed Revisions to the Chapter Operating Handbook

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman briefly addressed the proposed revisions to the Chapter Operating Handbook discussed in the June meeting and distributed via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list on May 24, 2023. She called for a vote to ratify the Updated Chapter Operating Handbook, given that the comment period had expired and notice of vote was given as required. M. Dufilho made the motion to approve the revisions and R. Wagner seconded that motion. The membership voted to approve the revised Chapter Operating Handbook. J. Salinas commended the review team for their diligent efforts (Connie Stolte, Mickey Dufilho, John O'Connell and Kathy Pittman), with a hearty round of applause by members.

Volunteer hours, certifications, milestones

John Boettiger

- The following members were recognized for their achievements:
 - **Initial Certifications -**
 Hannah Beckett (3/23) Marlon Nation Barbara Whaley
 Juli Martin Cris Tobola
 - **Recertifications -**
 John Boettiger Jo Myers Mary Schwartz
 Tom Morris John O'Connell

There has been a total of 39 recertifications this year!

- **Milestones - Pam West *1,000 Hours!***

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THEM!!!

Impact Data through June 2023 (Preliminary due to the 45-day time entry deadline, mid-August).

VMS DATA

		<u>June</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Hours*	VT	988	9,101
	AT	129	1,337
Impact Data*	Adults	38	3,784
	Youth	<u>124</u>	<u>14,500</u>
	Total	162	18,284



Congratulations to our recent graduates!!!

Barbara Whaley
Chad Davenport

Marlon Nation
Juli Martin

Pam Penn
Cris Tobola

Brian Hanson
Kim Calhoun

Featured Speaker – Jimmy Salinas introduced **Sarah Weller**, Senior Manager of International Cleanup (ICC) at Ocean Conservancy, headquartered in Washington, D.C. She has led the ICC team under Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas Program®.

Ms. Weller has worked with a global network of coastal and waterway cleanup organizers, along with passionate educators and individuals who act on the issue of plastic pollution in their own communities. She manages the creation and distribution of education and outreach materials for science-based solutions and maintains the ICC's data collection tools.



Ocean Conservancy. "Charting a Course to Plastic Free Beaches". Facebook, July 3, 2023.

Some of the highlights included the following:

- Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit, non-government organization.
- The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) began along the Texas Gulf Coast in 1986.
- The CleanSwell® app is the single largest unified dataset on marine debris. The focus is on community science and data collection to reduce plastic pollution.



- Among the top ten (10) types of debris picked up in 2021: food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.), cigarette butts, nurdles, glass beverage bottles, bottle caps, grocery bags, fishing line, beverage cups and plastic straws and stirrers.
- Marine debris/litter clean-up is a reactive solution to the problem; we need to be proactive to achieve trash-free seas.
- Nurdles were targeted in the Microbeads Free Water Act of 2015. They are small plastic pellets about the size of fish eggs and are found in cosmetics and personal care products, among others. The Act prohibited the sale or distribution of products containing those microbeads as part of its approach to phasing out the production and sale of products containing microbeads.

Project Presentations of Graduate Interns:

- "The San Bernard Wildlife Refuge: Bobcat Woods Eco-Study" by Juli Martin, Chad Davenport and Cris Tobola - Each of the former interns presented different aspects of their project. They outlined and described their project selection process, the variety and types of the Refuge's habitats and wildlife, its trails and the findings from their data collection.
- "The Great Texas Birding Trail" by Cris Kneupper and Stephanie Kaup - Cris and Stephanie focused their project on the Alvin portion of the trail.

BREAK - We all enjoyed our Ice Cream Social!! Thank you to our members who brought the refreshments!

Financial Report

Don Sabathier

Don reviewed the Financial Report status with details about income and expenses since the report of last month. The printed report of the full income statement for June 2023 is shown below. The report was accepted as presented, with no questions asked.

June 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$12,979.06
Revenue Summary	154.52
Expense Summary	<u>622.01</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$12,511.57

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023							Totals	Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June		
Opening Balance		\$8,205.77	\$ 9,766.12	\$10,917.11	\$11,837.74	\$11,813.72	\$12,979.06		
INCOME ITEMS									
Membership Dues	2,650	820.19	981.80	699.30		75.00	49.90	2,626.19	23.81
Interest Income	2.15	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.19	0.22	0.21	1.12	1.03
Member Donations	287.64	25.00	47.58		23.79		23.79	120.16	167.48
Sponsor/Non-member Donations	1,000							0.00	1,000.00
Member Payments for New Shirts				75.00		273.45		348.45	-348.45
Special AT event- Non&Member fee:	100				84.31	1,146.97	47.58	1,278.86	-1,178.86
Sale of extra TMN Books/Food							33.04	33.04	-33.04
Sub Total	4,040	845.34	1,029.54	774.49	108.29	1,495.64	154.52		
New Intern Class Receipts	2,250	751.00	150.20	150.20		525.00		1,576.40	673.60
INCOME TOTALS	6,290	1,596.34	1,179.74	924.69	108.29	2,020.64	154.52	4,374.78	1,915.01



COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023								Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals	
EXPENSE ITEMS									
Approved Donations	500					150.00	300.00	450.00	50.00
Speakers Bureau								0.00	0.00
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	250							0.00	250.00
Membership Director Expenses	50							0.00	50.00
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30						10.71	10.71	19.29
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D:	2,000					557.20		557.20	1,442.80
Fall Family Event	1,000							0.00	1,000.00
Member Shirt Purchases	40							0.00	40.00
Special Recognition	400							0.00	400.00
Travelers D&O Insurance Premium (Paid 3 years in 2022)								0.00	0.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	175.00							0.00	175.00
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40							0.00	40.00
State Annual Conference									
Registration & Expenses	1,600.00							0.00	1,600.00
State Meeting Sponsorship &									
Scholarships	750.00								750.00
Materials	500							0.00	500.00
EcoFund Projects								0.00	0.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	500			4.06	132.31	33.95	64.41	234.73	265.27
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	200	35.99						0.00	200.00
Sub Total	8035	35.99	0.00	4.06	132.31	741.15	375.12	1,288.63	6,746.37

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023								Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals	
TMN Text Book Order	700							0.00	700.00
Varner Hogg Fees	300							0.00	300.00
Ann's Monogramming - Intern Polo S	260							0.00	260.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	200					114.15	114.15	228.30	-28.30
Intern Name Tags	60		28.75				97.75	126.50	-66.50
Intern Class Marketing	200							0.00	200.00
Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	160							0.00	160.00
Intern Class Supplies	300						34.99	34.99	265.01
Intern Class Scholarships-2	300							0.00	300.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement								0.00	0.00
Sub Total	2480	0	28.75	0	0	114.15	246.89		
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,515.00	35.99	28.75	4.06	132.31	855.30	622.01		
	(4,225)								
Ending Balance		\$ 9,766.12	10,917.11	11,837.74	11,813.72	12,979.06	12,511.57		

COT Chapter Lifetime membership Dues \$400.00
 COT 2023 Annual Dues \$25.00
 2023 Intern Class fee: \$150.00
 Members attaining 4,000, 5,000 or 10,000 VT hours are exempt from dues the next calendar year
 Travel reimbursement: c.56/mile



Intern Program

Melanie Hollenshead

- Chad Davenport had graduated but was unable to attend the ceremony.
- Pam Lewis has also completed the intern training program.

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- BCLS Summer Reading Series - The remaining sessions are July 13, 18, 19 and 26. The Angleton branch has had 278 participants thus far and has three (3) more sessions this month. The Clute session will be July 14 (one (1) additional volunteer is needed). Brazoria needs two (2) more volunteers for their session on July 18.
- Sea Center Shark Celebration - July 15, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Ruby also discussed the sea turtle rescue and announced Kemp's Ridley eggs were found earlier in the day at Surfside.
- Save the Date - August 12; six (6) volunteers will be needed to attend a booth at the Brazos Mall.
- GCBO "Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza" - Sept. 16 and 23; volunteers will be needed.
- KBR Kids' Day in Houston - October 21, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Tony Marron Park, Houston; more information will be provided when available.

Contact Ruby for event details or questions at rublewis77515@ymail.com.

New Outreach Opportunity - K. Pittman also announced a potential outreach opportunity at Brookside Village Farmers Market in Pearland, which would be helpful in reaching people in the northernmost part of the county. Several members have expressed an interest in participating in this new opportunity, which is held on the second Sunday of each month. We would need members to commit to an activity/information presentation event twice a year or more, depending upon their interest. Topics of the members' choosing may be presented. Kathy welcome input and ideas from the membership and stated she would schedule a planning meeting in the next two (2) weeks. She will provide more information via e-mail.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- Exploration Green Workday – every Wed., 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self-directed
- Beach Sweep – August 7, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Quintana Jetties; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas
- Nurdle Beach Patrol – self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed; contact Melanie Hollinshead
- Adopt a Loop for TMN – self-directed; contact Debbie Nance
- Boardwalk Maintenance & Construction – the boardwalk at the San Bernard boat dock was completed. The team will be starting on another which should take about 1-1/2 weeks to complete; contact Oron Atkins
- Fishing opportunities for kids - July 22 in Manvel and August 5 at San Luis Pass.

Reminder: Patrolling for nesting sea turtles this season is about to close. Those who are interested in participating during the next season will be required to take two (2) training classes. Contact Roland Davis to sign up, roland_davis@fws.gov.

There was also some discussion about a U.S. Geological Survey request for citizens to mail in dead butterflies, moths and skippers through November 1, 2023. Environmental impacts are being studied.

Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- The next board meeting will be held on August 2, 2023, in the AgriLife building. All members are welcome to attend. It is not a closed meeting.
- Annual Meeting – McAllen Convention Center, October 12 -15: Registration will open in August. Hotel registration remains open. See details on the State website.



- Story-telling Project – members are encouraged to participate; <https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/#storytelling>
- State Endowment fund, <https://masternaturalistendowment.org>.
- We need to form a Nominating Committee for the 2024 slate of officers. Anyone interested in running for office or sitting on the Nominating Committee may contact Mickey Dufilho at dufilhos@hotmail.com.
- Send pictures and news items for our newsletter to Kathy Purvis at news@tmn-cot.org. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday before the General Meeting. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.

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

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.0 hour
- * **Up to 1.0 hour of travel time may be included**

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., with social time beginning at 8:30 a.m. bring a friend! Our AT presentation will be made by Paige Breon, Nesting Program Manager, Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research (GCSTR) at Texas A&M University Galveston. We hope to see you there!

In-person 53
Virtual 14
Total 67



President: Kathy Pittman adjourned the General Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

cc: Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary (Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu)