

**Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.**  
**Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**9:00 a.m. Call to Order**

**Kathy Pittman**

- Introduction of our visitors - Lance Wood, our AT speaker from the National Weather Service and two (2) interns who are soon to graduate - Barbara Whaley and Marlon Nation
- Agenda additions or corrections - None were presented.
- Approval of the General Meeting Minutes - The Minutes of the May 10, 2023, General Meeting were sent to members via email to the TMN-COT distribution list for review. The minutes were approved as written upon the motions made by R. Schaffhausen and Kyle Purvis, followed by unanimous vote for approval.

K. Pittman announced that this date is Flag Day in the United States, and it is also considered the birthday of the United States Army. The U.S. Army was founded on 14 June 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. She asked for those who served in the U.S. Army to stand and be recognized. Three (3) members stood (John Boettiger, Don Sabathier and Larry Peterson) and received a round of applause in recognition of their service.

**Volunteer hours, certifications, milestones**

**John Boettiger**

- The following members were recognized for their achievements:

○ **Recertifications -**

Marty Cornell  
Mickey Dufilho  
Angela Griffin  
Kate Harris  
Jackie Hicks

Chris Kneupper  
Brenda Martin  
Georgia Monnerat  
Roy Morgan  
Herb Myers

Jim Nance  
Don Sabathier  
Jimmy Salinas  
LuAnne Salinas  
Ken Sluis

Linda Sluis  
Andy Smith  
Janet Townsend  
George Valdez

There has been a total of 39 recertifications this year!

- **Milestones - Kathy Purvis 250 hours**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THEM!!!**

- **CONGRATULATIONS TO Roy Morgan!!!**



**5,000 HOURS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa Myers – President's Call to Service Award**

**4,000 Hours!**



Lisa has been the Editor of our Chapter News since her first issue in April 2017. Thanks to her diligence and hard work, we have a large collection of newsletters and archived files of past projects and activities. All these materials tell the story of the Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter. We will miss Lisa, but she and her husband are going to enjoy many moments with their precious grandson. We bid her farewell but look forward to return visits down the road. Thanks for your dedication and many years of service!

**VMS Data**

**VMS DATA**

		May	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	1,002	7,704
	AT	<u>273</u>	<u>1,097</u>
	Total	1,275	8,801
Impact Data*	Adults	165	3,746
	Youth	<u>837</u>	<u>14,376</u>
	Total	1,002	18,122

\* will not be considered final until mid-July

**Nature Notes - Quintana Beach Fish Kill**

**Patty Brinkmeyer**

Patty Brinkmeyer, one of our Chapter members and the Manager of Quintana Beach County Park, presented her 6/09 observations of the recent "fish kill" at the pedestrian park with hard head catfish and others floating offshore. She alerted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Kills and Spills Team, then proceeded down the beach with another employee, Krissy, finding higher concentrations of fish, predominately Gulf Menhaden, including a shark and stingrays at Bryan Beach. Driving farther down the beach, they found a "long mat of floating dead fish", "thousands of fish rolling in the surf as far as we (they) could see". She shared photos and live video footage of their sightings. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) confirmed the event was caused by low concentrations of dissolved oxygen, a "natural occurrence" resulting from weather, water temperature and other conditions that worked together to reduce dissolved oxygen levels in the water required by aquatic life to breathe. The dead fish were removed in a 3-day operation by TPW workers using front end loaders and buried in the sand dunes.

Jimmy Salinas talked about having seen dead fish along the shoreline and having noticed more dead fish as he got closer to the mouth of the Brazos River.



**Featured Speaker** – Jimmy Salinas introduced **Lance Wood**, Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service in League City; Graduate of Texas A&M University where he received both a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Meteorology.



"The 2023 Hurricane Season: What You Need to Know". Some of the highlights included the following:

- The Atlantic Hurricane Season extends from June 1 through November 30 of each year, with the season peak in August/September due to continued warming of the water.
- The 2023 season forecast includes 13 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 2 major hurricanes.
- Two (2) competing factors are El Niño (negative) and above normal sea surface temperatures (positive).
- Galveston has a 1:9 chance of a hurricane, with a 1:25 chance for a major hurricane tracking within 50 miles every year. Hurricane Alicia in 1983 was the last major hurricane in our area.
- Hurricane warnings are issued just for winds.
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale uses a 1 to 5 rating scale to classify a hurricane based upon its maximum sustained wind speed. Those rated Category 3 or higher are considered major hurricanes, with the potential for greater property damage and loss of life. The scale does not consider other factors, such as rainfall amounts, flooding, tornadoes or storm surge, all of which can cause considerable damage.
- Water-related hazards cause approximately 90% of fatalities. Indirect causes of death include stress/strain, carbon monoxide poisoning from poorly ventilated generators, fires from open flames, power outages affecting medical equipment, falls and accidents.

**BREAK** - Thank you to our members who brought refreshments today!

Brian Frazier, Director of the County Parks with Texas Parks and Wildlife, addressed the meeting to further explain the fish kill at Quintana and answered questions. He described it as the result of "a perfect storm" where conditions came together to drop the dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

### 2023 Advanced Training Day

**Kristine Rivers**

Saturday May 20th, 2023 – Kristine Rivers

We enjoyed "A Look Back at Texas History" during our 2023 Advanced Training Day on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>! There was a total of five (5) presentations on a variety of topics related to our theme.

- We had a total of 63 attendees – 37 in-person and 26 virtual.
- In-person attendees received 6 hours of AT credit; virtual attendees received 5 hours.
- Event financial report:

Registration fees collected	\$1,146.97
Expenses	<u>\$ 707.20</u>
Balance	\$ 439.77

\* The balance will be added to the amount available for future AT events.

K. Pittman noted Dr. Schmidly, one of the speakers, declined reimbursement for his travel expenses.

Thank you to our presenters, the AT Day Committee and to everyone who attended for making the event a success!

### Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) Update

**Connie Stolte**

The Committee completed the updates to our COH, bringing it in line with the framework sent from the State Office. The Board approved the final draft. Connie e-mailed the proposed COH document to the general



membership for comments. The comment period has passed and we will vote on whether to ratify the document at the July 12 General Meeting.

## Financial Report

Don Sabathier

Don reviewed the Financial Report status with details about income and expenses since the report of last month. The full income statement for 2023 is attached. There were no questions.

May 2023

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$11,813.72
Revenue Summary	2,020.64
Expense Summary	<u>855.30</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	\$12,979.06

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023								
	2023							
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals
Opening Balance		\$8,205.77	\$ 9,766.12	\$10,917.11	\$11,837.74	\$11,813.72	\$12,979.06	
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>								
Membership Dues	2,650	820.19	981.80	699.30		75.00		2,576.29
Interest Income	2.15	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.19	0.22		0.91
Member Donations	287.64	25.00	47.58		23.79			96.37
Sponsor/Non-member Donations	1,000							0.00
Member Payments for New Shirts				75.00		273.45		348.45
Special AT event- Non&Member fees	100				84.31	1,146.97		1,231.28
Sale of extra TMN Books/Food								0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	4,040	845.34	1,029.54	774.49	108.29	1,495.64		
New Intern Class Receipts	2,250	751.00	150.20	150.20		525.00		1,576.40
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	6,290	1,596.34	1,179.74	924.69	108.29	2,020.64		4,253.30
								2,036.49

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023								
	2023							
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>								
Approved Donations	500					150.00		150.00
Speakers Bureau								0.00
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	250							0.00
Membership Director Expenses	50							0.00
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30							0.00
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Day	2,000					557.20		557.20
Fall Family Event	1,000							0.00
Member Shirt Purchases	40							0.00
Special Recognition	400							0.00
Travelers D&O Insurance Premium (Paid 3 years in 2022)								0.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	175.00							0.00
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40							0.00
State Annual Conference Registration & Expenses	1,600.00							0.00
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships								
Education Outreach Support Materials	750.00							0.00
EcoFund Projects	500							0.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	500			4.06	132.31	33.95		170.32
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cakes	200	35.99						0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	8035	35.99	0.00	4.06	132.31	741.15		913.51
								7,121.49



## Outreach Opportunities

**Ruby Lewis**

Ruby thanked the membership for their response to her call for additional volunteers to fill open slots for the reading series. She reviewed the calendar for the BCLS Summer Reading Series dates (June 1, 9, 15, 20, 21, 27 and 29) and needs. She stated additional copies of the calendar with volunteer events were available for those who wanted them, including the Sea Center Shark Celebration on July 15. Please contact her by e-mail at [rubylewis77515@ymail.com](mailto:rubylewis77515@ymail.com).

## 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 – June 8 and July 6, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 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 – Bobcat Trail; contact Oron Atkins

Oron reported that patrolling for Kemp's Ridley nesting eggs was about to close for the season. Those who are interested in participating for the next season will be required to take two (2) training classes. Volunteers should contact Roland Davis to sign up. He also spoke about the Boardwalk projects, and noted the team was currently re-decking some boat docks and other decking work.

## Spring Intern Class Graduation

**Melanie Hollenshead**

Melanie announced the Intern Graduation will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the AgriLife Extension offices. Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Seven (7) graduates will get their T-shirts and badges. Three (3) projects will be presented: Shadow Creek Ranch Nature Park, Hudson Wood and Bobcat Trail.

Barbara Whaley  
Brian Hanson  
Chad Davenport  
Cris (Crystal) Tobola  
Kim Calhoun  
Juli Martin  
Marlon Nation  
Pam Penn

## Intern Mentor Program

**Kate Harris**

We are instituting a mentorship program for our Chapter. The mission is to help new interns by providing contact with current members who can guide them through the start of their experiences as a volunteer. Please contact Kate Harris if you can assist in this important mission: [harriskd11@hotmail.com](mailto:harriskd11@hotmail.com), or call, 281.460.5485.



*Pointing the way to SUCCESS in the Cradle of Texas Chapter!!!*

## Final Items

**Kathy Pittman**

- There will be no board meeting in July.
- Annual Meeting – McAllen Convention Center, Oct 12 -15: Registration will open in August. Hotel registration remains open, with several hotels within walking/short drive distance to the Convention Center. 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>.
- Send pictures and news items for our newsletter to Kathy Purvis at [news@tmn-cot.org](mailto: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.
- Questions from the floor

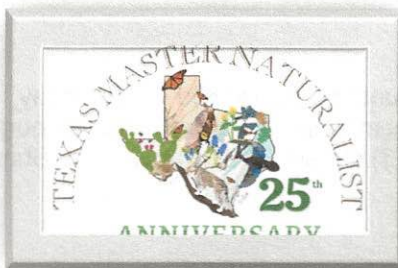
## Meeting AT and VT hours

**Kristine Rivers**

- AT - 1.25 hour
- VT - 1.0 hour

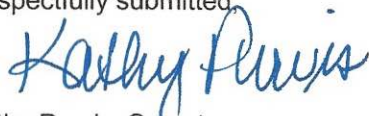
The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., with social time beginning at 5:30 p.m. We'll have an ice cream social, so bring a friend! Our AT presentation will be made by Sarah Weller, Senior Manager, International Coastal Cleanup, Ocean Conservancy about "How We Use Data". We hope to see you there!

In-person 23  
Virtual 49  
Total 72



**President:** Kathy Pittman adjourned the General Meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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