



**Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 9:19 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (HYBRID)**  
**Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**9:19 a.m. Call to Order** (delayed due to technical issues)

**Kathy Pittman**

- Kathy welcomed and introduced our guests: Ronald Kusiak, Buddy Artego, Russ Legler, Beth Winkelzhake, Volunteer Coordinator for Follett's Island Nest Patrol, and guest speaker, Paige Breon, accompanied by Amy Mitchell, Rescue and Recovery Program Manager, Texas A&M Galveston.
- Agenda additions or corrections - None presented.
- Approval of the General Meeting Minutes - The Minutes of the July 12, 2023, General Meeting were sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. O. Atkins and R. Wagner made motions for a vote, and the minutes were approved as presented.

**Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones**

**John Boettiger**

- **Initial Certifications:** None reported.
- **Recertifications:** Paula Hanson  
Denis James  
Sherry Summers
- **Milestones:** Amanda Gabehart **4,000 Hours!!**  
(unable to attend the meeting)

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

**VMS Data**

**Dave Brandes**

**VMS DATA**

		July	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	703	10,081
	AT	<u>64</u>	<u>1,425</u>
	Total	767	11,506
Impact Data*	Adults	20	3,883
	Youth	<u>33</u>	<u>14,640</u>
	Total	53	18,523

\* data not considered final until mid-September

D. Brandes noted that Impact Data numbers would increase with the addition of library data to 4,672 adults and 16,220 youth, for a **total of 20,892**. K. Pittman emphasized our numbers were getting closer to those of pre-CoVid.

**Featured Speaker** – Jimmy Salinas introduced **Paige Breon**, Nesting Program Manager for the Upper Texas Coast at The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research Management at Texas A&M University in Galveston. She was accompanied by **Amy Mitchell**, Rescue and Recovery Program Manager, Texas A&M Galveston. Ms. Breon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University Galveston and is a Master Student at Texas A&M University Galveston. She is a member of the Tri Beta Biological Honor Society, Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol Manager and is certified as an Open Water Diver.

The following are some of the highlights of their presentation:

- A makeshift hospital is open on the A&M campus (Pelican Island). A new hospital will be built on the same site. The short-term hospital (Phase 1) is complete. Efforts to obtain funding are underway for the large hospital.
- There are seven species of sea turtles, five of which are found along the Texas Gulf Coast. Among those are the Leatherback (the largest of sea turtles), Loggerhead, Kemp's Ridley (critically endangered), green sea turtle (most common) and the hawksbill (also critically endangered).
- A nesting beach habitat study is being conducted.
- Nesting season spans about 15 weeks, beginning each Spring. Turtles usually seek the dunes to lay their eggs about three (3) times per season.
- Eggs are the size of ping pong balls and may number as many as 126 eggs or as few as 40 when laid. The sex of a turtle is determined during incubation and depends upon the temperature of the sand.
- Sea turtle patrol covers an 87-mile area, from Bolivar to Surfside, which has the most erosive beach in the world. Patrol activities include UTV and walking routes. Volunteers are trained in March each year.

Ms. Mitchell spoke more in depth about rescues and strandings, noting that mass stranding events occur in the winter. The sea life facility at A&M Galveston may be used for overflow back-up. NOAA Galveston is ending its sea turtle activities.

**BREAK** - Thank you to our Board and other members who furnished our breakfast refreshments!

**Announcement:** K. Pittman encouraged ride sharing for any member who needs a ride to a meeting. That individual can notify our membership at [tmn-cot@googlegroups.com](mailto:tmn-cot@googlegroups.com), giving only the general location to be picked up. A member able to provide the ride should e-mail the other member directly to exchange necessary information.

**Treasurer**

**Don Sabathier**

### COT TREASURER REPORT - July 2023

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$12,511.57
Revenue Summary	82.97
Expense Summary	0.00
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	\$12,594.54

### COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023									Budget	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August/September	Totals	Delta
Opening Balance		\$8,205.77	\$ 9,766.12	\$10,917.11	\$11,837.74	\$11,813.72	\$12,979.06	\$12,511.57	##		
INCOME ITEMS											
Membership Dues	2,650	820.19	981.80	699.30		75.00	49.90	48.97		2,675.16	-25.16
Interest Income	2.15	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.19	0.22	0.21	0.21		1.33	0.82
Member Donations	287.64	25.00	47.58		23.79		23.79	23.79		143.95	143.69
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	10.00		1,288.86	-1,188.86
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	82.97			
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	82.97	0.00	4,457.75	1,832.04

(Income Statement 2023 continued, next page)



## 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
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>8035</b>	<b>35.99</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4.06</b>	<b>132.31</b>	<b>741.15</b>	<b>375.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,288.63</b>	<b>6,746.37</b>

## COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023										Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August/Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec	Totals	
TMN Text Book Order	700									0.00	700.00
Varnar 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
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2480</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28.75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114.15</b>	<b>246.89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>10,515.00</b>	<b>35.99</b>	<b>28.75</b>	<b>4.06</b>	<b>132.31</b>	<b>855.30</b>	<b>622.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(4,225)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 9,766.12</b>	<b>10,917.11</b>	<b>11,837.74</b>	<b>11,813.72</b>	<b>12,979.06</b>	<b>12,511.57</b>	<b>12,594.54</b>	<b>##</b>	<b>##</b>	<b>0.00</b>

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

## Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

K. Pittman gave the report for Ruby Lewis. All VT and AT opportunities can be found on the website calendar.

- The BCLS Summer Reading Series was a huge success! Thank you to all who volunteered!
- There will be a Back-to-School Event at the Brazos Mall on August 12, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- The Lake Jackson First Responders have asked for volunteers with its fundraiser event at the Brazos Mall - September 9, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza at GCBO - September 16 and 23, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; more information, [www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org).

- Bull Red Run-A-Palooza at Sea Center - September 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; more information, <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/sea-center/bull-red-run-a-palooza>
- Brookside Village Farmers Market, Pearland - October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Spiders in the Park at Bates Park, Angleton - October 13, time to be announced; contact Melanie Hollenshead or Harbria Gardner.
- Spooktacular, Sea Center Texas, October 21, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### Volunteer Service

### Oron Atkins

Oron and his team are caught up on construction projects. Upcoming VT opportunities include the following:

- Exploration Green Workday - every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor.
- Beach Sweep – August 8 and September 5, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Quintana Jetties; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project - self-directed.
- Nurdle Beach Patrol - self-directed; contact Jace Turnell.
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed, contact Melanie Hollenshead
- Adopt-a-Loop for TMN – self-directed, contact Debbie Nance
- Collect Butterflies for Science (Citizen Science FR) - self-directed, now thru November 1, 2023.

### Final Items

### Kathy Pittman

- Reminder: The Annual Meeting will be held at the McAllen Convention Center, October 12 - 15, 2023. Registration opened August 3. See the State website.
- A scholarship is available. The e-mail notice K. Pittman sent out on August 4 has the details. Those interested need to e-mail her by Friday, August 11.
- Kudos to Marlon Nation for the great article he submitted for the Chapter newsletter.
- K. Pittman canvassed the membership about moving the newsletter publication date up by a week. The membership was supportive and voiced no objections. K. Purvis will now work to get it out the third week.
- Phil Huxtable was recognized for his monthly communications to keep Chapter members about BWR.
- Nominating Committee – K. Pittman encouraged members to consider office in 2024 to help the Chapter and keep it moving forward.
- R. Wagner asked that anyone who needs a new name badge should contact her.
- K. Rivers reminded members that Fall Field Day will be held October 11.
- J. O'Connell announced that he and K. Rivers will present "Aquatic Invasive Species" at the next Water Wednesdays event, August 16. Sessions are recorded.

### Meeting AT and VT hours\*

### Kristine Rivers

- AT - 1.5 hour
- VT - 0.5 hour

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., with social time beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:	In-person	54
	Virtual	16
	Total	70





**President:** K. Pittman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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