



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 9:02 a.m. – 11:08 a.m. (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:02 a.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

- Welcome to visitors. Kathy noted the very recent death of Neal McLain, a long-time Chapter member and past Editor of the Chapter Newsletter. She had no information about his final services but could share his home address with those who wanted it.
- **Attendance —**

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees	Present
Kathy Pittman (President)	✓	Mickey Dufilho (Immediate Past President)	✓
Jimmy Salinas (Vice-President/Programs)	✓	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	N
Kathy Purvis (Secretary)	✓	Melanie Hollenshead (New Class Dir.)	✓
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	✓	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)	✓
Chapter Advisor(s)		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	✓
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	✓	Kristine Rivers (Advanced Training Dir.)	V
Jordan Kieffer (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	V	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	✓
Guests/Other		Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	✓
Luanne Salinas	✓	Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	V
Kyle Purvis	✓	Kate Harris (2022 Class Rep)	✓
Chad Davenport	✓	Pam Lewis (2023 Class Rep)	✓
		Quorum	Yes

- Agenda additions or corrections - None presented.
- Approve Previous Board Minutes - The minutes of the August 2, 2023, Board meeting were sent via e-mail to Board members for review. Changes/corrections were made as requested.
- **Minutes Approval —**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the August Board minutes	Mickey	Don	The Minutes were approved by vote of the Board members

President's Report

Kathy Pittman

- The next TMN Tuesday (September 12) will be presented by Tanya Homayoun, *Safer Skies for Migrating Birds*.
- Annual Meeting - McAllen Convention Center, October 12 - 15
 - Looking for Judges for the Project Fair – email Michelle Haggerty if interested



- They will have a "Memorial" slide show and she would like to send in Bill Ahlstrom's picture as well as a picture of Neal McLain. We also need to add both obituaries to our website "In Memoriam" page.
 - Each chapter is to send in 10 pictures for a slide show. Kathy P. has pictures from Dick and Angela and will pick 10 to send in.
 - Pin orders for September and October will be hand-delivered at the meeting. If we have an estimate for November/December, go ahead and order them in September. Use form on the State website.
 - State will be giving us a set of 50 eclipse eyeglasses (2024 eclipse) to bring back to the Chapter.
 - Project signs
 - "Mystery box" - each chapter will be bringing home a 3' x 1' x 1' box.
 - Book order – go ahead and order textbooks and Kathy P. will pick them up.
- **Scholarship** – was awarded to the one member who applied. This member also used the \$100 credit from State, so the net to the Chapter will be \$350.
 - **New Class Rep** – Pam Lewis from the Spring class will take over as Class Rep. Kate will continue working with Melanie and the training team on Mentor assignments.

Past President

Mickey Dufilho

M. Dufilho reported the obituary for Bill Ahlstrom was written and she will get or write one for Neal. She has done nothing further with respect to setting up a trip to the San Felipe de Austin State Historical site.

Vice-President/Programs

Jimmy Salinas

- Cris Tobola, a Chapter member and Associate Professor of Biology at Brazosport College, will present her program on "Urban Ecology" for our AT.
- J. Salinas has scheduled Shane Bonnot from the Coastal Conservation Association for a presentation in November but has not confirmed a program for December yet.
- The Beach Sweep at the Quintana jetties on September 5 went well. A larger group of team members picked up a lot of trash, despite the heat. However, a lot of fishing line & other debris imbedded in the jetty rocks could not be retrieved. Discussion agreed another beach sweep should be scheduled for later this month to focus on the area next to the walkway. O. Atkins volunteered to supply some wagons to haul the filled trash buckets. K. Pittman requested the information be given to A. Griffin to post on the TMC-COT Meta-Facebook website.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

COT TREASURER REPORT

August 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$12,594.54
Revenue Summary	24.00
Expense Summary	<u>1,100.00</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$11,518.54

* Refer to **Attachment 1** for the full Income Statement.



Membership

John Boettiger

Initial Certifications

None reported

Recertifications

Cindy Goodrum
 Sheree Muzny
 Kathy Purvis
 Pam West
 Cris Tobola
 Barbara Whaley

Milestones

K. Pittman presented the report due to J. Boettiger's absence. She addressed the process for the President's Award as well, and mentioned volunteer hours are verified by Michelle at State. Kathy also reported she would confirm A. Gabehart will be able to attend the Chapter meeting this month.

VMS Data

VMS DATA

		August	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	397	10,724
	AT	<u>114</u>	<u>1,552</u>
	Total	511	12,276
Impact Data*	Adults	829	4,776
	Youth	<u>1,582</u>	<u>16,237</u>
	Total	2,411	21,013

* data not considered final until mid-October

K. Pittman stated that our numbers were tracking higher than that of 2020 - 2022.

State Representative

Connie Stolte

C. Stolte stated there was nothing to report.

Training

Melanie Hollenshead

Melanie stated she would like the Board members to help identify potential Training Team Members for the 2023 Fall Intern Training and gave the following update:

- She conducted a feedback session with the Spring 2023 Graduates and received very important feedback on all aspects of the program. The minutes of the intern review of the Spring 2023 training is attached as **Attachment 2**.
- Some graduates are now working to improve identified Required Training presentations.
- A couple of the recent graduates have offered to join the Training Team!
- An introductory meeting of new training team members is set for Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the AgriLife Conference Room. It is short notice, but she has surgery again on September 20 and needs to get things moving forward before surgery. Her goal is to begin orientation after the surgery date.



Mentor Program

Kate Harris

- Participants have provided positive feedback about the program.
- Julie Martin, a recent Intern Graduate, has requested volunteers to provide 25-minute presentations throughout the school day at Northside Elementary in Angleton monthly. K. Pittman asked that K. Harris have J. Martin contact Ruby Lewis to discuss her program needs directly.

Volunteer Service

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.
- Texas Adopt-A-Beach Fall Clean-up at Surfside/Quintana Beach (Stahlman Park) - September 23, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Beach Sweep – October 2, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Quintana Jetties; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas. Please note additional dates/times for directed trash retrieval from the Quintana jetties walkway will be announced later for September/October.
- Dune Grass Planting, Follett's Island - October (time and date to be announced); contact Jim Olive. This project will involve grass seeding to prevent/reduce erosion and may be set for November).
- 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.
- Scout Fishing Derby – BCP, October 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Jackie Hicks has requested volunteers to research the history of the Abner Jackson Plantation for a project on behalf of the Lake Jackson Historical Association. Refer to Attachment 3 for details.

Oron Atkins gave an update on volunteer opportunities at Resoft Park. Chad Davenport (Brazoria County Parks Dept.) offered to work with Denise Apgar, Park manager, to develop a list of tasks that they need help with, with the goal of setting a Chapter workday to introduce members to the park and get some needed help at the park.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza - September 16 and 23, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Celeste Silling for more information - www.gcbo.org.
- Bull Red Run-A-Palooza, Sea Center Texas - September 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Brookside Village Farmers Market - October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Spiders in the Park at Angleton Bates Park - October 13, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This will include an information display table and a walk along the tree line to look for spiders.
- KBR Kids Day at Tony Marron Park - October 21, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. R. Lewis mentioned that 12 volunteers are needed for this Urban Initiative with the Butterfly Encounter, reptiles and wingspan.
- Sea Center Texas Halloween Spooktacular - October 22, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; booth volunteers are needed.
- Fall Fest 2023, First Presbyterian Church in Angleton - October 28 (other details not available)

Chapter Host

Rose Wagner

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for the upcoming Chapter general meeting. M. Dufilho, L. Salinas and O. Atkins stated they would bring refreshments. Breakfast for the Fall Field Day



scheduled at the Lake Jackson planetarium was also discussed. It will be available at 8:30 a.m. before the meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. The Chapter will provide paper goods and the Lake Jackson Library will provide food. R. Lewis stated she would have the library to coordinate with R. Wagner.

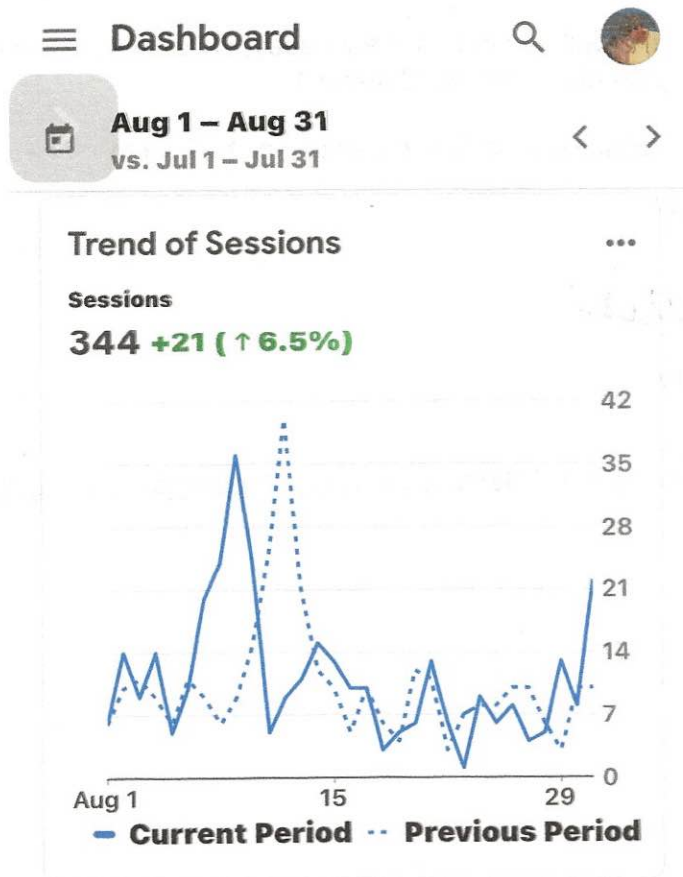
Communications

Larry Peterson

ANALYTICS 2023

Month	Website Sessions, Page Views, Users			Facebook			
	Sessions	Page Views	Total Users	Followers	Reach	Engagement	New Follow
August	344	742	187	1669	964	149	
July	323	666	159	1656	1500	949	
June	435	1000	213	1648	PR 3211	1513	29
May	451	1023	241	1619 net 8	1288	634 - 50 posts	
April	444	1229	234	1611	2300	703 - 50 posts	
March	634	1319	325	1595	PR 2100	743	
February	569	1403	225	1590 (15)	PR 3900	1200	
January	659	1759	260	No Data			
Dec. '22	330	677	192				
Nov. '22	405	714	242				
Oct. '22	459	891	272				
Sept. '22	438	819	251				

* PR = Post Reach



**AT Director****Kristine Rivers**

Fall Field Day is scheduled for October 11 at the Brazosport Planetarium in Lake Jackson. It will include a private presentation, "All About Eclipses", from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. M. Dufilho will check on the availability of a classroom for PowerPoint. There was also a suggestion to check with D. Brandes about viewing the eclipse from his property.

Class 2023 Rep.**Pam Lewis**

P. Lewis had nothing to report, but noted she found her first Board meeting very informative.

Chapter Advisors**John O'Connell /Jordan Kieffer**

J. O'Connell introduced a TMN-COT banner he designed and purchased. He donated the beautiful banner for the Chapter to use during our meetings, photo ops and other indoor events. He also announced that the parking lots were scheduled to be re-done Monday and Tuesday of the following week. He expected the project to be completed prior to the Chapter meeting on September 13, but noted alternate parking was available behind the fence if needed.

New Business**All**

General Meeting Agenda - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. Please send K. Pittman any items to be included by Sunday evening, September 10.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, at 9:00 a.m. Please send K. Pittman any agenda items by Sunday evening, October 1.

President: K. Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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



Attendance 2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Kathy Pittman - President	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x				
Jimmy Salinas -VP	x	x	x	v	x	x		x	x				
Don Sabathier - Treas.	x	x	x	x	x	x		v	x				
Kathy Purvis - Secretary				x	x	x		x	x				
Lorna Witt - Secretary	x	resign											
Advisors													
John O'Connell - AgrLife	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x				
Jordan Kieffer - TPWD	x	x	x	v	v	v		v	v				
Immediate Past President													
Mickey Dufilho	x	x	N	x	x	x		x	x				
Appointed Board/Committee Members													
Oron Atkins – Volunteer Ops	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x				
John Boettiger- Membership	N	x	N	x	N	N		x	N				
Kate Harris – 2022 Intern Rep	x	N	x	x	v	x		x	x				
Pam Lewis - 2023 Intern Rep									x				
Kate Harris - Mentor Program									x				
Melanie Hollenshead - Training	x	x	x	N	x	v		v	x				
Ruby Lewis - Outreach	N	x	N	x	N	N		N	x				
Larry Peterson - Communications	x	x	x	x	x	v		x	X				
Kristine Rivers – AT	x	x	x	v	v	v		v	v				
Attendance 2023 (cont.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Connie Stolte – State Rep	x	x	x	x	v	v		x	N				
Rose Wagner, Chapter Host	x	x	x	v	N	x		v	N				
Guests													
Luanne Salinas	x	x	x		x	x		x	x				
Amanda Gabehart		x		x									



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Attendance 2023													
Kyle Purvis									X				
Chad Davenport									X				

Attachment 1 – Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023													
	2023											Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October		Totals
Opening Balance		\$8,205.77	\$ 9,766.12	\$10,917.11	\$11,837.74	\$11,813.72	\$12,979.06	\$12,511.57	\$12,594.54				
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	0.21			1.54	0.61
Member Donations	287.64	25.00	47.58		23.79		23.79	23.79	23.79			167.74	119.90
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	24.00				
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	24.00		0.00	4,481.75	1,808.04



COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023											Totals	Budget Delta		
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October			November	December
EXPENSE ITEMS															
Approved Donations	500					150.00								150.00	350.00
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 Day	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									800.00						
Registration & Expenses	1,600.00													800.00	800.00
State Meeting Sponsorship &															
Scholarships	750.00								300.00		300.00				750.00
Materials	500													0.00	500.00
EcoFund Projects														0.00	0.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	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		1,100.00					## 2,388.63	5,646.37

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023											Totals	Budget Delta		
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October			November	December
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		0.00					0	
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,515.00	35.99	28.75	4.06	132.31	855.30	622.01	0.00						0.00	
	(4,225)														
Ending Balance		\$ 9,766.12	10,917.11	11,837.74	11,813.72	12,979.06	12,511.57	12,594.54	11,518.54	## 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		

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



Attachment 2

Minutes from the Discussion about the Spring 2023 Intern Training with Recent Graduates

From Melanie Hollenshead, Training Director

Purpose:

We are meeting to have a frank and open discussion about the Spring 2023 Intern Training. We will discuss what worked well, what needs improvement, what may be eliminated, changed or added.

Attendees: Marlon Nation, Barbara Whaley, Pam Lewis, Pam Penn (Virtually), Chad Davenport, Brian Hanson, Juli Martin and Melanie Hollenshead

Agenda:

1. **Welcome and Catch Up** (15 minutes)
2. **Required Intern Training Modules** (30 minutes)
 - a. History of Brazoria County / Archaeology
 - b. Ornithology
 - c. Entomology
 - d. Aquatic Systems
 - e. Mammals
 - f. Reptiles
 - g. Introduction to Plants
 - h. Ichthyology
 - i. Columbia Bottomlands
 - j. Wetlands
 - k. Urban Ecology

Discussion Summary:

The History of Brazoria County / Archaeology Training was discussed extensively. There were some strong feelings that we need to provide a better mixture with information on the Indigenous Peoples and Slavery. May want to consider visiting local museums and/or additional locations. Also may consider an Intern Project to help label displays at the SF Austin County Historical Park Building.

The Introduction to Plants training did not meet our needs. It was a fascinating lecture on how people changed the natural plant species and distribution over time. Unfortunately, it did not help us learn to identify plants to their orders or families.

Action Items:

- **History:** Marlon Nation agreed to visit some local museums to see if they have the potential to make a field trip useful to this training topic.
- **Plant Identification:** Pam Penn has a background and experience with plants. She is interested in reviewing our current plant identification information to decide if she wishes to teach this class.



- **Plant Identification:** Melanie Hollenshead will send the Plant Identification slides and dichotomous keys from Stephen Breuggerhoff to Pam Penn to review.
- **Urban Ecology:** Add a Field Trip for this session.
- Assign a Timekeeper for all presentations.

3. Enrichment Classes and Activities (15 minutes)

- I-Naturalist
- Creature Hunt
- Spider Biology
- Art Journaling at the Nash
- Geology of Brazoria County
- Weather and Climate Change
- Migration Celebration (Master Naturalists at Work)
- Volunteer Fair (Not Accomplished)

Discussion Summary:

- **I-Naturalist:** Add more detailed information on pulling reports from the data.
- **Weather and Climate Change:** Not a balanced discussion on climate change issues.
- **Migration Celebration:** Would like to plan more time to visit and participate in this type of activity. Make an all-day activity.
- **Volunteer Fair:** Was not accomplished. Is still a planned activity for this year.

4. Class Projects (20 minutes)

- Were these useful? Are they worth doing year after year? Do they help prepare you as a Master Naturalist?
- Would an alternate type of project be better?
 - Developing training materials for outreach requests?
 - Beneficial Insects
 - Effects of Trash on Wildlife
 - Pollinators
 - Decomposers
 - Indigenous People of Texas
 - Slavery and It's Lingering Effects
 - Others???

Discussion Summary: Enjoyed exploring the different nature areas for the projects. Would like the option of individual projects. Felt that scheduling conflicts made it difficult to do a group project. They were already building connections to other class members through class discussions and field trips. Would like a chance to dig into areas of interest.



5. Other Training that Might be Needed (10 minutes)

- a. Heat Stress
- b. Eclipses
- c. Others???

Discussion Summary: Juli Martin suggested that Merlin would be a great topic for people interested in Birds. She also suggested an overview of what to do if you encounter injured, orphaned or ill wildlife. This is a topic that Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue conducts for the public. It could be added to our Enrichment Training.

Action Items:

- **Merlin Software:** Julie Martin is willing to conduct an introduction to the software and how to use it.
- **Wildlife Encounters:** Julie Martin will contact Gulf Coast Wildlife Rehab to schedule a speaker.

6. How Well Prepared Are You for the Following? (20 minutes)

- a. Volunteer Management System
- b. I-Naturalist Entry
- c. TMN-COT Website Navigation
- d. Volunteer Opportunities
- e. Advanced Training Options
 - i. Virtual
 - ii. Recorded Options (TMN Tuesdays, General Meeting, ...)
- f. Certification and Re-Certification
- g. Understanding the Chapter Organization

Discussion Summary:

VMS: It is still difficult to decide on the proper code for entering Volunteer Hours in the VMS System. May want to have a follow-up session just covering how to choose the correct code for the activity. Giving Advanced Training and Volunteer Hours at the General Meetings is confusing since there is no "VT" code in VMS.

i-Naturalist Entries: Would like more help with initial i-Naturalist entries. Can still be difficult to get started or enter data after not using the system for awhile.

TMN-COT Website: Get confused when they are directed to the "old" TMN-COT website from the State website. This needs to be fixed somehow.

Would like to see more items listed on the TMN-COT Calendar for Volunteer Opportunities. Some of the Outreach Activities are not listed. As result, volunteers may show up to help for an activity like the Summer Library Program and be turned away since there are already enough volunteers.

Advanced Training: Are happy to receive notifications of training classes from me. They delete anything that is not of interest. Feel that there are plenty of chances to get Advanced Training hours.



Intern Graduation, Certification and Re-Certification: Interns graduate as a Master Naturalist and receive their first (painted) Dragonfly Pin. When they complete 8 hours of Advanced Training and 40 hours of Volunteer Time, they are Certified Master Naturalists and receive a certificate. They must complete an ADDITIONAL 8 hours of Advanced Training and an ADDITIONAL 40 hours of Volunteer Time to Re-Certify and receive the State's recognition pin for that calendar year.

Spring Interns should have plenty of time to Certify and Re-Certify in their first calendar year. Interns who graduate later in the calendar year may or may not be able to complete all of the hours required for re-Certification.

All Master Naturalists are strongly encouraged to Re-Certify every year. You must make sure that you enter your hours of Advanced Training and Volunteer Activities in the Volunteer Management System (VMS) to accomplish this goal.

Chapter Organization: Graduates and Interns are encouraged to ask Mentors or Training Team Member when they need help navigating the Chapter Organization.

7. Textbook (10 minutes)

- a. Is it meeting your needs?
- b. Does anyone but me read the textbook?
- c. Would a virtual option be better?
- d. Should we offer reused textbooks through the Chapter Library?
- e. Other ideas?

Discussion Summary: There was unanimous agreement that the textbook was an excellent resource to prepare for classes. Most said they want to keep their textbook available as a reference as they start new volunteer activities.

The virtual option for the textbook was not popular. They wanted a printed book to open and study.

They were not interested in an option of borrowing textbooks from the Library instead of purchasing their own copy.

8. Mentoring Program (10 minutes)

- a. This is a new program designed to help new Interns and recent Master Naturalists
 - i. Do you have a Mentor?
 - ii. Is it helping so far?
 - iii. What should we do to improve it?

Discussion Summary: Overall good comments. This program is still getting off the ground. Some difficulty connecting with the Mentors or confusion on who is the Mentor. May need to add a "Meet Your Mentor" event to help start the process.

When in doubt, all Interns and Graduates are welcome to contact the Intern Training Director and Training Team when they have questions. We can serve as a back-up as the Interns / Graduates and Mentors establish their relationship.

9. Class Representative on the Board (15 minutes)

Class Representative Job Description:

- a. Duties of All Board Members:
 - i. Communicate effectively with the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) state office about any questions or issues that arise and keep it informed of what the chapter is doing.
 - ii. Maintain confidentiality when dealing with individual member issues.
 - iii. Whenever possible, maintain the privacy of members' personal information.
 - iv. Strive to further the TMN mission in everything that one does. Approved July 12, 2023
 - v. Adhere to the TMN Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct [Reference at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>].
 - vi. Assist with maintaining an environment where all members, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or disability, feels valued and respected.
 - vii. Assist with recruiting new members and selecting candidates for leadership positions
 - viii. Remember that every chapter and every member represent the public face of the TMN Program and its sponsoring agencies.
 - ix. Serve as a model of leadership and recruit and develop new leaders for the chapter.
 - x. Adhere to Chapter Records Retention Policy as applicable to their role
- b. Represent the previous training class as a member of the board, attending board and chapter meetings,
- c. Participate as a member of the annual financial examination committee
- d. Report back to the previous training class to provide information about chapter business
- e. Talk to the current training class about selecting a training class representative
- f. Optional: participate as a member of the training committee planning for the subsequent class

Discussion Summary: Board Meetings are in the mornings. Therefore many of the Graduates are not available to attend the meeting. **Pam Lewis volunteered to be the new Class Representative!!**



Attachment 3 – Lake Jackson Historical Association

Proposal title: Natural History & Environment of Jackson Plantation Historic Site

Background: The Lake Jackson Historical Association (LJHA) manages the Jackson Plantation Historic Site, a State Antiquities Landmark where archaeological remains of the Lake Jackson Plantation are open for public tours. The Lake Jackson Plantation was a sugar and cotton plantation that operated from the early 1840s through the end of the 19th century. Prior to the arrival of Spanish and later Anglo settlers, the Indigenous Karankawa people lived in the area. After the decline of the plantation, the land was purchased by the Dow Chemical Company in the early 1940s and used as a public park known as Dow Park until the 1990s. Archaeological investigations were conducted at the site in the 1990s, at which time the site came under LJHA's ownership.

Project Narrative: We are interested in learning more about the natural environment of the plantation site so we may develop our historical interpretation at the site to include its natural history. Thus, we may educate our visitors about the natural environment's history in addition to the site's history of human occupation. We would like TMN volunteers to assist us in researching the following questions:

- What kinds of flora and fauna existed in the Lake Jackson area in the pre-historic period of Karankawa occupation?
- What kinds of flora and fauna existed on the Lake Jackson Plantation in the 19th century? How would sugar and cotton cultivation have changed or disrupted the natural environment?
- What kinds of flora and fauna exist at the site today? Which species are native? Which species are invasive?
- How did Lake Jackson (the lake itself) develop and change over time?
- How were plants and animals utilized by different cultural groups who occupied the site? Such as for food or medicinal purposes?

The LJHA staff would provide TMN volunteers with historical research materials that will outline the occupational and social history of the area. We would rely on the TMN volunteers' expertise to identify flora and fauna at the site as it exists today by visiting the site and taking photos of plants and animals there. We would also rely on TMN volunteers to conduct additional online and/or archival research to determine how the natural environment may or may not have been different in the pre-historic Karankawa period, the 19th century Abner Jackson period, and the mid-century Dow Chemical period.

We would like the project to culminate in a written report detailing the site's natural history which LJHA staff will utilize to create social media posts, visitor handouts, and interpretative signage