

**Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 9:19 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (HYBRID)**  
**Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**6:00 p.m. Call to Order**

**Kathy Pittman**

- Kathy welcomed and introduced our guests: Sam Dufilho, Dixie Jones (guest of Barbara Whaley) and David McGinty (returning guest of Jimmy and Luanne Salinas). She also welcomed a new Chapter member, Adrian, who has transferred from The TMN Gulf Coast Chapter.
- Agenda additions or corrections - None presented.
- Approval of the General Meeting Minutes - The Minutes of the August 9, 2023, General Meeting were sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. K. Purvis reported changes were made per those submitted. M. Hollenshead and R. Wagner made motions for a vote, and the minutes were approved as presented.
- Kathy offered condolences on the recent death of Neal McLain, a long-time Chapter member who was actively involved in our Chapter, having served on our Chapter's Board of Directors as Volunteer Services director, newsletter editor and as webmaster for the website. He also volunteered with the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, serving on its Board of Directors, as a member of its Migration Celebration Planning Committee and as webmaster for its organization's website. Neal also volunteered with the Brazoria County Historical Museum cataloging maps and served on the Brazoria County Historical Commission as Secretary. He was also a member of the Brazos Valley Railroad Society and managed its website.
- This week marks the 22nd Anniversary of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. The first meeting of the Chapter was scheduled for September 11, but was re-scheduled due to the national disaster that occurred in New York.

**Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones**

**John Boettiger**

- **Initial Certifications:** None reported.
- **Recertifications:**

Cindy Goodrum	Sheree Muzny
Kathy Purvis	Pam West
Cris Tobola	Barbara Whaley
- **Milestones:** Amanda Gabehart **4,000 Hours!!**

Amanda graduated intern training with the South Texas TMN Chapter in Corpus Christi in 2017, having been a volunteer at the Padre Island National Seashore Turtle Lab. She continued her work with the endangered Sea Turtles. When New Year's 2018 brought a "Big Freeze" to the area, she prepared patrol vehicles to rescue cold-stunned turtles, then reported to Packery Channel and began a walking patrol. She had nearly given up when she spotted and rescued the first of several thousand cold-stunned turtles! Amanda worked tirelessly to save the precious turtles and ensured data and photos of each turtle were properly and accurately collected. Later, she was one of two people who entered the vast collection of data into computers.

Amanda currently lives in Brazoria and works for the Brazoria County Parks Department. She continues to perform beach patrols for nesting turtles and is available for possible cold-stun events. She's also the key field researcher on the "Comprehensive Survey of Spiders of Brazoria, Nueces and Kleberg Counties". Although she hates direct contact with the webs and the spiders, she takes incredible photos, captures minute specimens and enters volumes of data into i-Naturalist!

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





## VMS Data

Dave Brandes

**VMS DATA - August 2023**

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

\* data not considered final until mid-October

**Featured Speaker** – Cris Tobola is an Associate Professor of Biology at Brazosport College. After earning a Master's Degree in Biology, her passion for nature and life led her into teaching science in 2017. She moved to our area from Northern California in June 2022. Cris started attending meetings and volunteering with Master Naturalists almost immediately and became a certified member in June 2023. Balancing work, family and outreach events keeps this nature loving individual busy. Community involvement and education are her passions along with enjoying what nature has to offer.

The following are some highlights of her presentation:

- Ecology is the scientific study of organisms and their surroundings - relationships between organisms , as well as between organisms and their environment.
- Urban ecology is the study of humans in cities, of nature in cities, and the **coupled relationship** between humans and natural systems. It is a multidisciplinary topic of research studies complex interactions between humans and their surroundings.
- Urban ecology promotes resilient and sustainable urban spaces where humans and nature coexist.
- Urbanization is the process by which towns and cities are formed and grow larger as more people begin living and working in central areas. It leads to a disconnect from nature.
- Natural ecosystems are defined as any habitat without human interference. These tend to be complex, highly diverse and highly stable. Examples include the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge and the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
- Negative effects of urbanization include air and water pollution, hydrologic changes, local climate change and soil changes and movement.
- Urbanized areas create "heat islands" as they experience higher temperatures than outlying areas. Buildings, roads and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. Houston is #2 on the list for number of people living in heat islands.
- Ecosystems are disrupted by urbanization.
- The natural food web becomes the urban food web.
- Urban planning provides for green spaces with government planning and management. Local organizations focus on educating the community to preserve natural areas. The "Leave No Trace" campaign provides information people can use to enjoy and care for the natural outdoor spaces and parks they visit.

**BREAK** - Thank you to our members who furnished our refreshments!

**Announcement:** K. Pittman again encouraged ride sharing for any member who needs a ride to a meeting. There may be someone in your area who is available to share a ride and will be able to contact you directly. Please don't miss out; send an email to our Chapter group e-mail: ([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 -August 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$12,594.54
Revenue Summary	24.00
Expense Summary	1100.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$11,518.54

## COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023 Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	temctobveml:cemE	Totals	Budget Delta
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			
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>												
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 Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	ptemlctobveml:cemE	Totals	Budget Delta
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>												
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 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									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 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		1,100.00	##	2,388.63	5,646.37

Income Statement continued, next page





## COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

		2023											Budget			
		Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget Delta
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		0.00	0.00
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		
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

- 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](http://www.gcbo.org).
- Bull Red Run-A-Palooza, Sea Center Texas, September 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Special Olympics of Texas Fishing Tournament, October 7.
- Brookside Village Farmers Market - October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Spiders in the Park, Bates Park in Angleton - October 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Be there by 6:00 p.m. at the basketball court. Contact Melanie Hollenshead or Harbria Gardner.
- KBR Kids Day at Tony Marron Park in Downtown Houston - 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.
- Spooktacular, Sea Center Texas, October 22, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.; 14 volunteers are needed. Contact Jordan Kieffer to volunteer.
- Fall Festival at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton - October 28, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; 7 - 8 volunteers are needed.

Contact Ruby at [rublewis77515@gmail.com](mailto:rublewis77515@gmail.com)

Ed Barrios reported that DEEP was starting up, with its first session on October 10 for fourth graders and October 12 for seventh graders, followed by sessions on October 24 and 26. He noted there would be no pond life or seining sessions as part of the program. He also mentioned there would be a Refuge Walk on October 19

## Volunteer Service \*

Oron Atkins

Upcoming VT opportunities include the following:

- Exploration Green Workday - every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor.
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project - self-directed.
- Beach Sweep - Monday, October 2, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.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 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.
- Texas Adopt-a-Beach Fall Clean-up, Surfside/Quintana Beach, September 23, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Discussion noted the group will meet at Jetty Park due to the walkway failure.
- Dune Grass Planting, Follett's Island, October 21, time to be announced, contact Jim Olive.
- Scout Fishing Derby, Brazoria County Parks Department, October 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Opportunities at Resoft Park are on the horizon as per Oron's discussion with Denise (Brazoria County Parks Department).
- A construction project for boardwalk demolition and replacement at GCBO will probably begin in December.

**\* All VT and AT opportunities can be found on the website Calendar.**

### **Fall Field Day**

**Kristine Rivers**

Fall Field Day will be held on Wednesday, October 11 at the BASF Planetarium at The Center for the Arts & Sciences in Lake Jackson. The event will not be recorded. Breakfast will be provided by the Brazoria County Library System, followed by a presentation on Eclipses. We are exploring adding another speaker or having another fall field day.

### **Intern Program**

**Melanie Hollenshead**

The training team met on September 6. A new class of Interns will be begin January 2024. Three (3) of the five (5) Spring 2023 Interns can graduate with minimal classes listed below. New Interns who want these classes will be accepted as well.

Urban Ecology - September 13

Entomology Training - October 14 (this date will change)

Ornithology - Live or recorded

Mammals/Reptiles - Brazos Bend Park staff or Melanie/Ruby will conduct this

History - recordings

A question arose from the floor as to e-mail communications for recent Intern graduates. C. Davenport, C. Tobola, B. Stitt and J. Martin noted they are not receiving e-mails from the Chapter. L. Paterson will address this with them and others individually as needed.

### **Final Items**

**Kathy Pittman**

- The Annual Meeting will be held at the McAllen Convention Center, October 12 - 15, 2023. Registration is open. See the State website. Also, carpooling may be available.
- Interested in a Board position? Contact Mickey Dufilho at [dufilhos@hotmail.com](mailto:dufilhos@hotmail.com).
- Send your pictures and news items for our newsletter to Kathy Purvis at [news@tmn-cot.org](mailto:news@tmn-cot.org). Submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of each month. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.
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### **Meeting AT and VT hours\***

**Kristine Rivers**

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.25 hour

There next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., with social time beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Attendance:	In-person	37
	Virtual	<u>3</u>
	Total	40

**President:** K. Pittman adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

