



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6:02 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (HYBRID)
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:02 p.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

- Kathy welcomed everyone in attendance or participating online. She mentioned Nathan Murphy, Park Manager at San Luis Pass, was moving into the interpreter position, and Mike Mullenweg, currently the interpreter, was moving into the San Luis Pass Park Manager position.
- Agenda additions or corrections - None presented.
- Approval of the General Meeting Minutes - Draft copies of the minutes of the September 13, 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. R. Wagner and M. Dufilho made motions for a vote and the minutes were approved as presented.

Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones

John Boettiger

- **Initial Certifications:** Kimberly Calhoun
 Gina Summers
- **Recertifications:** Ed Barrios Carolyn May-Monie
 Kimberly Calhoun Marlon Nation
 Jerry Eppner Juli Martin (September)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!!!

John reported approximately 70% of our 110 members recertify each year. Members who have not received their pins were asked to contact him so he can get them delivered.

VMS Data

Kathy Pittman

VMS DATA - October 2023

		<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Hours*	VT	599	12,364
	AT	<u>207</u>	<u>1,856</u>
	Total	806	14,220
Impact Data*	Adults	68	4,905
	Youth	<u>119</u>	<u>16,884</u>
	Total	187	21,789

* data not considered final until mid-December

Featured Speaker – Shane Bonnot is the Advocacy Director for CCA Texas, working closely with CCA committees, members and staff on interests and policies that are vital to the long-term sustainability of our coastal marine resources. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in Animal Science in 2000 and a Master of Science degree from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi in 2003. After college, he worked for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for 3 years as their oyster hatchery manager. In 2006 he moved back to Texas to work for Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries Division in the stock enhancement program until he was hired by CCA Texas in 2016.



The following are some highlights of his presentation:

- The life span of a red drum can exceed 40 years. Most of the red drum life cycle is spent in nearshore waters and estuaries.
- Red drum inhabit inshore and offshore waters along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Key West and throughout the Gulf of Mexico.
- The first recorded public concerns about destruction of fish populations by seines in shallow waters were voiced in 1881. This gave rise to the first of many regulations to prohibit the use of nets in 1887. Minimum and maximum legal salable size limits on red drum were set in 1900.
- Paul Wimberly of the early CCA recalled having blades on the boat to cut nets. There was an account of a fisherman offloading 18,000 pounds of redfish.
- Texas tightened restrictions in 1977 with its Redfish Conservation Act. The act prohibited transportation of a red drum or spotted seatrout harvested in Texas waters for the purpose of sale.
- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) re-hired Bob Kemp to focus on redfish recovery and conservation. Today, the TPWD still runs the program he established for data collection. It is the longest running independent monitoring program in the USA.
- The GCCA supported "game fish" status for redfish and speckled trout for tourist and recreational fishing which occurred in 1981. This left crabs, shrimp and oysters for commercial fishing.
- Dr. Connie Arnold (now deceased) was a marine biologist, known as the Godfather of Redfish Aquaculture. He cultivated redfish larvae for fishery science.
- Oysters are important for the health/sustainability of bay systems.

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

Announcements

Kathy Pittman

- **2024 Proposed Officer Slate**

President	Kathy Pittman
Vice President	Jimmy Salinas
Secretary	Kathy Purvis
Treasurer	Don Sabathier

Kathy noted all the current officers were willing to serve again but emphasized nominations from the floor will be accepted. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

- **Fall Field Day**

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Fall Field Day a success! We had 57 attendees and presenters at the BASF Planetarium and Lake Jackson Historical Association Museum. The Brazoria County Library System provided breakfast for our group. Members also had lunch in the atrium of the LJHA museum. Thanks to the planning team for all their hard work!

- **Annual Meeting**

Our Chapter was well represented with 10 members who attended this year's 25th Annual Meeting. There were almost 500 members from across the State in attendance, with many field sessions and conferences available. Congratulations to Angela Griffin for her photo, "Hang Tight", which placed third in the Insects Division.



Treasurer

Don Sabathier

COT TREASURER REPORT

October 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$11,500.93
Revenue Summary	548.92
Expense Summary	<u>1,546.94</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$10,503.81

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

Don reported the expenses for October were related to Fall Field Day and textbooks, which he noted were purchased at a "two for one" (2:1) cost savings. He attributed the revenue boost a private member contribution.

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023											Totals	Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October			November
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		\$11,518.54	\$11,500.93		
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		0.19		1.73	0.42
Member Donations	287.64	25.00	47.58		23.79		23.79	23.79	23.79		23.79	23.79	215.32	72.32
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		23.98	23.79		
New Intern Class Receipts	2,250	751.00	150.20	150.20	0.00	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		23.98	23.79	0.00	4,529.52
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				6.60		17.31	12.69
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D:	2,000					557.20						620.84	1,178.04	821.96
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					750.00
Materials	50												0.00	50.00
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									34.99		34.99	165.01
Sub Total	8035	35.99	0.00	4.06	132.31	741.15	375.12		1,100.00		41.59	620.84	0.00	3,051.06



COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023												Totals	Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			
TMN Text Book Order	700												840.00	840.00	-140.00
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	-28.30
Intern Name Tags	60		28.75											97.75	-66.50
Intern Class Marketing	200													126.50	200.00
Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	160												85.00	85.00	75.00
Intern Class Supplies	300													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	0.00	0.00	0.00	925.00	0		
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,515.00	35.99	28.75	4.06	132.31	855.30	622.01	0.00	1,100.00	41.59	1,545.84	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	11,500.93	9,978.88	0.00	0.00		

5 COT Chapter Lifetime membership Dues \$400.00
 6 COT 2023 Annual Dues \$25.00
 7 2023 Intern Class fee: \$150.00
 8 Members attaining 4,000, 5,000 or 10,000 VT hours are exempt from dues the next calendar year
 9 Travel reimbursement: c65.5/mile

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- DEEP - November 9, 14 and 16, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Interested volunteers should contact Ed Barrios or Hannah Beckett, but it appears the final volunteer slots have been filled.
- Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, Discovery Center Open House - the week after Christmas beginning December.

Ruby noted the open house will be held the entire week after Christmas, for seven (7) days. Eight (8) volunteers per day will be needed, although 10 would be great. The emphasis will be on birds, with activities including the wingspan display, furs and skulls. Contact Ruby at rubylewis77515@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Kathy Pittman

- 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 – Monday, December 4, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas. Additional dates/times for directed trash retrieval from the Quintana Jetties walkway are pending.
- 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
- Dune Grass Planting, Follett's Island - moved to sometime in 2024, possibly late winter or early spring.
- Resoft Park - A workday is being planned and will include lunch. Chad Davenport reported he will contact Oron Atkins to discuss the logistics.

Spring AT Day

Kristine Rivers

Kristine reported it was time to start planning our 2024 Spring AT Day. Thus far, a tentative theme on Insects has been discussed. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event and make it a success. Those interested should contact Kristine to help with planning or, just say "Yes!" if they're asked to help.



Kristine also discussed the ECO Fund application process and reminded the group M. Hollenshead was awarded the fund in 2021. The program provides support for specific projects that will enhance the chapter's mission to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within Brazoria County. She cited a few examples, encouraging members to consider this before the application deadline on December 31, 2023. Details of the fund are posted on the Chapter website.

Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- Kathy announced the Citizen Science Project on Saturday, December 30, and the Christmas Bird Count on December 15 at San Bernard. She also mentioned the availability of the Ride Share Program. Anyone who needs a ride to our meetings is encouraged to e-mail the Chapter at tmn-cot@googlegroups.com with their general location.
- Members were encouraged to send their pictures and news items for our newsletter to Kathy Purvis at news@tmn-cot.org. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of each month. Items submitted may be edited for clarity and spacing.
- General Meeting Agenda - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13, at 9:00 a.m. Please send K. Pittman any items for the PowerPoint by Sunday, December 10. Discussion ensued following the meeting announcement with respect to the annual Hog Wild Party for Friends of the Brazoria National Wildlife Rescue, which will be held the same day as our meeting. M. Cornell stated he would follow up with Ed Barrios, the host, to provide further details.

Meeting AT and VT hours

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.0 hour

Attendance:	In-person	36
	Virtual	<u>16</u>
	Total	52

President: K. Pittman adjourned the General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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