

Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 6:02 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. (HYBRID)
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:02 p.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

- K. Pittman welcomed everyone attending or participating online. She introduced guests, including Brittany Kinsey with her husband, Monica Daly, Intern, Buddy Ortego, our guest speaker, and his son, Dylan Ortego, Dr. Ann Oliver Cheek from the University of Houston, Vic Wade, Intern Class of 2017, and Mike and Patt Kachur, guests of Jimmy and Luanne Salinas.

Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones

John Boettiger

Recertifications*: Patty Brinkmeyer Christina Hartman Mary Holler
Phil Huxford Ruby Lewis Connie Stolte

Milestones: Christina Hartman 500 Hours

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!!!

- * The 2024 TMN Recertification Pin, Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, aka Texas Diamondback, will be available for order in late February.

Impact Data

Kathy Pittman

VMS - December 2023

		<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Hours*	VT	608	14,259
	AT	<u>70</u>	<u>2,032</u>
	Total	678	16,291
Impact Data*	Adults	16	4,982
	Youth	<u>28</u>	<u>17,517</u>
	Total	44	22,499

* data not considered final until mid-February

Urban Wildlife Survey

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman addressed a potential partnership opportunity for our Chapter involving volunteer participation in an urban wildlife survey. Ann Cheek, PhD., from UH sent an email in connection with this project. Kathy talked with Dr. Cheek and invited her to attend tonight to present the project to our Chapter.

Dr. Cheek presented the "Hidden Life of Houston" project with slides, noting it started in 2020 as a pilot project of the UH Coastal Center with urban wildlife in Houston. It involves four (4) camera sites in Brazoria County with sample monitoring four (4) times during the year - January (already begun), April, July and October, from the first to the last day of the month. She mentioned the Chapter could potentially take over the camera field work at some point.

This involves 37 sites, which they want to expand to 50 sites, dependent upon trail cameras. Field teams, photo sorters (get the best photo) and photo taggers (identify wildlife in the photos) are needed. The information goes to the Urban Wildlife Information Network. Field set up takes about one (1) hour per site and site removal takes a 30 - 45-minute visit.

Those interested can send an e-mail to Dr. Cheek at aocheek@uh.edu. Training will begin March 1.

Featured Speaker – J. Salinas introduced Buddy Ortego, a wetland biologist and owner of Coastal Resources Biologist, LLC, noting he was a presenter for Master Gardeners, as well as Science Institute workshops at Louisiana State University. His presentation was entitled, "A Few Observations in Wetland Determinations Local Ecology and Wild Crafting". Mr. Ortego spoke at length about different aspects of wetland delineation, mitigation and restoration projects, as well as impact on wetland plants and wildlife.

BREAK (10 minutes) - Thank you to members who brought refreshments!

EcoFund Grant

Kristine Rivers

Kristine Rivers announced the grant was awarded for the Dune Restoration project submitted by Brenda Stitt. She mentioned each of the three (3) applications submitted were great projects. The dune restoration project will address erosion on Follett's Island. It will support the Brazoria County Parks Department, may provide an opportunity for members to volunteer and will provide community education.

2023 Highlights

Kathy Pittman

- 16K+ hours VT/AT
- 22K persons impacted
- 71 members recertified (8 initial)
- Events - Spring Fling, Summer Camps, BCLS Summer Series, Fall Festivals, SCT Nature Day, Shark Week, GCBO XHX, BNWR & FOBWR Open Houses, and much more.
- Intern Training program
- Spring AT Event in May - focus on history
- Fall AT Day - BASF Planetarium Eclipse presentation and Lake Jackson Historical Museum
- Monthly Speakers
- Monthly Beach Sweep at Quintana
- Construction Projects
- Spider Hunts
- Adopt a Loop, Bio Blitzes and CBCs
- State Annual Meeting
- In Memory of those we lost ... Bill Ahlstrom and Neal McLain

Financial Report

Don Sabathier

December 2023*

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$10,051.32
Revenue Summary	649.27
Expense Summary	<u>0.00</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$10,700.59

* Refer to the full Income Statement (next page).



COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023												Totals	Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November-December		
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	#####	\$11,500.93	\$10,503.81		
INCOME ITEMS														
Membership Dues	2,650	820.19	981.80	699.30		75.00	49.90	48.97			24.95	24.95	2,725.06	-75.06
Interest Income	2.15	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.19	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.19	0.18	0.17	2.08	0.07
Member Donations	287.64	25.00	47.58		23.79		23.79	23.79	23.79	23.79	523.79	23.79	739.11	-451.47
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 fees	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	548.92	48.91		
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	548.92	48.91	5,103.56	1,186.23

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023														
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget Delta
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			6.60				17.31	12.69
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Day	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			501.40			
Registration & Expenses	1,600.00													1,301.40	298.60
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750.00						300.00		300.00					600.00	150.00
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/Cakes	200	35.99								34.99				70.98	129.02
Sub Total	8035	35.99	0.00	4.06	132.31	741.15	375.12		1,100.00	41.59	620.84	501.40	0.00	3,552.46	4,482.54

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2023

	2023												Totals	Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November-December		
Sub Total	8035	35.99	0.00	4.06	132.31	741.15	375.12		1,100.00	41.59	620.84	501.40	3,552.46	4,482.54
Intern Expenses														
TMN Text Book Order	700										840.20		840.20	-140.20
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										85.00		85.00	75.00
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	0.00	0.00	925.20	0.00	1,314.99	
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,515.00	35.99	28.75	4.06	132.31	855.30	622.01	0.00	1,100.00	41.59	1,546.04	501.40	4,867.45	
		(4,225)											0.00	
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	10,503.81	10,051.32	10,700.59	\$10,700.59
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: \$0.65/5/mile														

Kathy Purvis reported a member recently notified her the October 2023 Treasurer Report was erroneously recorded in the November 8, 2023, Minutes of the General Meeting. Her review confirmed a correction was in order as follows: expense summary previously shown as \$1,546.94 should be \$1,546.04 (see below).

October 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$11,500.93
Revenue Summary	548.92
Expense Summary	<u>1,546.04</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$10,503.81

Dunes Day

Roxanne Walkowiak

Christmas trees and wreaths will be placed at the Surfside dunes this year to reinforce the dune line against storms. Members may contact Nathan Murphy by e-mail with any questions at nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- Exploration Green Workday – every Wed., 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor.
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self-directed.
- Beach Sweep – February 5, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Quintana Fishing Pier; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas.
- Dunes Day - January 20, 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m., Surfside Jetty County Park; contact Nathan Murphy.
- 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.
- Boardwalk Maintenance & Construction - TBA, contact Oron Atkins
 - Approx. 300 linear ft. of boardwalk to replace at GCBO - Jan. TBA, contact Oron Atkins
 - Approx. 1 mile of granite fines edge guard to be removed, Dow Woods south trail - Jan. TBA, contact Oron Atkins.

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- DEEP Sessions at BNWR - January 25 and 30, February 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15, March 25 and 28, April 2 and 4, and May 14 and 16, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; contact Ed Barrios at ed77566@comcast.net.
- January Water Fairs (John O'Connell)

Barrow Elementary, Brazoria, 3rd through 5th grades - January 23 - 25, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.;
Stream Trailer, Hydrologic Cycle (Water Cycle), Groundwater Model, EnviroScape and Rainfall Simulator

Northside Elementary, Angleton, all grades - January 26, all day

Spring Intern Class Update

Melanie Hollenshead

M. Hollenshead reported 17 individuals had enrolled for the upcoming intern training program and four (4) interns were returning to complete their training. She will hold an orientation on January 20 for the interns. Classes/field trips will be held on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Members are welcome to participate in the enrichment activities via Zoom. Mentors are needed.



AT Director

Kristine Rivers

This year's Spring AT Day theme will be "Micro-Beasts: Small but Mighty Insects". Please start planning your Interesting Insect displays!

The date has not yet been scheduled and confirmed, but it will be held on a Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Angleton. An optional mothing activity will be held the Friday evening before at Brazos Woods. Lunch will be provided by the Chapter and there will be no charge to COT members this year. Contact Kristine Rivers at kristine@birdingforfun.com.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman Draft copies of the minutes of the December 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 no changes were requested. J. Boettiger and O. Atkins made motions for a vote and the minutes were approved as presented.

Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- General Meeting Agenda - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., with social time at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting AT and VT hours

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.25 hours

Attendance:	In-person	37
	Virtual	17
	Total	54

President: K. Pittman adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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