



**Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 6:03 p.m. – 8:20 p.m. (HYBRID)
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

6:03 p.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman welcomed everyone attending or participating online, including our attending visitors:

- Adrian O'Campo and Emily Carrico, guests interested in the Chapter intern program.
- Rebecca Bracken (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
- Jennifer Wilson (USFWS Biologist), our guest speaker, accompanied by her husband, Jarett (Woody) Woodrow (USFWS Coastal Restoration Biologist).

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

Kathy Pittman

Draft copies of the minutes of the February 14, 2024, General Meeting were sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Kathy Purvis reported two (2) members requested changes with respect to use of full names for individuals and acronyms identified in the minutes and the date for the Migration Celebration Kickoff lunch. K. Pittman explained/clarified the acronyms used in the Impact Data Report. Richard (Dick) Schaffhausen and Kyle Purvis made motions for a vote and the minutes were approved as presented.

Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones

Kathy Pittman

Recertifications*

Oron Atkins	Melanie Hollenshead
Angela Griffin	Brenda Stitt

Milestones:

Melanie Hollenshead	Amanda Gabehart	Richard (Dick) Schaffhausen
---------------------	-----------------	-----------------------------

2,500 HOURS

4,000 HOURS

5,000 HOURS

Amanda Gabehart was awarded a TMN gold pin with a ruby stone and the President's Lifetime Achievement Award with a letter from the White House. Dick Schaffhausen was awarded a TMN gold pin with a diamond stone.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!!!

Impact Data

Kathy Pittman

VMS DATA

		<u>February 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Hours*	VT	975	2,010
	AT	<u>241</u>	<u>453</u>
	Total	1,216	2,463
Impact Data*	Adults	44	185
	Youth	<u>252</u>	<u>1,159</u>
	Total	296	1,344

* Will not be considered final until mid-March 2024

2023 FINAL - BY THE NUMBERS

Hours	VT	15,007
	AT	<u>2,049</u>
	Total	17,056
Impact Data	Adults	5,026
	Youth	<u>17,517</u>
	Total	22,543

VT refers to volunteer service and AT refers to advanced training.

IMPACT DATA - 2023 FINAL

Initial Certifications	8
Recertifications	80
Milestones	23

Outreach Opportunities

Kathy Pittman

- BNWR Discovery Center Spring Open House - Now thru March 17, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; eight to ten (8 - 10) volunteers are needed for each day, so please sign up!
- DEEP - March 26 and 28, April 2 and 4, and May 14 and 16, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; contact Ed Barrios (ed77566@comcast.net).
- Sea Center Nature Day, April 6; more details will be available at a later date.
- Brookside Village Farmers Market - Sunday, April 14, at Lawhon Elementary, tree give-away, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; contact Kathy Pittman.
- Migration Celebration, April 27 - 28, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.- The Kickoff Lunch will be held Sunday, April 14, from 12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m. at MacLean Park in Lake Jackson. Volunteers are needed. Contact Barbara Whaley, Volunteer Coordinator, for information (babswhaley@gmail.com).
- Old Pearland Farmers Market - May 18, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Independence Park (topic TBA).

Featured Speaker - Jimmy Salinas introduced Jennifer Wilson, a biologist with the Texas Mid-Coast Refuges since 1999 involved with habitat management and restoration, along with research, surveys and monitoring. She works with Susan Heath of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and was involved in the

Loggerhead Shrike project. Jennifer presented the preliminary findings from the completed survey, all of which was received with great interest, particularly be all of those involved. She also announced she and Susan Heath expected to have the full results available next year.

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

Intern Training

Melanie Hollenshead

M. Hollenshead introduced Anna Loonam, a 2023 intern who has completed the program. Anna is Chapter's first known intern to graduate and meet the requirements for both initial certification and recertification. Melanie presented Anna with the first dragonfly pin, along with her name badge and t-shirts.

Melanie announced our Spring Graduation will be held on Saturday, April 13. Family and friends of our 15 graduating interns from 2023 and 2024 are welcome, along with Chapter members. She also announced summer intern classes will begin in late May.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

February 2024*

BEGINNING BALANCE	13,306.01
Revenue Summary	1,842.95
Expense Summary	<u>326.94</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$14,822.02

* Refer to the full Income Statement that follows on the next page.

Due to issues with hearing D. Sabathier via the online link, Kathy Pittman read the report aloud for the group. Don also mentioned the Chapter debit card had been compromised. The institution resolved the matter and returned the money to the account.

February 2024 Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024																
		2024														
		Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget Delta
Opening Balance			\$10,700.59	\$13,306.01												
INCOME ITEMS																
0	Membership Dues	2,900	1,126.29	1012.72											2,139.01	760.99
1	Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23											0.45	9.55
2	Member Donations	300	23.79												23.79	276.21
3	Sponsor/Non-member Donations														0.00	0.00
4	Member Payments for New Shirts	40													0.00	0.00
5	Special AT event- Non Member fees	100													0.00	100.00
6	Sale of extra TMN Books/Food														0.00	0.00
7	Sub Total	3,350	1,150.30	1,012.95												
9	New Intern Class Receipts	4,500	\$1,550.00	830.00											2,380.00	2,120.00
1	INCOME TOTALS	7,850	\$2,700.30	1,842.95									0.00	2,163.25	5,686.75	



(February 2024 Income Statement, continued from previous page)

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024												Budget Delta		
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November		December	Totals
EXPENSE ITEMS															
Approved Donations	300													0.00	300.00
Speakers Bureau														0.00	0.00
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	200													0.00	200.00
Membership Director Expenses	50													0.00	50.00
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30	7.12												0.00	30.00
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Day	1,750													0.00	1,750.00
Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40													0.00	40.00
Special Recognition	200													0.00	200.00
Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (Paid 3 years in 2022)														0.00	0.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	200		176.95											176.95	23.05
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40													0.00	40.00
State Annual Conference															
Registration & Expenses	1,500.00													0.00	1,500.00
State Meeting Sponsorship &															
Scholarships	750.00														750.00
Materials	500													0.00	500.00
EcoFund Projects	500													0.00	500.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	400	12.76	24.99											37.75	362.25
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cake	175													0.00	175.00
Sub Total	6635	19.88	201.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	221.82	6,413.18

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024												Budget Delta		
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November		December	Totals
TMN Text Book Order	1500													0.00	1,500.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1200													0.00	1,200.00
Intern Name Tags	150													0.00	150.00
Intern Class Marketing	100		50.00											50.00	50.00
Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	250													0.00	250.00
Intern Class Supplies	200													0.00	200.00
Intern Class Scholarships-2	150													0.00	150.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement		75.00	75.00											75.00	-75.00
Sub Total	3550	75.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,185.00	94.88	326.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,335)	
Ending Balance		13,306.01	14,822.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
COT Chapter Lifetime membership Dues \$400.00															
COT 2024 Annual Dues \$25.00															
2024 Intern Class fee: \$150.00															
Members attaining 4,000, 5,000 or 10,000 VT hours are exempt from dues the next calendar year															
2024 Travel reimbursement: c67/mile															

Volunteer Opportunities

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.
- 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.
- NestFest (registration required) - March 12, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., contact Celeste Silling
- Beach Sweep – April 1 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas (jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com or mshluhu@gmail.com).
- Sea Turtle Patrol (PAIS & local training required) - daily, April 1 - July 14, contact Roland Davis.
- Spring Fling (registration required) - April 6 - 5/05, two (2) shifts daily (9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) and (12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.), contact Celeste Silling. Volunteers are still needed for some half-day slots.
- City Nature Challenge - April 26 - 29 (photos) and April 30 - May 5 (identification) - self-directed.
- Bat Monitoring Project - contact Mickey Dufilho (dufilhos@hotmail.com).
- Urban Wildlife Monitoring Project - contact Oron Atkins (oronatkins@comcast.net).

O. Atkins reported the fines granite edge guard removal at the Dow Woods south trail was completed last week. He also mentioned he is waiting to get further information from Dr. Cheek with respect to the Urban Wildlife Monitoring Project.

Mickey Dufilho provided an update on the Bat Monitoring Project. There are 321 people from 42 chapters involved in this project. Training is ongoing for the data analysis team on Kaleidoscope. The training is difficult and not for the "faint of heart". Volunteer hours for the training should be recorded for the BAT under "FR", field research.

The first meeting of chapter leaders will be held next week. The details of equipment deployment and the deployment period are among the topics to be addressed.

M. Dufilho also addressed the 27th Annual Migration Celebration, scheduled for April 27 & 28 at the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge. The kickoff lunch fundraiser will be held April 14, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at MacLean Park. Cookie bakers are needed for the baked goods sale. Those who want to volunteer should contact Barbara Whaley, Volunteer Coordinator, at babswhaley@gmail.com.

Spring 2024 Annual AT Day

Kathy Pittman

Spring 2024 Annual AT Day will be held Saturday, June 15 at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton. The theme is "Micro Beasts: Small but Mighty Insects". The optional mothing event is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, June 13 at Brazos Woods (West Columbia area), hosted by Susan Conaty. The Chapter will provide lunch and there will be no event charge for members. There will be a charge for non-members who wish to attend.

Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- General Meeting Agenda - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10, 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	36
	Virtual	<u>23</u>
	Total	59

President: Kathy Pittman adjourned at 8.20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

cc: Board Members
Clara Tyler, AgriLIFE Secretary (Clara.tyler@ag.tamu.edu)