



Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:24 a.m. (HYBRID)
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:05 a.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman welcomed everyone attending or participating online and our guests, Marsha Stephens, from the TMN-Prairie Oaks Chapter, and our featured speaker, Craig Hensley, a Texas Nature Trackers (TNT) Biologist with the Outreach Team of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

Kathy Pittman

The draft copy of the minutes for the March 13, 2024, General Meeting was sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Kathy Purvis reported one (1) change in wording and a correction in the attendance number were made as requested. With no other corrections or additions, John Boettiger and Don Sabathier made motions to vote approval. The minutes were approved as presented.

Kathy Pittman also announced April is designated as "National Volunteer Month" and thanked everyone for the help and support given to many projects and events throughout our local area. A "thank you" slide listing numerous events and projects was displayed on the overhead. She also encouraged attendees to enjoy the special "thank you" cake to be sliced at break time.

Membership

John Boettiger

- **Recertifications:**

Dave Brandes
Mickey Dufilho
Amanda Gabehart
Anna Loonam

Karen Mosis
Debbie Nance
Larry Peterson
Mary Schwartz

Regina Tippet
Janet Townsend
Barbara Whaley

- (from last month)

Oron Atkins
Angela Griffin

Melanie Hollenshead
Brenda Stitt

- **Milestones** Barbara Whaley **250 Hours!**

Cris Tobola and Robert Saltzer recently achieved milestones as well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!!!

VMS DATA

Hours*		March 2024	Year to Date
	VT	1,030	3,246
	AT	<u>140</u>	<u>645</u>
	Total	1,170	3,891



Impact Data*	Adults	736	921
	Youth	<u>928</u>	<u>2,087</u>
	Total	1,664	3,008

* will not be considered final until mid-May 2024

Featured Speaker - Mickey Dufilho introduced Craig Hensley, a Texas Nature Trackers biologist with the Conservation Outreach Team of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Mr. Hensley gave background information about the BAT Project and presented its goal to move high quality, robust citizen science data into the Texas Natural Diversity Database. He presented a wealth of information and provided his contact information, craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov.

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

Outreach

Ruby Lewis (absent)

Kathy Pittman reviewed outreach opportunities and related volunteer challenges:

- Spring Fling (registration required) - April 6 - May 5, two (2) shifts daily (9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) and (12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.), contact Celeste Silling.
- Brookside Village Farmers' Market - April 14, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. with tree giveaway; need 1-2 volunteers, contact Kathy Pittman at pittmankw4@aol.com.
- Migration Celebration - April 26, 8:00 a.m. - (open), for set-up, and April 27-28, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; contact Barbara Whaley, babswhaley@gmail.com.
- Old Pearland Farmers' Market, Independence Park - May 18, 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m., contact Kathy Pittman.
- Lake Jackson Historical Association event, Earth Day: Exploring Nature - April 20, (9:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.) at the Jackson Plantation Historic Site; volunteers are needed to help present information on vegetation using printed notecards, contact Jordan Weaver ([ljhistory.org](mailto:jordan@ljhistory.org)).
- BCLS Summer Reading Series with TMN-COT Texas Reptiles programs - June and July dates.

Treasurer Report

Don Sabathier

March 2024*

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$14,822.02
Revenue Summary	587.68
Expense Summary	<u>75.20</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$15,334.50

(Refer to Attachment 1 for full report.)

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.
- Bat Monitoring Project - contact Mickey Dufilho at dufilhos@hotmail.com.
- Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties – May 6 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas.



- Sea Turtle Patrol (PAIS & local training required) - daily, began April 1 and continues to July 14, contact Roland Davis.
- City Nature Challenge - April 26 - April 29 (take photos) and April 30 - May 5 (identification) - self-directed.
- Urban Wildlife Monitoring Project - on hold pending further information; contact Oron Atkins at oronatkins@comcast.net.

Annual AT Day

Kristine Rivers

Kathy Pittman reviewed details of the Spring 2024 Annual AT Day due to online audio difficulties. The event will be held Saturday, June 15 at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton, as previously announced. The theme is "Micro Beasts: Small but Mighty Insects", with five to six (5-6) sessions scheduled. 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. Registration will open May 1; following that and as space permits, registration may be opened to other TMN chapters.

Training

Melanie Hollenshead

M. Hollenshead opened with a presentation in memory of Bradley Todd Dickey, a kind man and member of the 2023 Intern Class who will be missed.

- Intern Graduation is scheduled for April 17 at Nash Prairie. We will have approximately 15 new graduates, and Chapter members are welcome to join them. They have one more required curriculum course, "Columbia Bottomlands" with Chris Kneupper on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Chocolate Bayou.
- The Summer Intern Class will begin June 8, 2024. Registration for the class has opened. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays, with more field trips in the evenings or on Saturday mornings. The class schedule is currently being developed.

Migration Celebration

Barbara Whaley

B. Whaley addressed the scheduled event and need for volunteers, noting a sign-up sheet was available and she sent an e-mail request the previous evening. She mentioned the Kickoff Lunch Fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, April 14, at MacLean Park, and encouraged members to dine Friday evening at La Madeleine, which will donate 20% of participants' dinner proceeds to Migration Celebration. Barbara noted Becky Huff oversees the bake sale and cookie bakers are still needed. Regina Tippet's home can be a drop-off location for those in the northern part of the county.

Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- J. Salinas reported Katie Krause from BEARS, Etc. will speak at the May meeting about the East Texas Bears situation. He had not confirmed yet whether she would present in person or via Zoom.
- General Meeting Agenda - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with social time at 5:30 p.m.



Meeting AT and VT hours

- AT - 1.5 hours
- VT - 1.0 hour

Attendance:	In-person	53
	Virtual	16
	Total	69

President: Kathy Pittman adjourned at 11.24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Attachment 1 - March Income Statement

	2024	January	February	March	April	Totals	Budget	Delta
Opening Balance		\$10,700.59	\$13,306.01	\$14,822.02	\$15,334.50			
INCOME ITEMS								
Membership Dues	2,900	1,126.29	937.72	274.65		2,338.66	561.34	
Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23	0.26		0.71	9.29	
Member Donations	300	23.79		62.58		86.37	213.63	
Sponsor/Non-member Donations			75.00	24.99		99.99	-99.99	
Member Payments for New Shirts	40					0.00	0.00	
Special AT event- Non Member fees	100					0.00	100.00	
Sale of extra TMN Books/Food						0.00	0.00	
Sub Total	3,350	1,150.30	1,012.95	362.48				
New Intern Class Receipts	4,500	\$1,550.00	830.00	225.20		2,605.20	1,894.80	
INCOME TOTALS	7,850	\$2,700.30	1,842.95	587.68		2,525.73	5,324.27	

(See Attachment 1 - March Income Statement, continued)



Attachment 1 - March Income Statement, continued

	A	D	E	F	G	H	Q	S	T	
COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024										
		2024								
		Budget	January	February	March	April	Totals	Budget	Delta	
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 D:		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 Supplie		400	12.76	24.99	40.21		77.96	322.04		
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak		175			34.99		34.99	140.01		
Sub Total		6635	19.88	201.94	75.2	0.00	297.02	6,337.98		

	A	D	E	F	G	H	Q	S	T	
COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024										
		2024								
		Budget	January	February	March	April	Totals	Budget	Delta	
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					
EXPENSE TOTALS		10,185.00	94.88	326.94	75.20	0.00				
		(2,335)								
Ending Balance			13,306.01	14,822.02	15,334.50					
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										

