



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 6:11 p.m. – 8:04 p.m. (HYBRID)
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:11 p.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman announced a meeting delay because of a challenge with our guest speaker's Microsoft Teams connection. She was unable to attend the meeting as planned because of heavy rains and flooding in her local area. The difficulty was resolved, and Kathy continued, welcoming those attending or participating online, and with special mention for our recent graduates and guests and future interns, Amanda Smith, Madeline Brown and husband and wife team, Michael and Diane Silverstein.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

Kathy Pittman

The draft copy of the minutes for the April 10, 2024, General Meeting was sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Kathy Purvis reported two (2) changes in verbiage were made as requested. With no other corrections or additions, John Boettiger and Herb Myers made motions to vote approval. The minutes were approved as presented.

Special Announcement - New State Champion Live Oak

Chris Kneupper

C. Kneupper, fellow TMN-COT member, began by reviewing how the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge's large live oak, the "San Bernard Oak", lost its 2003 Texas State Champion title under a 2016 rule change to the second-place live oak tree located in Columbus, the "Columbus Oak", and briefly explained the measurements surrounding that title change. He described how another Brazoria County tree, first noticed by the local Master Gardeners' group about 1999-2000, which the group declared was the largest live oak at that time, was re-measured by TMN-COT chapter members in 2019. Chris nominated the tree to the Texas A&M Forest Service in April 2022. It was officially certified as the state champion after Forest Service measurements last June showed it bested the re-measurements of the Columbus Oak in April 2024, returning the title to Brazoria County.

Chris also stated the new state champion tree has not been named yet and suggested it could possibly be named the "Cradle of Texas Oak". He also noted it is situated largely in the public right-of-way of a residential area and cautioned visitors to the area need to be respectful of area landowners' rights and privacy.

Membership

John Boettiger

Recertifications: James Calvert Malcolm Mosis
 Kathy Pittman Kim Richardson
 Don Sabathier Rose Wagner

Milestones Larry Kirby **1000 Hours!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!!!

IMPACT DATA - April 2024 *

Hours*	VT	Month	YTD	Impact Data*	Adults	Month	YTD
		1,794	5,559		704	2,780	
	AT	<u>159</u>	<u>830</u>		Youth	<u>1,071</u>	<u>8,556</u>
	Total	1,953	6,389		Total	1,775	11,336

* Data will not be considered final until mid-June 2024

Featured Speaker - Jimmy Salinas introduced Kati Krouse, Co-founder and Executive Director, BEARS Etc., Vice President of the Texas Black Bear Alliance and a Perdue University graduate with a minor in



Wildlife Management and Natural Resources. She is passionate about animals and wildlife. Additional information can be found on the BEARS, Etc. website, www.bearsetc.org, as well as <https://texasblackbear.weebly.com>.

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

Recognition of Recent Graduates/ New Members

Melanie Hollenshead

Recent graduates/new members came forward and were introduced and presented with their dragonfly pins. M. Hollenshead announced the summer intern class will begin June 8, 2024, followed by the fall class on September 7, 2024.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

R. Lewis reviewed outreach opportunities and related volunteer challenges:

- DEEP - Thursday, May 16, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., contact Ed Barrios at ed77566@comcast.net.
- Surfside Beach - Treaty of Velasco Signing Reenactment, Saturday, May 18, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; five (5) volunteers are needed for the reptiles, contact Ruby Lewis at rubylewis77515@gmail.com.
- BCLS Summer Reading Series with TMN-COT Texas Reptiles programs, June and July dates - refer to April 7, 2024, e-mail from Ruby via the TMN Google group and sign up. E-mail her at rubylewis77515@gmail.com or phone/text her at 979.583.7903.
- Old Pearland Farmers' Market, Independence Park - Saturday, May 18, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m., contact Kathy Pittman at pittmankw4@aol.com.
- BCLS Summer Reading Series with TMN-COT Texas Reptiles programs - June and July dates.
- BCPD Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk - June 17 - 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; contact Nathan Murphy at nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov.

Ruby stated a lot of volunteers are needed for the Summer Reading Series, at least eight (8) per session. The programs will be held at all 12 branches of the Brazoria County libraries, with each lasting about an hour. A new sensory program has been added for children who are sound sensitive.

John O'Connell announced Water Wednesdays will kick-off on May 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., with the Rain Barrel Project. He encouraged members to learn how to become involved in the Texas Stream Team Monitoring Project. The August topic will be xeriscaping. The virtual attendance participation counts as advance training.

Roxanne Walkowiak, TPWD and Nathan Murphy, TPWD Lead Interpreter presented additional information about the nature camp at Camp Mohawk, a half-day event over four (4) days. Activities will include hiking, fishing, kayaking and bug sweeping, among others, with a Pond Life Day. Each session is limited to 30 children. The registration fee is \$30/child. Three (3) leaders are needed for the week, which will include three (3) sessions.



Treasurer Report

Don Sabathier

April 2024*

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

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024						Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	
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	595.65	2,934.31	-34.31
Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23	0.26		0.71	9.29
Member Donations	300	23.79		62.58	23.79	110.16	189.84
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					331.40	331.40	-331.40
Sub Total	3,350	1,150.30	1,012.95	362.48	950.84		
New Intern Class Receipts	4,500	\$1,550.00	830.00	225.20	475.00	3,080.20	1,419.80
INCOME TOTALS	7,850	\$2,700.30	1,842.95	587.68	1,425.84	3,145.17	4,704.83



COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024							Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	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 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				108.16		108.16	391.84
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	40.99		75.98	99.02
Sub Total	6635	19.88	201.94	75.2	149.15	0.00	446.17	6,188.83

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024							Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	Totals	
TMN Text Book Order	1500						0.00	1,500.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1200				811.80		811.80	388.20
Intern Name Tags	150				95.00		95.00	55.00
Intern Class Marketing	100		50.00				50.00	50.00
Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	250						0.00	250.00
Intern Class Supplies	200				42.97		42.97	157.03
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	949.77	0		
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,185.00	94.88	326.94	75.20	1,098.92	0.00		
	(2,335)							
Ending Balance		13,306.01	14,822.02	15,334.50	15,661.42	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.
- Bat Monitoring Project - contact Mickey Dufilho at dufilhos@hotmail.com.
- Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties – Monday, June 3, 2024 (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, thru July 14, 2024, contact Roland Davis, 979.964.3639 or via e-mail, roland_davis@fws.gov.
- GCBO Kid's Summer Bird Camp, June 10 - 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. daily; contact Celeste Silling at csilling@gcbo.org or sign up at the GCBO website.
- SPLASH Bayou Cleanup at Charles Milby Park in Houston, Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Go to the events page/calendar at splashtx.org.
- iNaturalist - Pollinator Bioblitz, June 17 - June 23, 2024 - self-directed. Go to "Pollinator Bioblitz 2024" and follow the direction. Questions may also be addressed to TMN-COT member, Angela Griffin.

Annual AT Day

Kristine Rivers

K. Rivers provided a brief review of the scheduled activities and sessions with six (6) speakers, which will count as six (6) hours of advance training. The mothning event at Brazos Woods will be led by Mary Spollier and will count as two (2) hours of AT. Additional information about the mothning event will be sent out.

Other Items

Kathy Pittman

- The Summer Intern Class will begin with orientation on June 8, 2024, at the Angleton Library.
- The Fall intern class is set to start on Saturday, September 7, 2024.
- The Bat Monitoring Project is a citizen science project and is underway. Pertinent aspects of recording volunteer time were discussed.

Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- General Meeting Agenda - The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., with social time at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting AT and VT hours

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.0 hour

Attendance:	In-person	46
	Virtual	<u>00</u>
	Total	46

President: Kathy Pittman adjourned at 8.04 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Attachment 1 - Champion Tree Certificate

**CHAMPION
TREE
CERTIFICATE**

The Texas Big Tree Registry
is sponsored by the
Texas A&M Forest Service

Presented to the nominator of the largest known specimen of its kind in the State of Texas, as of this date:

CHRIS KNEUPPER

Species Common Name:
live oak

Scientific Name:
Quercus virginiana

Dimensions:

Circumference	Height	Crown Spread	Tree Index
349 in.	73 ft.	98 ft.	446 pts.

Mac Martin, Texas Big Tree Registry Coordinator

April 25, 2024

Certification Date