



**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. (HYBRID)**  
**at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**9:04 a.m. Call to Order**

**Kathy Pittman**

Kathy Pittman welcomed everyone in attendance or participating online, including our visitors - Jodi Jung, Donna Rich and Patty Brinkmeyer.

Kathy mentioned she and Tina Crawford spoke to the Country Place Garden Club in Pearland yesterday about the TMN-COT native plants. The club made a \$30.00 donation to the Chapter as a "thank you".

<b>Elected Members of Board</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Appointed Members of Board/Committees</b>	<b>Present</b>
Kathy Pittman (President)	X	Mickey Dufilho (Immediate Past President)	X
Jimmy Salinas (Vice-President/Programs)	X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	X
Kathy Purvis (Secretary)	X	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	X
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	X	Marlon Nation (2023 Class Rep.)	A
		Melanie Hollenshead (New Class Dir.)	A
<b>Chapter Advisor(s)</b>		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	X
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	X	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)	X
Jordan Kieffer (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	A	Kristine Rivers (Advanced Training Dir.)	X
<b>Guests/Other</b>		Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	X
Luanne Salinas	X	Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	A
Donna Rich	X		
Patty Brinkmeyer	X		
Jodi Jung	X		
<b>X - present, V - virtual &amp; A - absent</b>		<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Yes</b>

*(see Attendance Record attached as Item 1)*

- Agenda Additions/Corrections - None presented.
- Approve Previous Board Minutes - The draft copy of the minutes of the September 4, 2024, Board meeting was sent via e-mail to Board members for review. No changes were requested prior to the meeting.
- **Minutes Approval -**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Motion to Approve</b>	<b>Motion Seconded</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Approve the September Board minutes	O. Atkins	L. Petersen	Minutes approved.



### Update October Field Day ("Open to Interpretation")

**Kristine Rivers**

K. Rivers reported 51 members had registered. Jim Calvert will open with the history of Follett's Island. There will be a scavenger hunt with a refresher on interpretation and breakout session for "show and tell" following lunch. The GLO will be at Kelly Hamby Park to see the impact of the hurricane that day, an optional activity for attendees. The committee will have a short meeting following the Board meeting.

### Nominating Committee

**Mickey Dufilho**

Committee members for this year are Mickey Dufilho, Jimmy Salinas, Luanne Salinas, Tara Lawrence and Barbara Whaley. Patty Brinkmeyer, a member of the 2015 intern class, is replacing Kathy Purvis as Newsletter Editor beginning with the November edition.

### Training Update

**Kathy Pittman**

K. Pittman mentioned Melanie Hollenstead and Amanda Gabehart were at the Chickawaw homecoming. She also referred to Melanie's e-mail announcement that the next intern class has been postponed until January.

### Action Register Review/Updates (see attached)

**Kathy Pittman**

K. Pittman updated the Action Register as follows: the bat monitoring project and Resoft Park Workday were closed. AT Day was added with K. Rivers as leader. Kathy is continuing to work with Brigid from the Master Gardeners group on milestone plaque recognition. Discussion noted the nominating committee assignment is done, as is the task for Fall Field Day. Kathy is working with Ruby Lewis on the Old Pearland Farmer's Market and Brookside Village projects but is looking for a project coordinator.

Efforts with the Joint TMN-COT/MG project at the Pearland Delores Fenwick Nature Center have been "awesome". J. Boettiger suggested Kathy ask about posting a sign on this project. Another workday has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 15. Kathy still owes VPAR information to O. Atkins for the DFNC wildscape project.

Connie Stolte is updating the class representative section in the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) with respect to reflect the new class structure. We may need to appoint the class representative for a 12-month period. She will present her draft to the Board for review when the draft is completed.

### President's Report

**Kathy Pittman**

- Chapter brochure - Amanda Gabehart and Kathy will meet next week to start working to update the brochure (any wording revision, favorite photos/pictures, etc).
- PVSA pins (4,000 hours) are back in stock and back orders are being mailed out. Michelle will award pins to awardees attending the annual meeting.
- The ground rules about using the TMN title will be reviewed at the next general meeting as a reminder, i.e., non-political, no advocacy and not to be used for business purposes, etc.
- We need to list VMS codes and descriptions on all events. O. Atkins includes this information with the event descriptions in the Volunteer Calendar.
- **Annual meeting, October 24 -27**
  - Annual meeting - hotel link is open and includes conference registration and the agenda. Registration at full price - \$550 closed September 30.
  - K. Pittman submitted 10 photos for the slide show at mealtime.
  - 10 TMN-COT members registered to attend.



- Anyone attending the meeting and who will hit a milestone after September 29 but before the meeting will need to notify Kathy, as she will need to email Michelle.
- State is developing a partnership with HEB – “Pollinators for Texas” to launch October 13. Details will be revealed later.
- Captain Bob (November 6 and 7) - Spinners may be the only “natural resource” themed presentation this year. Set-up will be done November 5 for about 550 students. Seafood will be served.
- Joint Project with Master Gardeners – The Wildscape restoration at Delores Fenwick Nature Center in Pearland - As reported earlier, work is progressing, but a crew is needed to help install edging. Several MG volunteers have participated. There will be one (1) or two (2) more Tuesday sessions. JoAnne Knodel and Kathy will assess when we need to schedule subsequent workdays (likely every two to three (2 - 3) months).

**Past President**

**Mickey Dufilho**

M. Dufilho had no further report, other than that given earlier.

**Vice-President/Programs**

**Jimmy Salinas**

J. Salinas reported plans for the following speakers:

- November - Ron Weeks (E-Bird Presentation)
- December – John Boettiger (White Tailed Deer)
- January - David Heinicke (Identifying Snakes)
- February - David Gwin (Time to Restore Texas)

He is looking at possible future programs including Hannah Ferguson on the Texas Master Naturalist Program and Susan Barnes about the Recovery of Brazos Bend after Beryl.

**Treasurer**

**Don Sabathier**

D. Sabathier presented the summary reports for September (see Item 2 for the Full Income Statement).

September 2024	
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$12,657.15
Revenue Summary	23.99
Expense Summary	<u>763.77</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$11,917.37</b>

**Membership**

**John Boettiger**

**2024 September TMN-COT Hours and Impact Report**

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Sarah Castillo | Patty Brinkmeyer |
| Emily Matula   | Kimberly Calhoun |
| Donna Rich     | Mel McKey        |
| Betty Taylor   | Ken Sluis        |
|                | Linda Sluis      |

J. Boettiger mentioned we have had a total of 70 recertifications this year, with 22 following AT Day, and 161 individuals who are active or in training. He requested 20 additional pins be ordered. As a point of discussion, John explained that volunteer hours count once the State office recognizes them.

**VMS Data**

		<b>Sept. 2024</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Hours*</b>	<b>VT</b>	772.06	11,583.53
	<b>AT</b>	<u>99.15</u>	<u>1,853.89</u>
	<b>Total</b>	821.21	13,437.42
<b>Impact data*</b>	<b>Adults</b>	410	6,739
	<b>Youths</b>	<u>810</u>	<u>22,319</u>
	<b>Total</b>	1,220	29,058

*\*Will not be considered final until mid-November 2024*

**State Representative**

**Connie Stolte**

C. Stolte reiterated what she mentioned earlier about changes related to the class representative. She is working on revisions and will update/clarify the term of office for class representative and recording volunteer hours for animal rehabilitation. K. Pittman encouraged her to also review position descriptions.

**Upcoming VT Opportunities – October/November 2024**

**Oron Atkins**

- Exploration Green Workday – every Wednesday., 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.
- Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties – October 7 and November 4 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas.
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed, contact Melanie Hollenshead.
- Adopt-a-Loop for TMN – self-directed, contact Debbie Nance.
- Fall Bats and Blooms Bioblitz - Houston Humane Society Nature Center (across the street from Delores Fenwick Nature Center), September 23 thru October 23, self-directed.
- Storm Debris Clean-up, Brazoria County Wildlife Refuge, Brazos Woods Preserve, Hanson Park and GCBO - times and dates to be announced; contact Oron Atkins.
- Delores Fenwick Nature Center, Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays as noted.

**Outreach**

**Ruby Lewis**

- DEEP - October 22, 24 and 29, November 5, 7 and 14, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; contact Lee Gaston.
- Kid's Fishfest at Bass Pro Shops - October 19, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., contact Nathan Murphy.
- KBR Kids Day at Tony Marron Park (808 North York, Houston, TX 77003) – Saturday, October 19, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are still needed (reptiles, butterflies and wingspan).
- Halloween Spooktacular Sea Center Texas - October 20, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis.
- Fall Festival, Presbyterian Church, Angleton - October 26, 9:00 a.m.
- School Field Day, Stephen F. Austin Park - November 1, School field day, details pending.
- Texas Fishing Tournament - November 9, details pending.
- Peach Tree Corner Market - no date, will include food trucks.

- REI Outdoors for All - Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway, Pearland, November 2, 10:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Ruby mentioned there might be other outreach opportunities available with nursing homes and after-school care in the schools, which she has participated in with Brian Frazier.

**Chapter Host**

**Rose Wagner**

No report.

**Communications**

**Larry Peterson**

**Analytics 2024 - Website and Social Media Analytics**

**Website**

2024	Sessions	Pageviews	Users
<b>Aug</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>235</b>
Jul.	382	631	283
Jun.	601	1,060	342
May	514	893	298
Apr.	354	668	210
Mar.	398	787	222
Feb.	423	896	217
Jan.	304	531	224
<b>2023</b>			
Dec.	357	729	189
Nov.	293	599	150
Oct.	360	796	180
Sept	312	666	155
Aug.	344	742	187
Jul.	323	666	159

**Facebook**

2024	Followers	Reach	Engagement
<b>Aug</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Jul.	2037	1.1K	422
<b>Jun</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2.5K</b>	<b>1.26K</b>
May	2011	4.7K	2.7K
Apr.	1989	2.14K	1.2K
Mar.	1978	3.6K	1.8K
Feb.	1802	3.1K	1.3K
Jan.	1728	8.4K	1.2K

*(Facebook, continued next page)*



(Facebook, continued)

2023

Dec.	1699	1.7K	807
Nov.	1696	1.8K	609
Oct.	1690	2.9K	1513
Sept	1680	2.5K	463
Aug:	1669	964	149
Jul.	1656	1.5K	949

**Class 2023 Representative**

**Marlon Nation (absent)**

There was no report.

**Chapter Advisors**

**John O'Connell /Jordan Kieffer**

A colleague, Amy Nowlin, sent an e-mail about a sea turtle conservation event at Meridiana on Saturday, October 12. The Captain Bob event will be held at the Fairgrounds on November 6. He will be presenting on the water cycle. The spinner game and other items will be used. Interested volunteers should contact him via e-mail.

**New Business**

**All**

K. Rivers asked about the total capacity of the large conference room, noting our growing membership. J. O'Connell reported the room will hold 132 people.

There will be no General meeting this month due to Fall Field Day on October 9. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Please send K. Pittman any agenda items by the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

**President:** K. Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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



Item 1. Attendance Record 2024

Attendance 2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Elected Board Members</b>													
Kathy Pittman - President	X	X	X	X	A	X		X	X	X			
Jimmy Salinas -VP	X	X	A	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Don Sabathier - Treas.	X	X	X	X	V	V		X	X	X			
Kathy Purvis - Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	A	X			
<b>Advisors</b>													
John O'Connell - AgrLife	X	A	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Jordan Kieffer - TPWD	V	A	V	V	V	A		A	A	A			
<b>Immediate Past President</b>													
Mickey Dufilho	X	A	X	X	X	X		X					
<b>Appointed Board/Committee Members</b>													
Oron Atkins – Volunteer Ops	A	V	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
John Boettiger- Membership	A	X	A	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Marlon Nation - 2023 Intern Rep	V	A	X	X	A	A		A	A	A			
Melanie Hollenshead - Training	X	V	X	V	X	X		A	V	A			
Ruby Lewis - Outreach	X	A	X	X	A	A		X	V	X			
Larry Peterson - Communications	V	X	X	A	X	X		X	V	X			
Kristine Rivers – AT	X	V	A	A	V	X		X	V	X			
Connie Stolte – State Rep	A	V	V	V	V	V		X	A	X			
Rose Wagner, Chapter Host	V	A	V	X	X	V		A	V	A			
<b>Guests</b>													
Luanne Salinas	X	X	A	A	X	X		X	X	X			
Kate Harris – Mentor Pgm.	X	A	A	V									
Amanda Gabehart		V											
Barbara Adelsperger		X											
Brenda Stitt		X						X					
Sabrina Smith					V								
Donna Rich										X			
Patty Brinkmeyer										X			
Jodi Jung										X			



Item 2. September Income Statement

	2024										Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September		Totals
<b>Opening Balance</b>		\$10,700.59	\$ 13,306.01	\$14,822.02	\$15,334.50	\$15,361.67	\$16,190.21	13,567.57	\$13,386.30	\$12,657.15		
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>												
Membership Dues	2,900	1,126.29	937.72	274.65	595.65	149.75	25.00				3,109.06	-209.06
Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.20	2.15	7.85
Member Donations	300	23.79		62.58	23.79	23.79	23.79	23.79	523.79	23.79	729.11	-429.11
Sponsor/Non-member Donations			75.00	24.99					20.00		119.99	-119.99
Member Payments for New Shirts	40										0.00	0.00
Special AT event- Non Member fees	100						172.08				172.08	-72.08
Reimbursements					331.40		129.75				461.15	-461.15
<b>Sub Total</b>	3,350	1,150.30	1,012.95	362.48	951.09	173.81	350.88	24.02	544.02	23.99	4,593.54	-1,243.54
New Intern Class Receipts	4,500	\$1,550.00	830.00	225.20	475.00	1,051.71	150.20	300.40	0.00	0.00	4,582.51	-82.51
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	7,850	\$2,700.30	1,842.95	587.68	1,426.09	1,225.52	501.08	324.42	544.02	23.99	9,176.05	-1,326.05
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>												
Approved Donations	300					104.42		150.00			254.42	45.58
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						6.80		6.79	20.71	9.29
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Day	1,750						1206.29	150.00			1,356.29	393.71
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						23.17		200.12	-0.12
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40										0.00	40.00
State Annual Conference Registration & Expenses	1,500.00								1250.00		1,250.00	250.00
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750.00				300.00						300.00	450.00
Education Outreach Support Materials	500					103.90					103.90	396.10
EcoFund Projects	500							198.89			198.89	301.11
Unbudgeted Field Research Bat Project					108.16	185.41	32.46				326.03	-326.03
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	400	12.76	24.99	40.21		3.25				30.48	111.69	288.31
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cakes	175			34.99	40.99						75.98	99.02
<b>Sub Total</b>	6635	19.88	201.94	75.2	449.15	396.98	1,238.75	505.69	1,273.17	37.27	4,198.03	2,436.97
TMN Text Book Order	1500						1786.00				1,786.00	-286.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1200				811.80					622.00	1,433.80	-233.80
Intern Name Tags	150				95.00					104.50	199.50	-49.50
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		98.97				141.94	58.06
Intern Class Scholarships-2	150										0.00	150.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement		75.00	75.00								150.00	-150.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	3550	75.00	125.00	0.00	949.77	0	1884.97	0	0.00	726.50	3,761.24	-211.24
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	10,185.00	94.88	326.94	75.20	1,398.92	396.98	3123.72	505.69	1,273.17	763.77	7,959.27	2,225.73
		(2,335)										
<b>Ending Balance</b>		13,306.01	14,822.02	15,334.50	15,361.67	16,190.21	13,567.57	13,386.30	12,657.15	11,917.37		

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



Cradle of Texas Action Item Register (UPDATED 10/02/24)

Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Status	Comments
Plan redo of TMN-COT brochure	OPEN	June review	pending	April 2024 - current brochure is not valid, as it does not have the TPWD logo. Hannah Ferguson from State Office has provided examples, and Crystal has our editable copy. We need to consider any other changes ( maybe new pictures as well) May 2024 - tabled until the June meeting Oct 2024 - Kathy and Amanda meeting after 10/7 to start working on updates.
Review/update COH Guidelines			New	May 2024 - Review Appendix 11.1.6(a) of the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) re volunteer time limitation and Species of Greatest Conservation Need as per the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) endangered species list #1279 (link sent by C. Stolte); J. O'Connell to consult with state coordinators, the Executive Board, elected officers and advisors for input and help.
Appointment of Spring 2024 Intern Class Representative	Open		New	May 2024 - As per Section 3.3.6, page 10, of the COH, which states a class representative serves from the end of the class to the end of the next class, appointment of a representative from this recent graduated intern class is in order.
Set up nominating committee and begin to solicit for new board members	Mickey	November	Closed 10/02/24	Mickey, Tara Lawrence, Jimmy Salinas, Luanne Salinas, Barbara Whaley
Outreach - Old Pearland Farmer's Market & Brookside Village FM	Kathy Pittman (w/ guidance from Ruby	November	Ongoing	looking for coordinator for this group. Will plan for November at OPFM BVFM is changing their format to a twice a year event. We will have to find out what months they are planning to hold their event. Oct 2024 - Still need a coordinator for this group. Consider moving OPFM to spring, and do REI/Pearland Parks event on Nov 2nd.
JOINT TMN-COT/MG Project - at Pearland Delores Fenwick Nature Center	Kathy/Oron		Ongoing	cleanup and revitalize existing wildscape area to the east of the main building. This will be a joint project with the Brazoria Co. Master Gardener Association. First work days will be Thurs Aug 29, Sat Aug 31, Sat Sept 7. Additional work days to be scheduled every 2-3 months as needed. Aug 2024 - Kathy to list tasks and send to Oron for documentation

Cradle of Texas Action Item Register (UPDATED 10/02/24)

Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Status	Comments
Review and update partners webpage (Aug 2019) (see below also)	Oron Atkins, Larry Peterson	1st Q 2023	Ongoing	Apr/May/Jun/Jul 2021: No update Aug: Oron will provide current info to Larry and he will update webpage (including State's definition of "partner") Sep: Oron submitted page updates to Larry including deleting Phillips 66, the combined arts organizations at Center for the Arts Oct/Nov: No update Jan 2022 No update Dec, 2022 - 1st Q 2023 will be done Mar 2024 - update website
Update VPAR agreements (Aug 2019)	Oron Atkins	1st Q 2023	ongoing	Apr/May/June/Jul/Aug 2021: No update Sep: Oron has created a revised Partnership Agreement template and is reviewing existing VPARs Oct/Nov: No update Jan 2022. No update Dec. 2022 Get with Dave and see if people are volunteering - Eliminate if not volunteering
VPALS need to be updated for website	Oron and Larry	1st Q 2023	Ongoing	
Resoft Park Work day	Oron/Chad Davenport?			work with BCPD to schedule a work day at Resoft Park. Goal is to introduce members to the park as an available vol opp, especially for members in northern BC Aug 24 - Kate Harris is working on pollinator garden at Resoft. May be able to build off her work there.
Develop Virtual Option - Milestone Plaques	Kathy Pittman		in progress	Apr 24 - Kathy Pittman - discussed options with Brigid Norris ( contact from Mickey). Once we get plaques back, we will send pictures and names to Bridgitt - she is willing to create file and update for us as needed. Chapter will print/publish as needed May 2024 - KP - I have the plaques back from the engravers and will send pictures to Bridgitt this month. June 2024 - K. Pittman sent a photo to B. Norris to assist her with designing a printable paper plaque suitable for posting online. The President's Call to Service Award (PCTSA) will continue to recognize service hours. We will continue to showcase those recipients on the website.