



Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:00 p.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathy Pittman welcomed everyone attending, including our visitors, Betty and David Skweres and Charlene Wilson, Kristine Rivers' mom. She also welcomed 13 online participants (report per J. O'Connell) and recognized our member veterans who served in the military.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the September 11, 2024, General Meeting was sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Two (2) additions/corrections were requested and made in advance of the meeting. Members voted approval upon the motions of Jimmy Salinas and Herb Myers.

Membership

John Boettiger

Initial Certifications		Recertifications	
Sarah Castillo	Emily Matula	Patty Brinkmeyer	Linda Sluis
Nicole Lochmann	Donna Rich	Kimberly Calhoun	Ken Sluis
Katie Maddox	Betty Taylor	Mel McKey	Betty Taylor

Milestones Barbara Whaley 500 Hours!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

Donna Rich is our new Training Class Representative for 2024, having been appointed at the Board meeting on November 6, 2024.

Impact Data - September and October

		Sept.	Oct.	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	835	545	12,296
	AT	<u>103</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>2,040</u>
	Total	938	728	14,336
		Sept.	Oct.	Year to Date
Impact data*	Adults	468	46	8,417
	Youths	<u>810</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25,469</u>
	Total	1,278	46	33,886

**Will not be considered final until mid-December 2024*

Reminders to Our Membership

- The Texas Master Naturalist title, your Chapter name and your Program/Chapter membership should never be used in connection with advocacy or to invoke policy.
- TMN Title and Certification should never be used for personal gain or profit.



- REMEMBER: THE TMN logo and title are trademarks. You must seek state office approval when adding them to chapter T-shirts, merchandise, flyers, etc.
- Public Comment should only be made as a private citizen. Your TMN title should never be associated with your public comments.
- Review guidelines here: <https://tmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>.

Featured Speaker - Ron Weeks, a local resident and co-author of two (2) books ("A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast" and "Birdlife of Houston, Galveston and the Upper Texas Coast"), presented the AT program: "Using eBird and Merlin". Ron also is an Advisory Board member at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Sub-regional Editor, North American Birds, Past President, Texas Ornithological Society, a former member of the Texas Bird Records Committee, compiler for the Christmas Bird Count and an eBird Reviewer for many years.

BREAK - Thank you to those who brought refreshments!

2025 Proposed Officer Slate

Nominating Committee

President	Kathy Pittman
Vice President	Jimmy Salinas
Secretary	Kathy Purvis
Treasurer	Don Sabathier

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Voting will be held at the December General Meeting. Our thanks to Nominating Committee members, Mickey Dufilho, Jimmy and Luanne Salinas, Tara Lawrence and Barbara Whaley.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

D. Sabathier presented the summary reports for September and October (see Item 1 for the Full Income Statement).

	September 2024	October 2024
BEGINNING BALANCE	12,657.15	\$11,917.37
Revenue Summary	23.99	48.94
Expense Summary	<u>763.77</u>	<u>401.84</u>
ENDING BALANCE	11,917.37	\$11,564.47

Most of the expenses were related to Fall Field Day in October. Don asked members to wait until January to pay their membership dues.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

R. Lewis reported the Special Olympics Fishing Tournament, in its third year, was well organized on Saturday. Upcoming events:

- DEEP - November 14, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; contact Lee Gaston, lee_gaston@fws.gov.
- Freeport Elementary - STEM Family Science Night, November 14, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., <https://www.brazosportisd.net/cms/one.aspx?pageid=551540/>; five to six (5 - 6) volunteers are needed (volunteer form required).
- Open House, Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge - December 26 - January 1, 2025, 11:a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Ruby will begin asking for volunteers for BNWR on December 1, rubylewis77515@gmail.com.

Upcoming VT Opportunities – November/December 2024

Oron Atkins

- Exploration Green Workday – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor <https://www.explorationgreen.org/>.
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self-directed.
- Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties – Monday, December 2 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy (jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com) or Luanne Salinas (msluhu@gmail.com).
- Nurdle Beach Patrol – self-directed; contact Jace Turnell, <https://www.nurdlepatrol.org/app/>.
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed, contact Melanie Hollenshead.
- Adopt-a-Loop for TMN – self-directed, contact Debbie Nance.
- Storm Debris Clean-up, Brazoria County Wildlife Refuge and Brazos Woods Preserve - times and dates to be announced (ongoing); contact Oron Atkins, oronatkins3@gmail.com.
- Delores Fenwick Nature Center, Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays - future date(s); contact Kathy Pittman, pittmankw4@aol.com.
- Nash Prairie Seed Collecting - Friday, November 15, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon; volunteers are needed. Per Susan Connaty, they would like to go to Brazos Woods afterward to spread the collected seed.

K. Pittman thanked the volunteers who installed the metal edging at DFNC. She mentioned Cullen and Katie were very happy with the work completed.

Spring AT Day

Kristine Rivers

Fall Field Day was very successful! One of the items found in the scavenger hunt was a bi-faced scraper from the Karankawas. The park identified the scraper and gave it to Phil Huxford for use at the schools.

It's time to start planning our 2025 Spring AT Day! The theme has been tentatively set as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" in our area. Kristine asked that those interested in helping contact her.

ECO Fund Applications - Deadline is December 31st!

The purpose of the TMN-COT ECO Fund Program is to provide support for specific projects that will enhance the chapter's mission to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within the Brazoria County. Examples:

- Implementation of a new project with a chapter partner
- Expansion of a current project with a chapter partner
- Development of educational materials for a specific project
- Development of materials to be used for outreach events

Kristine stated an e-mail would be sent out tomorrow with details and encouraged members who were interested to apply. The deadline is December 31, 2024.

2024 Texas Master Naturalist Meeting, October 24 - 26 in San Marcos

- The Bat Monitoring Project won a national award - Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP) Outstanding Project of the Year.
- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Stephen Keller Award was presented to TMN State Program for being an excellent program.



- The COT Bobcat Woods project was featured on Page 51 of the 25th anniversary report. Go to TXMN website and search the "25th Anniversary Report, <https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary/>.
- The 2025 annual meeting will be held in College Station.
- The 2025 pin will be the Western (Greater) Roadrunner.

Other Items

- The next Intern Class will start in January. We have 17 people who have expressed interest. Please also tell your friends!
- Send your pictures and news items for our newsletter to Patty Brinkmeyer at news@tmn-cot.org. Submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday before the last weekend of the month. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.

Meeting AT and VT Hours

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.0 hour plus travel

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Attendance:	In-person	47
	Virtual	<u>13</u>
	Total	60

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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



Item 1. October Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024 Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	rem:em	Totals	Budget Delta
Opening Balance		\$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	\$11,917.37	###		
INCOME ITEMS														
Membership Dues	2,900	1,126.29	937.72	274.65	595.65	149.75	25.00				24.95		3,134.01	-234.01
Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.20		2.35	7.65
Member Donations	300	23.79		62.58	23.79	23.79	23.79	23.79	523.79	23.79	23.79		752.90	-492.90
Sponsor/Non-member Donations			75.00	24.99					20.00				119.99	-119.99
Member Payments for New Shirts	40								0.00				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
Sub Total	3,350	1,150.30	1,012.95	362.48	951.09	173.81	350.88	24.02	544.02	23.99	48.94	###	4,642.48	-1,292.48
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
INCOME TOTALS	7,850	\$2,700.30	1,842.95	587.68	1,426.09	1,225.52	501.08	324.42	544.02	23.99	48.94	###	9,224.99	-1,374.99

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024 Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	rem:em	Totals	Budget Delta
EXPENSE ITEMS														
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 D	1,750						1206.29	150.00			383.44		1,739.73	10.27
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									1250.00					
Registration & Expenses	1,500.00												1,250.00	250.00
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750.00				300.00								300.00	450.00
Materials	500					103.90					18.40		122.30	377.70
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 Supplie	400	12.76	24.99	40.21		3.25				30.48			111.69	286.31
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175			34.99	40.99								75.98	99.02
Sub Total	6635	19.88	201.94	75.2	449.15	396.98	1,238.75	505.69	1,273.17	37.27	401.84	###	4,599.87	2,035.13

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024 Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	rem:em	Totals	Budget Delta
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
Sub Total	3550	75.00	125.00	0.00	949.77	0	1884.97	0	0.00	726.50	0.00	###	3,761.24	-211.24
EXPENSE TOTALS	10,185.00	94.88	326.94	75.20	1,398.92	396.98	3123.72	505.69	1,273.17	763.77	401.84	###	8,361.11	1,823.89
		(2,335)												
Ending Balance		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	11,564.47	###		

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