



**Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter  
 Minutes of the General Meeting  
 Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (HYBRID)  
 at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**6:00 pm Call to Order**

**Kathy Pittman**

Kathy Pittman welcomed everyone attending and participating online, including visitors, Bill Evans, Tom Taroni, Nikolai Leatherwood, Margaret Freeman and Bobby Rivers, husband of Kristine Rivers.

**Approval of the General Meeting Minutes**

The draft copy of the minutes of the December 11, 2024, General Meeting was sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Two (2) corrections were requested and made in advance of the meeting. Members voted approval upon the motions of Rose Wagner and Dave Brandes.

**Intern Class Update**

**Melanie Hollenshead**

M. Hollenshead reported the training program will begin February 1 with orientation. Classes will be held at the Angleton Library on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm, and on Saturdays, 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon. Field sessions will be held on Saturdays, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The registration link is active on the website. Melanie thanked those who stepped up to help with the program and noted team members and mentors are still needed. Those interested in serving as mentors should contact Kate Harris directly.

**2024 Highlights**

**Kathy Pittman**

K. Pittman delivered a slide presentation of highlights from Chapter's 2024 activities, including training and outreach events, as well as a remembrance of those we lost, Anna Hay and Raymond Everett Flake, Jr.

Kathy reported we have 164 members with one (1) associate member, Lisa Myers, who gets back as often as she can, with 84 recertifications last year, the highest number in recent memory, and 17 new certifications. She also gave a shout out to Connie Stolte, who vacated her long-time position as our Chapter's State Representative as of December 31. Kathy talked about the position and a slide showing some of the duties. Anyone interested may contact Kathy directly.

**Treasurer**

**Don Sabathier**

D. Sabathier presented the summary report for December (see Item 2 for the Full Income Statement).

December 2024	
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$10,555.90
Revenue Summary	78.92
Expense Summary	<u>399.00</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	\$10,235.82

Don pointed out the total revenue for last year (\$9,352.83) "pretty much" took care of Chapter expenses. He also mentioned there had been no update about the Amazon charge to the bank account. Annual dues of \$25 are now payable, and Don stated he would be available after the meeting for anyone who wished to pay them.

**Membership**

**John Boettiger**

**Recertifications:** Christina Hartman  
 Cindy Goodrum

**Milestones:** David Dungan **250 Hours!!**

Cindy Goodrum has moved to Canyon, TX and is expected to move her membership to the local Chapter.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

**Impact Data - Through December 2024 \***

		<b>Dec. 2024</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Hours*</b>	<b>VT</b>	867	14,470
	<b>AT</b>	<u>43</u>	<u>2,212</u>
		910	16,682
		<b>Dec. 2024</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Impact data*</b>	<b>Adults</b>	0	8,485
		<u>0</u>	<u>25,808</u>
	<b>Total</b>	0	34,293

*\*Will not be considered final until mid-February 2025*

Members who have volunteer hours from 2024 not yet posted have until February 15 to log them in.

**AT Presentation** - David Heinicke, "Snake Identification of the Upper Texas Coast". David, well known to our Chapter as a longtime TMN-COT training partner, is an employee of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. He was formerly head naturalist and law officer at Brazos Bend State Park since 1977 but is now its Volunteer and Training Director at Brazos Bend State Park.

**BREAK** - Thank you to those who brought refreshments!

**2025 Advanced Training Day**

**Kristine Rivers**

K. Rivers announced our AT Day will be held February 15 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton. Our topic is "Conserving Biodiversity: Species of Greatest Conservation Need".

**2025 ECO Fund Award**

**Kristine Rivers**

The \$500 grant was awarded to John O'Connell for his project, "The Watershed Game". It will provide education and outreach to the residents of Brazoria County for the wise use of land within the watershed and on reduction of non-point source pollution impacting the environment and wildlife. John mentioned there are two versions of the game (local leader and classroom) and stated he will be providing some training for volunteers.

**Outreach**

**Ruby Lewis**

R. Lewis reported the Brazoria Refuge Discovery Center Open House was successful despite the lower number of attendees - 399 adults and 211 children for a total of 610 participants. She mentioned there are usually two (2) children for each adult. There were visitors from 10 foreign countries, some as far away as Korea, Japan, Australia and Bulgaria.

Ruby stated DEEP sessions will begin in March and Spring Break Open House will be held at the BNWR Discovery Center from March 15 - 23, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. She will share further information as it becomes available. Volunteers may also contact Lee Gaston at [lee\\_gaston@fws.gov](mailto:lee_gaston@fws.gov).

Sign-up sheets were passed around. Please contact Ruby Lewis at [rubylewis77515@ymail.com](mailto:rubylewis77515@ymail.com); cell: 979.583.7903; include your first and last name with any phone/text/e-mail communications, please.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Oron Atkins**

- Exploration Green Workday – every Wednesday., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; contact Christie Taylor <https://www.explorationgreen.org/>.
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self-directed.
- Beach Sweep –February 3 (weather permitting), 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Quintana Jetties; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas.
- 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.
- Deck Construction Project (GCBO) - Saturday, January 11, 7:30 am to begin removing the deck, contact Oron Atkins at [oronatkins3@gmail.com](mailto:oronatkins3@gmail.com).
- Dunes Day - January 25, 9:00 am - 12 pm (meet at Stahlman Park, 2211 Bluewater Hwy, Surfside); contact Nathan Murphy at [nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov](mailto:nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov).

**Other Items**

- AT Opportunity - "Prescribed Burn Briefing" at Wharton County Junior College; RSVP to Greg Baker, [greg.baker@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:greg.baker@ag.tamu.edu) and indicate whether attending in-person or virtually.
- Question from the floor about Spring Fling - Oron stated it is scheduled for the month of April through the first week of May. Celeste Silling already has the link up on the GCBO website calendar for sign-up.

**Meeting AT and VT Hours**

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

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 10:00 am.

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Attendance:	In-person	46
	Virtual	<u>26</u>
	Total	72



Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Purvis*

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Item 1. December Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024														Budget	Budget Delta
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget	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	\$11,564.47	\$10,555.90			
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>															
Membership Dues	2,900	1,126.29	937.72	274.65	595.65	149.75	25.00			24.95	24.95	24.95	3,183.91	283.91	
Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.18	2.71	-7.29	
Member Donations	300	23.79		62.58	23.79	23.79	23.79	23.79	523.79	23.79	23.79	23.79	800.48	500.48	
Sponsor/Non-member Donations			75.00	24.99				20.00					149.99	149.99	
Member Payments for New Shirts	40												0.00	-40.00	
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>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>1,150.30</b>	<b>1,012.95</b>	<b>362.48</b>	<b>951.09</b>	<b>173.81</b>	<b>350.88</b>	<b>24.02</b>	<b>544.02</b>	<b>23.99</b>	<b>48.94</b>	<b>48.92</b>	<b>4,770.32</b>	<b>1,420.32</b>	
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>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>\$2,700.30</b>	<b>1,842.95</b>	<b>587.68</b>	<b>1,426.09</b>	<b>1,225.52</b>	<b>501.08</b>	<b>324.42</b>	<b>544.02</b>	<b>23.99</b>	<b>48.94</b>	<b>48.92</b>	<b>9,352.83</b>	<b>1,502.83</b>	

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2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget	Budget Delta
<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 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								900.00			644.10		1,544.10	-44.10	
Registration & Expenses	1,500.00														
State Meeting Sponsorship &															
Scholarships	750.00			300.00				350.00					650.00	100.00	
Materials	500				103.90					18.40			122.30	377.70	
EcoFund Projects	500						198.89				299.00		497.89	2.11	
Unbudgeted Field Research Bat Project				108.16	185.41	32.46							399.00	725.03	-725.03
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400	12.76	24.99	40.21	3.25				30.48				111.69	288.31	
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175			34.99	40.99								75.98	99.02	
Unknown Amazon Debit												114.39	114.39	-114.39	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6635</b>	<b>19.88</b>	<b>201.94</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>449.15</b>	<b>396.98</b>	<b>1,238.75</b>	<b>505.69</b>	<b>1,273.17</b>	<b>37.27</b>	<b>401.84</b>	<b>1,057.49</b>	<b>6,056.36</b>	<b>578.64</b>	

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Item 1. December Income Statement (continued)

**COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024**

	2024												Totals	Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			December
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	0.00	0.00	0	3,761.24	-211.24
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	10,185.00 (2,335)	94.88	326.94	75.20	1,398.92	396.98	3123.72	505.69	1,273.17	763.77	401.84	1,057.49	399.00	9,817.60	367.40
<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	11,564.47	10,555.90	10,235.82		

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