



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 9:00 am - 10:01 am (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:00 am Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathy Pittman welcomed everyone attending and participating online, including visitors, Betty and David Skweres, Charlene Rivers, mother of Kristine Rivers and George Valadez' wife, Vanessa. She also recognized those with birthdays - Jimmy and Luanne Salinas, Angela Griffin and Barbara Yoder.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the January 8, 2025, 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 Ed Barrios.

In Memory of Those We Lost

There was a pause as photos of two (2) members recently lost, Lorna Witt and Kim Richardson, both from the Class of 2014, were displayed. K. Pittman also spoke about the recent tragic loss of the son of another member, Cindy Goodrum, Class of 2019.

Membership (Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones)

John Boettiger

Initial Certifications: Amanda Smith
 Robin Townsend

Recertifications: Glenn Cullinane (2024)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

Our Chapter had 16 initial certifications and 85 recertifications last year. J. Boettiger reported the Chapter our recertifications were notable, but that it was not our highest number.

Impact Data - January 2025

Kathy Pittman

		Month	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	623	623
	AT	<u>105</u>	<u>105</u>
		728	728
Impact data*	Adults	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	0	0

**Will not be considered final until mid-March 2025*



8th Annual Advanced Training Day

Kristine Rivers

K. Rivers reminded members about our AT Day "Conserving Biodiversity: Species of Greatest Conservation Need" scheduled for Saturday, February 15 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton. There are more than 100 registrants signed up.

Intern Class Update

Barbara Whaley

B. Whaley, Interim Training Director, reported the Training Class started on February 1. The schedule is posted online at our Chapter website at the training link. Barbara thanked those who helped with orientation and mentioned the training classes are open to members who would like to refresh or brush up on any of the topics.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

D. Sabathier presented the summary report for January (see Item 1 for the Full Income Statement).

January 2025	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$10,235.82
Revenue Summary	2,597.35
Expense Summary	<u>222.28</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$12,610.89

Don reviewed the statement, noting that intern fees were just over \$1,000. He also mentioned the amount of the Amazon charge had been credited to our bank account, thus making us whole. Annual dues of \$25 are now payable, and he cautioned the deadline for payment is March 31. K. Pittman reinforced this deadline and noted members will lose VMS access.

AT Presentation (Virtual) - David Gwin, "Time to Restore: Connecting People, Plants and Pollinators". David was unable to gain access via Microsoft Teams. His presentation will be re-scheduled later. David provided his e-mail address for anyone who wished to contact him: dgwin@gmail.com. He also sent his Zoom link and members will have an opportunity to join at 12:00 Noon and watch the presentation for AT hours.

Migration Celebration at San Bernard Wildlife Refuge

Mary Schwartz

This event will be held April 26 and 27. The fundraising lunch is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at McLean Park in Lake Jackson. The volunteer sign-up is posted on the website. Barbara Whaley will send out an e-mail with the link.

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 – March 3 (weather permitting), 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Quintana Jetties parking area; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas, jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com, msluhu@gmail.com.
- Great Backyard Bird Count - February 14 - 17, self-directed. Sponsored by Cornell Audubon, <https://www.birdcount.org/>.



- Nest Fest 2025, Follett's Island - March 11, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Registration at <https://www.splashtx.org/nestfest>.
- 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 Cris Tobola.
- DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays - future dates are expected. Anyone interested may contact Kathy Pittman directly.
- TMN-COT iNaturalist Data Collection Project - contact Amanda Gabehart.

Oron talked about the Great Backyard Bird Count, noting members may enter their data for this Citizen Science project on e-bird and a couple of other Citizen Science-related sites. He also talked briefly about the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Conservation Rescue and the Sea Turtle Patrol Program generally. He mentioned the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge sponsors the area extending from Quintana to Matagorda. Volunteers must complete the required training to participate. The Padre training is scheduled for March 4.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- DEEP Sessions at BNWR - February 20 & 27, and March 4 & 6. Contact Lee Gaston at lee_gaston@fws.gov.
- Brazoria Heritage Day, March 1, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- Spring Break Open House at BNWR - March 8 - 16, contact Ruby Lewis (ph. 979.583.7903, rubylewis77515@ymail.com). Volunteers may log their hours plus travel time.
- GCBO Spring Fling - April 5 - May 4 at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary. Contact Celeste Silling or sign up on the calendar on the GCBO website.
- Migration Celebration - April 26 & 27, San Bernard NWR. Contact Barbara Whaley at babswhaley@gmail.com.

R. Lewis mentioned owl pellets will be available for use at the Wingspan booth at the BNWR Spring Break Open House. She also discussed a County Parks event on March 5 at Stephen F. Austin Park. It will include an historical reenactment, Birds of Prey and a small rodeo for the children.

Open Board Position - State Representative

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman reported Connie Stolte stepped down at the end of last year from this long-held position and we are looking for a member to fill it. She briefly reviewed the duties and encouraged anyone interested to contact her directly.

Proposed COH Changes - Summary

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman announced the Board had finalized proposed changes to the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH). The full text of the current COH and proposed changes will be distributed to the membership via e-mail not later than 15 days prior to the March 12 Chapter meeting. We will vote on the changes at that meeting. Members were encouraged to consult with a Board member or to contact her at 713.569.1665.

An intern asked whether those in training are allowed to vote. Kathy responded they are members of our Chapter and will vote.



Meeting AT and VT Hours

- AT - none
- VT - 1.0 hour plus travel

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 10:01 pm.

Attendance:	In-person	60
	Virtual	<u>7</u>
	Total	67

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Item 1. January Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025						
		2025				
		Budget	January	February	Totals	Budget Delta
Opening Balance			\$10,235.82			
INCOME ITEMS						
0	Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90		1,158.90	2,091.10
1	Interest Income	10.00	0.20		0.20	9.80
2	Member Donations	300	23.79		23.79	276.21
3	Sponsor/Non-member Donations		10.00		10.00	-10.00
4	Member Payments for New Shirts	40			0.00	0.00
5	Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100	238.67		0.00	100.00
6	Amazon Debit Reimbursement		114.39		114.39	-114.39
7	Sub Total	3,700	1,545.95	0.00	1,545.95	2,154.05
8						
9	New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		1,051.40	4,198.60
0						
1	INCOME TOTALS	8,950	\$2,597.35	0.00	2,597.35	6,352.65
2						

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(Item 1. January Income Statement, continued)

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025					
	2025				Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	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	7.52		7.52	22.48
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 (3 years	1,600			0.00	1,600.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	250	214.76		214.76	35.24
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40			0.00	40.00
State Annual Conference					
Registration & Expenses	1,500			0.00	1,500.00
State Meeting Sponsorship &					
Scholarships	750			0.00	750.00
Materials	500			0.00	500.00
EcoFund Projects	500			0.00	500.00
Field Research Bat Project	750			0.00	750.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400			0.00	400.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175			0.00	175.00
Unknown Amazon Debit					
Sub Total	9035	222.28	0.00	222.28	8,812.72

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025					
	2025				Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	Totals	
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			0.00	100.00
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				0.00	0.00
Sub Total	3550	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,550.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	12,585.00	222.28	0.00	222.28	12,362.72
	(3,635)				
Ending Balance		12,610.89	0.00		
COT Chapter Lifetime membership Dues \$400.00 COT 2025 Annual Dues \$25.00 2025 Intern Class fee: \$150.00 Members attaining 4,000, 5,000 or 10,000 VT hours are exempt from dues the next calendar year 2025 Travel reimbursement: c67/mile					

