



TMN-COT MEETING
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 11:06 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:06 a.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathy Pittman welcomed everyone in attendance or participating online.

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees	Present
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)	A	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	V
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	V	Donna Rich (2024 Class Rep.)	A
		Barbara Whaley (New Class Dir.)	X
Chapter Advisor(s)		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	A
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	X	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)	X
Jordan Kieffer (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	A	Kristine Rivers (Advanced Training Dir.)	X
Guests/Other		Vacant (State Rep.)	A
Luanne Salinas	X	Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	X
Amanda Smith	X	Patty Brinkmeyer (Newsletter)	X
X - present, V - virtual & A - absent		Quorum	Yes

(see Attendance Record attached as Item 1)

- Agenda Additions/Corrections - None presented.
- Approve Previous Board Minutes - The draft copy of the minutes of the February 2025, Board meeting was sent via e-mail to Board members for review.
- **Minutes Approval – No corrections.**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the February Board minutes	O. Atkins	L. Peterson	Minutes approved.

Training Update

Barbara Whaley

Training is going very well. Barb reported 8 new Interns and 2 returning from last year's class. Kathy reported she has pins and certificates for interns and has contacted past interns to see if they are lacking certificates.

AT Director

Kristine Rivers

Kristine reported we had a great Spring AT day. No problems. The food was good, but we had too much. The Salinas took the leftover food to a donation center. Attendees liked the door prizes, but we had too many items. Phil's PA system worked very well.

Virtual Meetings – Discussion by all

There are continuing problems with Virtual Portion of General Membership Meetings. Will switch to Zoom format. There will be a practice session with John O., Melanie, Jimmy, Kathy, and Kristine on 3/12 at 1:00



Action Register Review/Updates

Kathy Pittman

Update – add Kathy Purvis to the plan to redo the TMN-COT brochure and it is being worked on.

President's Report

Kathy Pittman

- **Thank you for adjusting your schedule for today's meeting**
- **Barbara added to Board email group so that she will get info**
- **Recert pins** and initial cert certificates – received from state
- **We will have a membership vote on the two COH changes. Email was sent on 2/25/2025**
- **Nothing new from the State office this month.**
- **TMN Tuesday – moved to 3rd Tuesday, March 18th**
- **Time to Restore Project** – this was the subject of David Gwin's presentation (that he will give now in April). I would like us to consider participating in this data gathering project.
- **VS hours for iNaturalist postings?** Kathy will be the leader of the project. This project will use Nature's Notebook App to record observations of 29 plants to observe. Observations are made once a week.
- Reminder on reporting hours – must be done as a volunteer
- **Reminder about dues to Chapter– March 31st deadline – 80 have paid at this time**
COH, Art 4.5 c
 Dues shall be payable on or before January 31 each calendar year. If dues are not paid by March 31 each calendar year, then all privileges afforded a TMN member are rescinded until dues are paid. A TMN member who is not current in the payment of dues will be considered inactive and categorized as such in VMS.
- **Honorary TMN members** – I have two individuals that I would like to recommend for Honorary Membership in the Chapter. After discussion, the board came to a consensus to ask the two individuals if they will accept an honorary membership.

Article 4, sec G, page 6 of Chapter Bylaws

Honorary Designation - An honorary Texas Master Naturalist is a person who has made a substantial contribution to the furtherance of the state program or activities of the chapter. Candidates for honorary designation may be submitted by any chapter member to the chapter board for approval. With board approval, the candidate will be placed before the general membership for a vote. Honorary designation shall be approved by the affirmative two-thirds vote of the members present at any general membership meeting. Honorary Texas Master Naturalists do not pay chapter dues and are not entitled to vote or hold a board position.



Past President

Mickey Dufilho

M. Dufilho had no further report.

Vice-President/Programs

Jimmy Salinas

J. Salinas reported plans for the following speakers:

- March - Sarah Belles, American Bird Conservancy, Gulf Coast Avian Ecologist and Galveston Bay Area Chapter Texas Master Naturalists (Shore Birds)
- April - David Gwin (Time to Restore Texas)
- May – Jim Olive and Brenda Stitt
- June – Arlon Motsch – How to develop a bug garden
- July – Martin Hagne – GCBO

Secretary (no report)

Kathy Purvis

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

D. Sabathier presented the summary reports for February. Refer to appended Item 2 for the Full Income Statement.

COT TREASURER REPORT

Feb 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 12,610.89
Revenue Summary	799.02
Expense Summary	1,094.34
ENDING BALANCE	\$12,315.57

Approximately 80 members have paid or are Lifetime members

Membership

John Boettiger

Initial Certifications	Recertifications	Milestones
Brown, Scott	Pittman, Kathy	Gabehart, Amanda (5000)
	Rivers, Kristine	
	Tippett, Regina	
	Whaley, Barbara	

VMS Data –

		Feb 2025	Year to Date
Hours *	VT –	791	1,546
	AT –	519	639
	Total -	1,310	2,185
Impact data*	Adults	150	150
	Youth	138	138
	Total	288	288

*will not be considered final until mid-April 2025.



Upcoming VT Opportunities – March/April

Oron Atkins

- Exploration Green Work Day – every Wed, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – contact Christie Taylor, <https://www.explorationgreen.org/>
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self directed
- Beach Sweep – 4/7, 8 AM to 10 AM, Quintana Jetties– contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- Nurdle Beach Patrol – Jace Turnell – self-directed (<https://www.nurdlepatrol.org/app/>)
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – Melanie Hollenshead - self directed
- Adopt a Loop for TMN – contact Cris Tobola - self directed
- DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays – future date(s)? – contact Kathy Pittman
- NestFest 2025 Follets Island – 3/11, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact Celeste Silling

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- **Spring Break BNWR Discovery Center Open House** – 3/8/2025 to 3/16/2025 11 AM to 4 PM – contact Ruby Lewis
- **GCBO Spring Fling** – 4-5 to 5/4, daily 9am to 4 pm – many slots already filled <https://signup.com/go/qmVrxwi>
- DEEP –future dates TBA – Lee Gaston
- Sea Center Nature Day – April 5th – contact Ruby? Jordan?
 - Youth Catch and Release Fishing, 9 A.M. to 11 P.M.
 - Live Reptiles, Learning Activities, and More, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
 - Birds of Prey Show, 11 A.M. & 2 P.M.
- **Migration Celebration Set Up** – 4/25, 8 AM to 1 PM – contact Barbara Whaley
- **Migration Celebration Event** – 4/26 & 4/27, 11 AM to 4 PM – contact Barbara Whaley

Chapter Host
 No report

Rose Wagner

Communications

Larry Peterson

WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS

Website	Sessions	Pageviews	Users
2025			
Feb	566	1111	280
Jan.	546	1071	286
2024			
Dec.	335	656	192
Nov	390	748	248
Oct.	355	632	212
Sept	328	690	179
Aug	416	741	235
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



Facebook:

2025	Followers	Views	Engagement
Feb	2100	7,965	675
Jan.	2092	4.9K	223
2024	Followers	Reach	Engagement
Dec.	2076	5.1K	306 (25 posts)
Nov.	2071	6.2K	3.1 K (22 posts)
Oct.	2074	1.7K	5.41K (37 posts)
Sept.	2074	9.8K	1.5K
Aug.	2061	10.4K	1.5K
Jul.	2037	1.1K	422
Jun.	2028	2.5K	1.26K
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

Class Rep. Absent

Donna

Chapter Advisors

John O, Jordan

New Business?

All

General Meeting Agenda – Next General Meeting will be at 6 pm March 12th. Please send any meeting agenda items to Kathy Pittman no later than SUNDAY evening prior.
 Next Board meeting will be April 2nd at 9 am. Please send any agenda items to Kathy Pittman by Sunday evening prior.

President Kathy Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 12:45

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Dufilho for

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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



Item 1. Attendance Record 2024

Attendance 2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Kathy Pittman - President	X	X	X										
Jimmy Salinas -VP	X	X	X										
Kathy Purvis - Secretary	X	X	A										
Don Sabathier - Treasurer	V	V	X										
Advisors													
John O'Connell - AgrLife	X	X	X										
Jordan Kieffer - TPWD	V	X	A										
Immediate Past President													
Mickey Dufilho	A	A	X										
Appointed Board/Committee Members													
Oron Atkins – Volunteer Ops	X	X	X										
John Boettiger- Membership	X	X	X										
Donna Rich - 2024 Intern Rep	X	X	A										
Melanie Hollenshead - Training	A	A	A										
Barbara Whaley			X										
Ruby Lewis - Outreach	A	A	A										

Item 2. February Income Statement



	A	D	E	F	G	Q	S	T
1								
2	COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025							
3		2025						
4		Budget	January	February	March	Totals	Budget	Delta
5								
6	Opening Balance		\$10,235.82	\$12,610.89	\$12,315.57			
7								
8	INCOME ITEMS							
9								
10	Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90	673.55		1,832.45	1,417.55	
11	Interest Income	10.00	0.20	0.19		0.39	9.61	
12	Member Donations	300	23.79	23.79		47.58	252.42	
13	Sponsor/Non-member Donations		10.00	30.00		40.00	-40.00	
14	Member Payments for New Shirts	40				0.00	0.00	
15	Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100	238.67	71.49		71.49	28.51	
16	Amazon Debit Reimbursement		114.39			114.39	-114.39	
17	Sub Total	3,700	1,545.95	799.02	0.00	2,344.97	1,355.03	
18								
19	New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40			1,051.40	4,198.60	
20								
21	INCOME TOTALS	8,950	\$2,597.35	799.02	0.00	3,396.37	5,553.63	
22								



Item 2. February Income Statement (continued)

	A	D	E	F	G	Q	S	T	
COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025									
	2025						Budget		
	Budget	January	February	March	Totals	Budget	Delta		
EXPENSE ITEMS									
Approved Donations	300		150.00		150.00	150.00		150.00	
Speakers Bureau					0.00	0.00		0.00	
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	200				0.00	200.00		200.00	
Membership Director Expenses	50				0.00	50.00		50.00	
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30	7.52			7.52	22.48		22.48	
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D	1,750		869.34		869.34	880.66		880.66	
Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40				0.00	40.00		40.00	
Special Recognition	200				0.00	200.00		200.00	
Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (3 years	1,600				0.00	1,600.00		1,600.00	
Godaddy Website maintenance	200	214.76			214.76	-14.76		-14.76	
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40				0.00	40.00		40.00	
State Annual Conference									
Registration & Expenses	1,500				0.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	
State Meeting Sponsorship &									
Scholarships	750				0.00	750.00		750.00	
Materials	500				0.00	500.00		500.00	
EcoFund Projects	500				0.00	500.00		500.00	
Field Research Bat Project	750				0.00	750.00		750.00	
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400				0.00	400.00		400.00	
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175				0.00	175.00		175.00	
Unknown Amazon Debit									
Sub Total	8985	222.28	1,019.34	0	1,241.62	7,743.38			



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COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

2025							
Budget	January	February	March	Totals	Budget	Delta	

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			75.00		75.00	-75.00
Sub Total	3550	0.00	75.00	0.00	75.00	3,475.00

EXPENSE TOTALS	12,535.00	222.28	1,094.34	0.00	1,316.62	11,218.38
	(3,585)					

Ending Balance 12,610.89 12,315.57 12,315.57

- 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

Cradle of Texas Action Item Register (UPDATED 03/05/25)

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/June/July 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 Aktins	1st Q 2023	ongoing	Apr/May/June/July/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	
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. Nov 24 - no response from B. Norris. Will reach out to next graphic arts contact Dec 2024 - B Norris continues to update. We are waiting for the Chapter logo in SVG format from the State.
Plan redo of TMN-COT brochure	Kathy Pittman	June review	pending	Dec 2024 no progress. Jan 2025 pending Feb 2025 pending Kathy Purvis will help K. Pittman w/review & revision.

Cradle of Texas Action Item Register (UPDATED 03/05/25)

Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Status	Comments
Review/update COH Guidelines			in progress	<p>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.</p> <p>June 2024 - met with State. Total "other" up to 5% of Total Volunteer hours. Variance granted to member for rehab efforts for this season.</p> <p>Nov 2024 - Connie Stolte provided first draft to Board for review for Rehab. Board discussed and will review again in Dec.</p> <p>Dec 2024 - discussed options for rehabbing and term of office/number of Class reps. Connie to rewrite based on discussions and send to Mickey and Kathy for comment</p>
Annual AT Day	AT director/ Committee	Start Planning in Oct/Nov	in progress	<p>Dec 2024 - Planning has started. Speakers being scheduled, venue reserved for Feb 15th.</p> <p>Jan 2025 - Craig Hensley will be the keynote speaker.</p>