



**Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter
 Minutes of the General Meeting
 Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. (HYBRID)
 at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathy Pittman welcomed everyone attending, including visitors, Betty and David Skweres, and those participating online.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the November 13, 2024, General Meeting was sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Three (3) additions/corrections were requested and made in advance of the meeting. Members voted approval upon the motions of Rose Wagner and John Boettiger.

Membership

John Boettiger

Initial Certifications

Glen Cullinane

Recertifications

Jerry Eppner	Denis James	Carolyn May-Monie	John O'Connor
Mike Hampy	Chris Kneupper	Sheree Muzny	Donna Rich
Paula Hanson	Ruby Lewis	Kyle Purvis	

Milestones Sheree Muzny 1,000 Hours!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

Impact Data - Through November 2024 *

Hours*		Nov. 2024	Year to Date
	VT	619	13,079
	AT	<u>69</u>	<u>2,150</u>
	Total	688	15,229

Impact data*		Nov. 2024	Year to Date
	Adults	47	8,485
	Youth	<u>184</u>	<u>25,808</u>
	Total	231	34,293

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

AT Presentation - John Boettiger, TMN-COT Class of 2002: "A Hands-on Experience with Whitetail Deer (and other critters) in Texas". John is a native of San Antonio, Texas who grew up on a Central Texas cattle ranch. He has been a Brazoria County resident since 1977 and is our current Chapter Membership Director.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- BNWR Discovery Center Open House - December 26 - January 1, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; activities depend upon the weather and number of volunteers (eight (8) to 10 are needed each day, so please sign up!!)
- ⇒ Contact Ruby Lewis at rubylewis77515@ymail.com; cell: 979.583.7903; include your first and last name with any phone/text/e-mail communications, please.

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

K. Pittman announced the proposed officer slate for 2025 as submitted by the Nominating Committee and called for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were made from the floor, and the membership voted unanimously to elect the slate of officers as presented upon the motions of Rose Wagner and Oron Atkins. Kathy asked that other members consider how they might serve as well.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

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

November 2024	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$11,564.47
Revenue Summary	48.92
Expense Summary	<u>1,057.49</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$10,555.90

Don spoke about the fraudulent charge made on the debit card which is under investigation. He also reminded members tax-deductible donations to the Chapter are appreciated.

Volunteer Opportunities – December 2024/January 2025

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 – Tuesday, January 7 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 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. Oron also mentioned members can go out once per quarter and record their observations for eBird (<https://ebird.org> > home) and iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>).
- Construct three (3) new trails at Brazos Woods Preserve - dates and times to be announced; new project - contact Oron Atkins if interested.



- Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) - December 14 - 20 and January 4; see Chapter calendar for event locations and details.

- Brazos Bend State Park (TXBZ)	December 14
- Freeport (TXFR)	December 15
- Matagorda County (TXMM)	December 16
- Galveston (TXGA)	December 17
- Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR (TXAP)	December 18
- Bolivar Peninsula (TXBP)	December 19
- San Bernard NWR (TXSB)	December 20
- Brazoria-Columbia Bottomlands (TXBR)	January 4

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Spring AT Day

Kristine Rivers

It's time to start planning our 2025 Spring AT Day! It is scheduled for February 15, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church of Angleton. The theme is "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" in our area. Speakers are being contacted, with Craig Hensley having already confirmed. Rose Wagner and Jimmy and Luanne Salinas have a volunteer team. Members interested in helping to plan the event may contact Kristine Rivers.

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

Spring Intern Training

Melanie Hollenshead

Registration for Intern Training will open on Monday, January 13, 2025, and begin with Orientation on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Classes will be held at the Angleton Library on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., and on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon. Field sessions will be held on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A link for the training session has been posted to the website (<https://txmn.org/tmncot/intern-training/>). Mickey Dufilho is scheduling presenters. Members were asked to consider helping with field trips, which is needed, and serving as mentors.

TPWD Adopt-a-Loop – Great Texas Wildlife Trails

Deb Nance

Adopt-a-Loop is a citizen science project by TPWD and the TMN organization to better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife. The Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT) are used



by many to visit sites across the state for birding and other wildlife viewing. Deb Nance has been our Chapter Coordinator for the Adopt-a-Loop program and is looking for members interested in 1) coordinating or 2) adopting a trail in Brazoria County. Contact her at debance@gmail.com or 281.898.8540.

Other Items

- There have been many phishing attempts lately. Members were reminded the Chapter will not solicit information and were encouraged to check carefully for phishing attempts, to notice the actual address of the sender, to delete any bogus solicitations without clicking on links and to follow up by emptying the trash.
- The 19th Annual Hog-Wild Holiday Feast is being held after the meeting, from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. at 325 Timbercreek Drive, Lake Jackson. There will be an appetizer medley followed by the main course (serving 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) and dessert medley provided by guests. All members are welcome, and donations are appreciated.

Meeting AT and VT Hours

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

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Attendance:	In-person	42
	Virtual	<u>14</u>
	Total	56

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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



Item 1. November Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024												Totals	Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			December
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			
INCOME ITEMS															
Membership Dues	2,900	1,126.29	937.72	274.65	595.65	149.75	25.00				24.95	24.95		8,158.96	-258.06
Interest Income	10.00	0.22	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.20	0.18		2.53	7.47
Member Donations	300	23.79		62.58	23.79	23.79	23.79	23.79	523.79	23.79	23.79	23.79		776.69	-476.69
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	-72.08
Reimbursements					331.40		172.08							461.13	-461.13
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	48.92	0.00	4,691.40	-1,341.40
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	52,700.30	1,842.95	587.68	1,426.09	1,225.52	501.08	324.42	544.02	23.99	48.94	48.92	0.00	9,273.91	-1,423.91

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2024

	2024												Totals	Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			December
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 Day	1,750						1206.29	150.00				383.44		1,799.73	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 Registration & Expenses	1,500.00								900.00			644.10		1,544.10	-44.10
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750.00				300.00			350.00						650.00	100.00
Education Outreach Support 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							326.03	-326.03
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	400	12.76	24.99	40.21	108.16	185.41	32.46		30.48					111.69	288.31
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cakes	175			34.99	40.99									75.98	99.02
Unknown Amazon Debit												114.39			
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	1,057.49	0.00	5,657.86	977.64

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	-99.50
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	56.06
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	0.00	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	1,057.49	0.00	9,418.60	766.40
		(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	10,555.90	0.00		

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

