



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 9:03 am - 11:43 am (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:03 am Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathy Pittman opened by welcoming everyone attending and participating online. She extended happy birthday wishes to those with April birthdays, then recognized our guest speaker, David Gwin of USA-NPN, interns Emily Birdwell and David Skweres, and a return visitor, Kristine Rivers' mom, Charlene.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the March 12, 2025, General Meeting was sent via e-mail to the TMN-COT member distribution list for review prior to the meeting. A correction was made to remove the name of an individual who did not attain initial certification in March. Members approved the minutes as presented by voice vote upon the motion of John Boettiger, which was seconded by Herb Myers.

April - National Volunteer Appreciation Month

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman noted April 20 - 26 is National Volunteer Week. She thanked members for stepping up and serving the public, Brazoria County and the State of Texas by supporting our partners and activities.

Membership (Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones)

John Boettiger

Recertifications:	Oron Atkins	David Dungan	Debbie Nance
	John Boettiger	Amanda Gabehart	Larry Petersen
	Dave Brandes	Angela Griffin	Betty Taylor
	Jim Calvert	Paula Hanson	Cris Tobola
	Mickey Dufilho	Herb Myers	Janet Townsend
Pin Presentation:	Scott Brown, who finished his initial certification in February		

K. Pittman recognized Scott Brown, who finished his initial certification in February, and presented his pin. She also announced Melanie Hollenshead resigned as Training Team Director to focus on her health. Our prayers go with her for full recovery. Kathy thanked Barbara Whaley and her team of members who have taken over the training program and announced Barbara accepted the director position. Barbara reported Marlon Nation agreed to help train the fall class.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

Impact Data - March 2025

Kathy Pittman

		Month	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	1,239	3,013
	AT	223	929
Impact data*	Adults	112	262
	Youth	<u>75</u>	<u>213</u>
	Total	187	475

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



AT Presentation - David Gwin: "Time to Restore: Connecting People, Plants and Pollinators". Jimmy Salinas introduced David, the Texas State Coordinator for USA-NPN's Time to Restore, a government-funded project to collect data about native plants. David announced this project is active in almost 70 counties in Texas. One of the photos used in his presentation was taken by Peggy Romfh, a former TMN-COT member.

Susan Conaty offered to help members identify plants on the property if they want to participate in Time to Restore. K. Pittman announced this has been approved as a project. Time spent on this project will be classified as Field Research and can be aggregated and entered monthly.

BREAK - Thank you to all our members who brought refreshments this evening!

Honorary Membership

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman presented slides and reviewed the parameters for honorary membership. The Board has nominated two (2) individuals for honorary membership, both of whom have made significant contributions to our Chapter:

- 1) Layna Lewis: members voted unanimous approval by voice vote upon the motions of M. Dufilho and P. Huxford;
- 2) David Heinicke: members voted unanimous approval by voice vote upon the motions of P. Huxford and J. Boettiger.

P. Huxford recalled David Heinicke was one of the instructors for his training class in 2001. O. Atkins also mentioned David helps as the "sledge hammer guy" on the crew for construction projects.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- GCBO Spring Fling - April 5 - May 4 at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary. Contact Celeste Silling or sign up on the calendar on the GCBO website.
- Open Garden Days - April 12, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Bug Sweeping at BEES Master Gardener location. Joint event with BCMGA; two (2) volunteers are needed. Contact Kathy Pittman.
- Migration Celebration Set Up, San Bernard NWR - April 25, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Contact Barbara Whaley at babswhaley@gmail.com.
- Migration Celebration Event, San Bernard NWR - April 26 & 27, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Contact Barbara Whaley at babswhaley@gmail.com.
- DEEP Sessions at BNWR - May 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm. Contact Lee Gaston at lee_gaston@fws.gov.
- Spring Break Open House at BNWR - March 8 - 16, contact Ruby Lewis (ph. 979.583.7903, rublewis77515@ymail.com).

Ruby also said the Brazoria County Library Summer Reading Program will be coming up. A sensory event has been added for special needs children.



Financial Report

Don Sabathier

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

March 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$12,315.57
Revenue Summary	1,873.65
Expense Summary	<u>1,237.67</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$12,951.55

Don noted the difference was pretty much payment of dues - 118 members had paid or were Lifetime members as of 3/31. He mentioned annual dues of \$25 are now past due.

CPR Training

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman mentioned the recent CPR training program offered at AgriLife for volunteers and the value she felt it had for community emergency response, which included training for using a defibrillator. She indicated we might be able to host a training program at a reduced cost of \$50 per person if we had enough interested participants. She asked members to let her know.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- Exploration Green Workday – every Wednesday, 8:30 am - 11:30 am; contact Christie Taylor <https://www.explorationgreen.org/>.
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self-directed.
- Beach Sweep – Monday, May 5 (weather permitting), 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Quintana Jetties parking area; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas, jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com, mshuhu@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 Cris Tobola, tcatlbaker5@yahoo.com.
- DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays - contact Kathy Pittman.
- TMN-COT iNaturalist Data Collection Project - contact Amanda Gabehart, sylshessa@aol.com.
- Time to Restore Project - self-directed; contact Kathy Pittman. Also visit the website, <https://www.usanpn.org/community/TimeToRestore>.
- Spring Bats and Blooms BioBlitz - April 1 - May 1; self-directed; contact Katie Boughal, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/spring-bats-blooms-bioblitz>.

Oron mentioned changes with use of the UTV for turtle patrol and reported volunteers may use the BNWR UTV.

Migration Celebration Volunteers Needed

Barbara Whaley

B. Whaley thanked volunteers who had already signed up for the events. She reviewed a slide listing events for which volunteers are still needed.

Cookie Bakers Needed for Migration Celebration

Richard (Dick) Schaffhausen

D. Schaffhausen announced volunteers are still needed to bake cookies to be sold in the Exhibition Hall at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. Amanda Gabehart is helping contact people about this.

Final Items

- Cris Tobola reminded members about Adopt-a-Loop and noted several sites still need volunteers.
- K. Pittman cautioned members about the numerous phishing scams/e-mails and asked that they be ignored.

Meeting AT and VT Hours

- AT - 1.5 hours
- VT - 1.25 hours plus drive time

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am.

Attendance: In-person 50
 Virtual 8
 Total 58

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Item 1. March Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025							
	2025						
	Budget	January	February	March	April	Totals	Budget Delta
Opening Balance		\$10,235.82	\$12,610.89	\$12,315.57			
INCOME ITEMS							
Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90	673.55	699.64		2,532.09	717.91
Interest Income	10.00	0.20	0.19	0.22		0.61	9.39
Member Donations	300	23.79	23.79	23.79		71.37	228.63
Sponsor/Non-member Donations		10.00		1,000.00		1,010.00	-1,010.00
Member Payments for New Shirts	40					0.00	0.00
Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100	238.67	101.49			101.49	-1.49
Amazon Debit Reimbursement		114.39				114.39	-114.39
Sub Total	3,700	1,545.95	799.02	1,723.65	0.00	4,068.62	-368.62
New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		150.00		1,201.40	4,048.60
INCOME TOTALS	8,950	\$2,597.35	799.02	1,873.65	0.00	5,270.02	3,679.98



(Item 1. March Income Statement, continued)

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

	2025						Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	Totals	
EXPENSE ITEMS							
Approved Donations	300		150.00			150.00	150.00
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		869.34	59.60		928.94	821.06
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	200	214.76				214.76	-14.76
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			146.07		146.07	603.93
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400					0.00	400.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175					0.00	175.00
TDECU Returned Check for ISF				1000			
TDECU Check Debit				32.00			
Sub Total	8985	222.28	1,019.34	1,237.67	0.00	2,479.29	6,505.71

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

	2025						Budget Delta
	Budget	January	February	March	April	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			75.00			75.00	-75.00
Sub Total	3550	0.00	75.00	0.00	0	75.00	3,475.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	12,535.00	222.28	1,094.34	1,237.67	0.00	2,554.29	9,980.71
	(3,585)						
Ending Balance		12,610.89	12,315.57	12,951.55	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