



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 9:08 am - 11:11 am (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:08 AM Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman welcomed attendees and those participating online, with special recognition to Lynne Ray, a member of our original class and visitors Lori Brown (Scott's wife) and Kayson, the Salinas' grandson.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting was sent to the TMN-COT distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Kathy Purvis reported minor corrections were made per feedback. Members approved the minutes as presented upon the motion of Herb Myers, which was seconded by Oron Atkins.

New Communications Director

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman announced Larry Peterson stepped down as Director but will continue to serve as the Webmaster for the Chapter. The Board appointed Patty Brinkmeyer to serve as Communications Director by unanimous vote. She will continue in her role as Newsletter Editor. Thank you to Larry for a job well done! we appreciate you!

Membership (Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones)

Kathy Pittman

Initial Certifications: Betty Skweres David Skweres

Recertifications: Scott Brown Jerry Eppner Kate Harris
Chris Kneupper Pam Peltier Kyle Purvis
George Valadez

MILESTONES: BARBARA WHALEY

1,000 HOURS!!

K. Pittman presented David and Betty Skweres with their initial certification pins and certificates and noted that both are serving on the Board - Betty as Class Rep and David as our State Representative. She presented Shara Jane Marcy with her certificate as well. Kathy also recognized Barbara's achievement of 1,000 hours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Impact Data - July 2025

Kathy Pittman

Hours*	VT AT	Month	Year to Date
		824 65	8,780 1,402
Impact data*	Adults	744	3,273
	Youth	<u>1,136</u>	<u>9,811</u>
	Total	1,880	13,084

**Will not be considered final until mid-September 2025
Dave Brandes, VMS Administrator*

AT Presentation - Arlon Motsch, Amateur Photographer: "What Are We Missing?" Jimmy Salinas introduced Marlon, whom he met at Quintana Beach. Arlon is an outdoors person who "will go the distance for a picture!" He opened his presentation by showing and describing his camera, offering tips from experience. He also told the group they were welcome to copy and use his photos posted on Facebook (now Meta ©).

BREAK - Thank you to all our members who brought refreshments for the meeting!

Fall Field Day: "Revive & Restore" (October 8, 2025)

Kristine Rivers

K. Rivers reported the event will be held at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. It will offer up to four (4) hours AT and there will be no regular meeting in October. Registration will open on September 2. Lunch will be provided but early morning snacks are needed. Members will rotate through five (5) stations and will have optional enrichment activities (a critter hunt and bird banding).

Texas Master Naturalist 2025 Annual Meeting

Kathy Pittman

The Annual Meeting will be held in College Station from October 16 - 19. Hotels are now available, and early registration ends August 31. K. Pittman encouraged members to attend all or part of the event and announced that a scholarship is available.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- **GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (XHX)** - September 13 and 20, 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, Volunteers who want to work with Friends should contact Celeste Silling, otherwise, Master Naturalists should talk with Ruby.
- **SCT Youth Fishing Day** - September 13, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, contact Jordan Kieffer

There will be a Spooktacular event in October. All events will be posted on the Chapter's Calendar page. Ruby also mentioned the events held as part of the BCLS Summer Reading Club had just under 3,000 participants.

Fall Intern Training

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman mentioned the training class will open with orientation at 9:00 AM on September 6. Training sessions will be held on Wednesday mornings, although there will be some Saturday sessions. Please tell your friends about this program! Also, Barbara Whaley needs team members to help.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

D. Sabathier reported a \$9.50 Amazon debit to the new card on July 12. Don notified TDECU and the card was cancelled. He gave a summary report for July as follows:

COT TREASURER REPORT

July 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$14,937.33
Revenue Summary	476.11
Expense Summary	<u>1,649.29</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$13,783.95

Full income statement:

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025										
	2025									
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Totals	Budget Delta
Opening Balance		\$10,235.82	\$ 12,610.89	\$12,315.57	\$12,951.55	\$14,060.88	15,237.08	14,937.33		
INCOME ITEMS										
Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90	673.55	699.64	174.85			24.95	2,731.89	518.11
Interest Income	10.00	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.24	0.25	0.25	1.57	8.43
Member Donations	300	23.79	23.79	23.79	1,047.76	1,000.00			2,119.13	-1,819.13
Sponsor/Non-member Donations		10.00		1,000.00		1,000.00			2,010.00	-2,010.00
Member Payments for New Shirts	40								0.00	0.00
Special AT-Remote/Non Member fees	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	1,222.83	2,000.24	0.25	25.20	7,317.14	-3,617.14
New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		150.00				450.91	1,652.31	3,597.69
INCOME TOTALS	8,950	\$2,597.35	799.02	1,873.65	1,222.83	2,000.24	0.25	476.11	8,969.45	-19.45
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			5.41				12.93	17.07
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Day	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							1,573.00	1,573.00	27.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	200	214.76							214.76	-14.76
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40					19.00			19.00	21.00
State Annual Conference Registration & Expenses	1,500								0.00	1,500.00
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750						300.00		300.00	450.00
Education Outreach Support Materials	500								0.00	500.00
EcoFund Projects	500								0.00	500.00
Field Research Bat Project	1,000			146.07		759.05			905.12	94.88
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	400								0.00	400.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cakes	175				46.99			46.99	93.98	81.02
TDECU Returned Check for ISF				1,000.00						
TDECU Check/Amazon Debit				32.00				9.50		
Sub Total	9235	222.28	1,019.34	1,237.67	52.40	778.05	300.00	1,629.49	5,239.23	3,995.77
TMN Text Book Order	1500								0.00	1,500.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1200								0.00	1,200.00
Intern Name Tags	150				33.25				33.25	116.75
Intern Class Marketing	100					45.99			45.99	54.01
Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	250								0.00	250.00
Intern Class Supplies	200				27.85				27.85	172.15
Intern Class Scholarships	150								0.00	150.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement			75.00						75.00	-75.00
Sub Total	3550	0.00	75.00	0.00	61.1	45.99	0	0	182.09	3,367.91
EXPENSE TOTALS	12,785.00	222.28	1,094.34	1,237.67	113.50	824.04	300	1,629.49	5,421.32	7,363.68
	(3,835)									
Ending Balance		12,610.89	12,315.57	12,951.55	14,060.88	15,237.08	14,937.33	13,783.95		
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: ¢67/mile										

Kathy Pittman mentioned the Chapter had received some large donations and asked for ideas about projects. She noted some funds will be used to purchase a table for pond life exhibits and for the Chapter's 25th anniversary project.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- **Exploration Green Workday** – 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** – 9/02, 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Quintana Beach, 16th Street entrance (second entrance on the right after Bryan Beach) – contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas (jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com, msluhu@gmail.com)
- **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 (utc_aal@yahoo.com) - self directed
- **TMN-COT iNaturalist Data Collection Project** - contact Amanda Gabehart (sylshessa@aol.com)
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – 8/14 and 16, 9/18 and 20 (3rd Saturdays and preceding Thursdays), 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM – contact Kathy Pittman
- **Time to Restore Project** – self-directed, contact Kathy Pittman <https://www.usanpn.org/community/TimeToRestore>
- **Freeport Bryan Beach Cleanup (online registration)** - 8/23, 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon - contact Celeste Silling (csilling@gcbo.org) or visit the GCBO website
- Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA) - contact Oron Atkins.

O. Atkins stated they have two (2) projects - boardwalk replacements at GCBO and over the slough at the BNWR Discovery Center. There also are some renovation projects at the GCBO field house.

Final Items

- K. Pittman reminded members our 25th anniversary will be next year. The Board is looking for suggestions about how to celebrate YOUR accomplishments over the course of the year. Send your ideas - big or small. She also asked that members let the Board know about any historical photos or a good story to share.

Meeting AT and VT Hours

- AT - 1.5 hours

AT - I received training (Adv Training) TMN
Arlon Motsch, Photography

- VT - 0.75 hours plus drive time

CB - Chapter Business and Admin
Chapter Meetings
Aug Gen Mtg.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 10.

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.

Attendance:	In-person	57
	Virtual	6
	Total	63



Cradle of Texas Chapter
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<https://txmn.org/tmncot/>

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

cc: Board Members
Piper Sparkman, AgriLIFE Secretary (piper.sparkman@ag.tamu.edu)