



Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:08 PM Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman welcomed attendees and those participating online, with special recognition of our interns, Julie Orr and Nanette Daugherty, as well as those celebrating September birthdays. Kathy introduced and thanked Brigid from the Brazoria County Library System for the desserts provided as thanks for volunteer work during the BCLS summer reading series. Brigid mentioned the library sites now have explorer backpacks available for check out, as well as seed libraries.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the August 13, 2025, meeting was sent to the TMN-COT distribution list for review prior to the meeting. Members approved the minutes as presented upon the motion of Betty Skweres, which was seconded by Oron Atkins.

Membership (Volunteer Hours, Certifications & Milestones)

Barbara Whaley
John Boettiger

B. Whaley announced the names of the new interns in the fall training class and thanked volunteers Mel McKey and Patty Brinkmeyer for their assistance with orientation on September 6. She also presented certificates for initial certification to Jodi Jung, who earned her certificate in March, and to Alyssa Corona.

J. Boettiger announced Lisa Martinez and Amanda Smith achieved recertification and noted 58 recertifications had been reached this year. He also presented Barbara Whaley with her 1,000-hour volunteer pin.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

VMS Data –

		August	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	511	9,382
	AT	77	1,484
	Total	588	10,866
Impact Data*	Adults	28	3,321
	Youth	0	9,836
	Total	28	13,157

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

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (XHX) - September 13 and 20, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, Volunteers are needed only for September 20; contact Celeste Silling, csilling@gcbo.org.
- Youth Fishing Day, Sea Center Texas - September 13, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, contact Jordan Kieffer, jordan.kieffer@tpwd.texas.gov.



- BCPD Kid's Fishfest at Bass Pro Shops in Pearland, TX - October 18, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, contact Nathan Murphy, nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov.
- KBR Kids' Day, Buffalo Bayou Park - October 19, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm; 13-14 volunteers are needed, contact Ruby Lewis, rubylewis77515@ymail.com.
- Sea Center Texas (SCT) Halloween Spooktacular - October 26, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, contact Ruby Lewis, rubylewis77515@ymail.com.

Ruby mentioned another event, Trunk or Treat at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton, on October 25, although details are pending. Please contact Ruby by phone, 979.583.7903 or e-mail, rubylewis77515@ymail.com.

AT Presentation - Karin Saucedo, Texas State Coordinator, Project Coyote, certified TMN (Black Land Prairie Chapter, North Texas) and Co-founder, Song Dog Watch, with Robert Saucedo - "Project Coyote".

BREAK - Thank you to Brazoria County Library System and to our members who brought snacks, desserts and other refreshments for the meeting!

Bat Acoustic Monitoring Project

Mickey Dufilho

M. Dufilho provided a brief overview of the bat project sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Texas Nature Trackers, with our chapter being one (1) of 38 participating chapters across the state. She mentioned it was named "Project of the Year", having been nominated by the Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP). Mickey noted the U.S. and Canada have 47 species of bats, half of which are considered "Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)". Texas has 33 species of bats, of which Brazoria may have at least 12. She and Larry Peterson analyzed the data and submitted it to TPWD. Based on scientifically documented specimens, nine (9) met criteria as SGCNs, one (1) of which is under review for federal listing as endangered (tri-colored bat). Mickey closed by introducing members of the bat monitoring team who just completed the second year of the five (5)-year monitoring project. In a fun, light-hearted moment, Oron Atkins gifted her with a "bat" headpiece, which Mickey promptly donned.

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

Kristine Rivers

The event will be held at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Registration opened September 2, with a good response. K. Pittman reminded members there will be no regular meeting in October.

Financial Report

Don Sabathier

K. Pittman gave an overview of the report for D. Sabathier:

COT TREASURER REPORT

August 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 13,783.95
Revenue Summary	159.93
Expense Summary	<u>0.00</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 13,943.88



Full income statement:

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025													
	2025										Totals	Budget Delta	
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September			
Opening Balance		\$10,235.82	\$12,610.89	\$12,315.57	\$12,951.55	\$14,060.88	15,237.08	14,937.33	\$13,783.95				
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	0.23			1.80	8.20
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 fee	100	238.67	101.49						9.50			110.99	-10.99
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	9.73	0.00		7,326.87	-3,626.87
New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		150.00				450.91	150.20			1,802.51	3,447.49
INCOME TOTALS	8,950	\$2,597.35	799.02	1,873.65	1,222.83	2,000.24	0.25	476.11	159.93	0.00		9,129.38	-179.38
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 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							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
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 Supplie	400											0.00	400.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175					46.99		46.99				93.98	81.02
TDECU Returned Check for ISF				1,000.00								1,000.00	-1,000.00
TDECU Check/Amazon Debit				32.00				9.50				41.50	-41.50
Sub Total	9,235	222.28	1,019.34	1,237.67	52.40	778.05	300.00	1,629.49	0.00	0		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	3,550	0.00	75.00	0.00	61.1	45.99	0	0	0.00	0.00		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	0.00	0.00		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	13,943.88				
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: \$0.67/mile													



Fall Intern Training

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman mentioned the training class opened with orientation 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- **Texas GLO Adopt-a-Beach 2025 Coastal Fall Clean-up** (Statewide beach clean-up, locally, Quintana Beach and Surfside/County Beaches) - 9/20, 8:30 am - 12:00 Noon. See the newsletter for the registration link (Location 5 = Stahlman Park)
- **BCPD Adopt-a-Beach Fall Clean-up** - 9/20, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Stahlman Park, 2211 Bluewater Hwy., Surfside Beach. Contact Nathan Murphy (nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov) or see BCPD event calendar
- **Beach Sweep** – 10/06, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintana Beach, 16th Street entrance (directly across from Freeport LNG Headquarters) – contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas (jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com, mshluhu@gmail.com)
- **Set up for XHX GCBO** - Friday, 9/12, 8:00 am - 11:00 am and Friday, 9/19, 8:00 - 9:30 am. Contact Oron Atkins (oronatkins3@gmail.com)
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – Thursday, 9/18 and Saturday, 9/20 (3rd Saturdays and preceding Thursdays), 8:00 am - 11:00 am – contact Kathy Pittman (pittmankw4@aol.com)
- Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA) - contact Oron Atkins (oronatkins3@gmail.com)
- **Exploration Green Workday** – every Wed., 8:30 am to 11:30 am – contact Christie Taylor (<https://www.explorationgreen.org/>)
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
- **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)
- **Time to Restore Project** – self-directed, contact Kathy Pittman <https://www.usanpn.org/community/TimeToRestore>

All VT and AT opportunities can be found on the website Calendar.

Phishing Scams/E-mails

Kathy Pittman

We have seen an uptick in bogus e-mails recently which is happening to many organizations so please be aware and use discretion.

- Don't click on anything, don't forward and don't reply to unsolicited e-mails from an unfamiliar source.
- We will not ask you if you shop at Amazon, ask for a favor or ask for a check, etc.
- Look at the originating address - usually, but not always, it's bogus.
- If in doubt about the request, e-mail or call the person separately (i.e., don't just hit "reply")
- Be cautious with any unsolicited e-mail and be careful where you "surf" for your information. Don't fall for "clickbait".



Final Items

Kathy Pittman

- Next year will be our 25th anniversary. We are looking for suggestions about how to celebrate YOUR accomplishments over the course of the year. Please 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 - 2.0 hours
AT - I received training (Adv Training) TMN
Karin Saucedo - "Project Coyote"
- VT - 0.50 hours plus drive time
CB - Chapter Business and Admin
Chapter Meetings
Sep Gen Mtg.

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

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Attendance:	In-person	43
	Virtual	<u>16</u>
	Total	59

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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