

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 9:00 am – 11:00 am (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:03 am Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathy Pittman welcomed our four (4) interns and others in attendance and participating online.

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees	Present
Kathy Pittman (President)	X	Mickey Dufilho (Immediate Past President)	A
Jimmy Salinas (Vice-President/Programs)	X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	X
Kathy Purvis (Secretary)	X	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	X
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	V	Donna Rich (2024 Class Rep.)	X
Chapter Advisor(s)		Betty Skweres (2025 Class Rep.)	X
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	X	Barbara Whaley (New Class Dir.)	X
Jordan Kieffer (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	A	Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	X
Guests/Other		Patty Brinkmeyer (Communications Dir.)	V
Luanne Salinas	X	Kristine Rivers (Advanced Training Dir.)	V
Amanda Smith	V	David Skweres (State Rep.)	V
Melanie Hollenshead	A	Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	A
Barbra Lund (Intern)	X	Larry Curtner (Intern)	X
Julie Orr (Intern)	X	Nannette Daugherty (Interns)	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 September 3, 2025, Board meeting was sent via e-mail to Board members for advance review.
- **Minutes Approval – No corrections.**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the August Board minutes	Oron Atkins	John Boettiger	Minutes approved as presented.

Fall Field Day Update

Kristine Rivers

Registration closed September 30 with 67 registrants for the event. K. Rivers stated she would provide registration information to Jimmy and Luanne Salinas to register attendees at the event. O. Atkins advised he planned to set up for Fall Field Day on Tuesday, October 7.

Action Register Review/Updates

Kathy Pittman

- Plaques - Milestone award plaques are finished. Bridgett will deliver them to AgriLIFE, and K. Pittman will get them framed.
- The slate of nominees for Board positions will be presented at the November general meeting. Nominations from the floor will be solicited that same evening.

- Brochures - P. Brinkmeyer reported the brochures are complete. She checked printing costs locally (21¢ for 2,000) vs. online (18 - 19¢). K. Pittman asked her to send the brochure to Hannah Ferguson for her review/approval first, then order them. Kathy will also clarify whether we need a vote.

President's Report

Kathy Pittman

From the September President's meeting

- Partner Organization survey – to be emailed/sent on or about October 1 to partners and other organizations we work with (5 - 10, including our advisors). This is part of an initiative where we are being helped by Texan by Nature, a conservation non-profit organization founded by Laura Bush.

Discussion noted this will include our partners such as the Brazoria County Library System, Delores Fenwick Nature Park, Village of Quintana, AgriLife, Sea Center Texas and the Refuge parks.

- For the next 12 - 18 months, the TMN Program will receive support from Texan by Nature's conservation accelerator program to develop our strategic plan and amplify our impact to reach new heights.

- Learn more about the [TMN Conservation Wrangler project](https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/texas_master-naturalist-program-named-as-a-texan-by_nature-2025-conservation-wrangler/) here:

https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/texas_master-naturalist-program-named-as-a-texan-by_nature-2025-conservation-wrangler/

- Learn more about all the [2025 Conservation Wranglers](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250401_084483/en/Texan-by-Nature-Announces-2025-Conservation-Wranglers) here:

https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250401_084483/en/Texan-by-Nature-Announces-2025-Conservation-Wranglers

- Lots of the same annual meeting info.... We can order textbooks and pick up. Barbara will send in an order for the books. K. Pittman will pick them up at the State meeting and pay for them. Kathy will also pick up orders from the pop-up shop.
- Supposed to start up State Rep network at some time.
- Something will be added to governing documents about activities outside a Chapter's area/county.
- Endowment is now at \$213K and accepting donations. The presidents' meeting discussed that we want to encourage donations.

Other Items:

- GCBO 30th anniversary in 2026 - Kathy talked with Martin about considering co-sponsoring a family event of some kind with us for our 25th anniversary.
- Pollinator workshop - Kimberly Mayer, MGs, TMNs, and other groups – June 20 or 27, which will coincide with National Pollinator Week.
- Award "plaques" are complete and will be delivered to AgriLife. Bridgett will let Kathy know about the printing costs.
- Storage room was moved – we need to organize the space and make keys for a couple officers. J. O'Connell has the key, but the room is not locked.
- Zoom account – The Webinar option appears cost much more than anticipated. P. Brinkmeyer has not yet checked into this. She had no problem with Teams; however, K. Rivers reported it took her 10 minutes to get into Teams.



We still need a Zoom account for intern training and miscellaneous meetings; the account will expire in June or July. The “pro” version would be under \$200 per year, as we can get a nonprofit rate. The webinar add-on is about \$500. J. O'Connell noted reiterated this is an equipment problem, particularly with the general meeting. We will continue doing what we can to manage this.

Vice President /Programs

Jimmy Salinas

- October - Fall Field Day
- November - Lauren Ward, "Honeybees"
- December - Mary Schwartz, "Vultures"; Intern Graduation
- January - February - not scheduled

Secretary

Kathy Purvis

K. Purvis had nothing to report.

Treasurer

Don Sabathier

D. Sabathier reported interest income of 23¢ and expenses related to the bat models and the annual meeting fee during September. He presented the summary report as follows (refer to attached Item 2 for the Full Income Statement):

COT TREASURER REPORT

September 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 13,943.88
Revenue Summary	625.75
Expense Summary	<u>1,230.30</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$13,339.33

**Membership
VMS**

John Boettiger

Data pending.

Training Update

Barbara Whaley

B. Whaley reported she had had a lot of help from the training team. The location for the entomology class, scheduled for 10/15, has not been set. Options include GCBO and BNWR. K. Pittman also suggested Camp Mohawk and will send Barbara the contact information.

Eco Gator Partnership Request

**Kathy Pittman
Oron Atkins**

K. Pittman addressed a formal request recently received for a partnership with Eco Gators, an official environmental club on campus at Brazosport College. Two (2) of our TMN members are affiliated with the club - Cris Tobala, a faculty member at the college and co-advisor, and Sharajane Marcy, a student member, as well as a student who attended the TMN-COT 2024 training class and intends to become a member when she reaches 18th years of age. B. Whaley will check with the State office with regard to delayed TMN designation.

Oron reported he met with S. Marcy to discuss the request and suggested a VPAR be created. The Board will need to vote on moving forward after the VPAR is documented. K. Rivers mentioned Oyster Creek might be a good Eco Fund project and is willing to help guide the group. Kathy stated she would ask Shara to provide a 15-minute presentation about this at the November meeting. A copy of the formal partnership request is attached as Item 3.

Volunteer Service

Oron Atkins

Upcoming VT Opportunities – October/November

- **Exploration Green Workday** – every Wed., 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon – contact Christie Taylor, <https://www.explorationgreen.org/>
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
- **Beach Sweep** – 11/03, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintana Beach, Dewey/16th Street entrance - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol** – Jace Turnell – self-directed, (<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
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – 10/16 and 10/18 (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>
- Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA) are not yet underway - contact Oron Atkins, (oronatkins3@gmail.com)
- **2025 Texas Pollinator BioBlitz** – 10/10 thru 10/26 – self directed
https://www.google.com/search?q=Texas+Pollinators+BioBlitz+2025&rlz=1C1GGGE_enUS582US582&oq=Texas+Pollinators+BioBlitz+2025&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAQIRigATIHCAUQIRigAdIBCTQyMDhqMGoxNagCCLACAfEFpV2ULAYeGyQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Oron reported the construction projects on the Boardwalk and field house at GCBO were approved and funding is available. These have not yet been scheduled, however. During discussion about the Pollinator Bioblitz, Patty offered to lend her trifold board display about making a yard pollinator friendly.

Outreach

Ruby Lewis

- **Kid's Fishfest** at Bass Pro Shops in Pearland, TX - 10/18, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, contact Nathan Murphy
- **KBR Kids' Day** at Buffalo Bayou Park - Sunday, 10/19, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, contact Ruby Lewis (7 additional volunteers are needed)
- **Angleton First Presbyterian Church Fall Festival "Trunk or Treat"** - 10/25, details pending, contact Ruby Lewis
- **Sea Center Texas Halloween Spooktacular** - 10/26, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, contact Ruby Lewis, Celeste Silling or Jordan Kieffer
- **KPB Plant Thyme Luncheon**, Pearland - 11/07, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, contact Kathy Pittman

The DEEP schedule was cancelled. Ruby offered to bring the reptiles for Kids' Fishfest. She also mentioned she will need about four (4) volunteers for a history re-enactment at Stephen F. Austin Munson Park on 11/07. The wingspan program may be done at Brazos Bend State Park on 12/13 (Holiday in the Park). K. Pittman will reach out to Jessica Bullard for details and directions.



State Representative

David Skweres

D. Skweres had no information to report.

AT Director

Kristine Rivers

K. Rivers discussed Eco Fund 2026 and made a motion for a one-time increase to double the fund to \$1,000 in honor of our 25th anniversary. She suggested the grant could be given for one or more projects. K. Purvis seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Chapter Host

Rose Wagner (absent)

No report.

Class Rep. 2024 Class Rep. Spring 2025

**Donna Rich
 Betty Skweres**

No reports.

Communications

Patty Brinkmeyer/Larry Peterson

Data pending

Chapter Advisors

John O'Connell/Jordan Kieffer

J. O'Connell provided updated information about his presentation at the TMN annual meeting. The University of Minnesota shipped the coastal version of the models to College Station, which are enroute to John. Discussion agreed he would do the "run through" of the presentation with as many as 26 participants after lunch on AT Day (10/08) at the GCBO pavilion. K. Rivers advised she would send out an announcement.

He also addressed Sea Center activities, which continue under routine operations.

New Business

All

Oron Atkins announced the second annual Figtoberfest in Angleton is being hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for Brazoria County on October 4 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. He referred to an e-mail sent by Kristine about this event, which is eligible for 2.5 hours advanced training credit.

General Meeting Agenda – There will be no General Meeting in October. Please plan to attend Field Day on October 8 at GCBO. The next general meeting will be held on November 12 at 6:00 pm. Please send any meeting agenda items to Kathy Pittman no later than SUNDAY evening prior.

The next Board meeting will be November 5 at 9:00 am. Please send any agenda items to Kathy Pittman by Sunday evening prior.

President Kathy Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:59 am.



Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Item 1. Attendance Record 2025

Attendance 2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Kathy Pittman - President	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Jimmy Salinas -VP	X	X	X	X	X	A		X	X	X			
Kathy Purvis - Secretary	X	X	A	X	X	X		X	V	X			
Don Sabathier - Treasurer	V	V	X	V	V	V		X	X	V			
Advisors													
John O'Connell - AgrLife	X	X	X	X	A	X		X	X	X			
Jordan Kieffer - TPWD	V	X	A	V	V	V		X	V	A			
Immediate Past President													
Mickey Duffilho	A	A	X	A	X	X		X	X	A			
Appointed Board/Committee Members													
Oron Atkins - Volunteer Ops	X	X	X	A	X	X		X	X	X			
John Boettiger- Membership	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Donna Rich - 2024 Intern Rep	X	X	A	A	X	X		X	X	X			
Betty Skweres - 2025 Class Rep					A	X		X	X	X			
Melanie Hollenshead - Training	A	A	A										
Barbara Whaley - Training			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Ruby Lewis - Outreach	A	A	A	A	X	V		X	V	X			
Larry Peterson - Communications	V	V	X	X	X	X		V					7
Patty Brinkmeyer - Communications									A	V			
David Skweres - State Rep					V	X		X	X	V			
Kristine Rivers - AT	X	X	X	X	V	V		V	X	V			
Rose Wagner, Chapter Host	A	A	X	X	V	A		X	X	A			
Patty Brinkmeyer (see above)	V	V	X	A	A	V		X					5
Guests													
Luanne Salinas	X	X	X	X	X	A		X	X	X			
Amanda Smith								X	V	V			
Barbara Lund (Intern)										X			
Larry Curtner (Intern)										X			
Julie Orr (Intern)										X			
Nanette Daugherty (Intern)										X			



Item 2. Full Income Statement (August)

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												0.00	1,500.00
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	1,500											0.00	1,500.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1,200											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: c67/mile



Item 3

From: smarcy76@gmail.com

To: Kathy Pittman

Wed, Sep 10 at 5:04 PM

Dear Texas Master Naturalists,

I am writing to formally request a partnership between the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter and the Eco Gators, an official student club at Brazosport College. The Eco Gators is an environmental club on campus, and we believe a collaboration would be mutually beneficial for both organizations and we would appreciate your help and expertise.

The Eco Gators club was officially recognized in August 2025 and was founded by Ocean Landreneau, who attended the TMN Cradle of Texas 2024 training classes and plans to become a TMN member when she turns 18. Additionally, Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas member Sharajane Marcy is a student and member of the club, and Ms. Tobola, also a TMN Cradle of Texas member, is one of the club's co-advisors.

The students in the Eco Gators Club are eager to learn how to live more sustainably, participate in guided nature walks, host beach cleanups, and gain a deeper understanding of their local natural environment and how they can contribute to improving their community.

Here are some ways the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter could support the Eco Gators:

- * Provide speakers for educational presentations.
- * Offer guides for outdoor experiences.
- * Share career exploration ideas for students.
- * Provide guidance and advice for potential wildlife habitat areas on campus.
- * Offer guidance on developing a native plant and pollinator garden.

I have attached a few photos from the Student Involvement Fair and the official bylaws for your review. Please let me know if you are open to discussing this opportunity further. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shara Marcy

Kindly,

Sharajane Marcy

smarcy0336@brazosport.edu | smarcy76@gmail.com
979-824-4277 | 979-285-1031

“Everybody can be great, because everyone can serve.”



- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Email included several pictures, as well as a copy of the club's governing document/cons



Cradle of Texas Action Item Register - working copy (UPDATED 10/01/25)

Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Status	Comments
VPALS need to be updated for website	Oron and Larry	1st Q 2023	Ongoing	Oron will finish reviewing, create VPALS as needed and send to Larry to post on the website.
Develop Virtual Option - Milestone Plaques	Kathy Pittman		in progress	<p>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</p> <p>May 2024 - KP - I have the plaques back from the engravers and will send pictures to Bridgitt this month.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Nov 24 - no response from B. Norris. Will reach out to next graphic arts contact</p> <p>Dec 2024 - B Norris continues to update. We are waiting for Chapter logo from State in SVG format</p> <p>Mar 2025 - Logos received in Jan and forwarded to Bridgitt. Contacted her and she will work on it.</p> <p>April 2025 - prelim layout completed and Larry set up test version to view online.</p> <p>May 2025 - layout completed and names sent to Bridgitt for final versions. She will have October 2025 - Milestone award plaques are finished and will be delivered to AgriLife. K. Pittman will get them framed.</p>
Plan redo of TMN-COT brochure	Patty B	June review	Revision complete	<p>Dec 2024 no progress.</p> <p>Mar 2025 - Kathy Purvis volunteered to review wording and suggest updates.</p> <p>June 2025 - Patty will do updates.</p> <p>Sept 2025 - Draft is done and Patty has sent out for review. Need to change a picture or two & add TPWD logo.</p> <p>October 2025 - The brochures are complete. P. Brinkmeyer will send the brochure to Hannah Ferguson for her review & approval before placing a print order.</p>
25th Anniversary Celebration	Kathy Pittman	Jan-26	in progress	<p>June 2025 - K. Pittman proposed we do different things to recognize our Chapter anniversary throughout the year. Discussion included ideas such as planting a tree, highlighting the original class, get a proclamation and consider honorary memberships for commissioners. A planning committee might be helpful.</p> <p>August 2025 - Consider a planning committee to help.</p>
Use of extra Funds	Kathy Pittman	Jan-26	in progress	<p>August 2025 -The Board discussed use of extra funds available and agreed to purchase a table for pond life exhibits and for the Chapter's 25th anniversary project.</p>