

Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

6:00 PM Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman welcomed attendees and those online, including interns Becky Blaylock, Barbara Lund and Julie Orr, and our speakers and visitors, Becky Blaylock's daughter, Kelly, and Angela Steinhauer and co-worker, Jesus Esquivel. She also gave special recognition to our attending veterans and five (5) members with November birthdays.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the September 10, 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 Marty Cornell, seconded by Ed Barrios.

Membership

John Boettiger

J. Boettiger reported the following recertifications, noting 74 members have recertified as of October:

September

Recertifications:	Jackie Hicks	Rainbo Johnson	Nicole Lochmann
	Karen Mosis	Mac Mosis	Gene Taylor

October

Recertifications:	Kimberly Calhoun	Mike Hampy	Christina Hartmann
	Jodi Jung	Carolyn May-Monie	Lynne Ray
	Betty Skweres	David Skweres	Brenda Stitt
	Robin Townsend		

Milestones Kathy Purvis (1,000 hours)

Congratulations to all!

VMS Data

		September	October	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	1,030	570	11,096
	AT	<u>199</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>1,939</u>
	Total	1,229	811	13,035
Impact data*	Adults	125	169	3,615
	Youth	<u>82</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,918</u>
	Total	207	169	13,533

**will not be considered final until mid-December 2025*



AT Presentations

- 1) "Native Bees of Texas" by Lauren Ward, a Honey Bee Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Brazoria County, with more than 10 years in research, education and practical beekeeping, and who holds a master's degree in Entomology. Contact her at lauren.ward@ag.tamu.edu.
- 2) "Yellow-legged Hornet Trapping" by Angela Steinhauer, Chief Apiary Inspector for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service at Texas A&M and has a great interest in monitoring for this insect that has advanced as close as Georgia. Contact her at angela.steinhauer@ag.tamu.edu.

Unfortunately, the virtual connection to our meeting dropped following the presentations. Kathy Pittman presented reports for those who were attending virtually.

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

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman announced the Nominating Committee offered the proposed slate of officers for the Chapter for 2026:

President	Kathy Pittman
Vice President	Jimmy Salinas
Secretary	Donna Rich
Treasurer	Amanda Smith

She asked for nominations from the floor, with none made and stated voting would take place at the December general meeting. Kathy also recognized and thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their work in soliciting candidates: Mickey Dufilho (chair), Jordan Kieffer (co-advisor), John O'Connell (co-advisor) and Melanie Hollenshead.

Cradle of Texas Master Naturalist Class of 2004 - Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast

Ed Barrios will host the annual party at his home, assisted by chief cook, Marty Cornell. M. Dufilho will create and send out an E-vite invitation with pertinent information. She requested members RSVP by December 8 to give the organizers an idea of the number attending.

Treasurer

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman presented the summary reports as follows for Don Sabathier due to the lost connection (refer to attached Item 1 for the Full Income Statement which includes all prior months to October 2025):

COT TREASURER REPORT

September 2025		October 2025	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$13,943.88	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$13,339.55
Revenue Summary	625.97	Revenue Summary	175.22
Expense Summary	<u>1,230.30</u>	Expense Summary	<u>1,104.53</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$13,339.55	ENDING BALANCE	12,410.24

Expenses in the month were mostly related to the bat project, Eco Fund and state meeting. Mickey Dufilho is creating a bat display that will be used for teaching. We will talk about dues in January.

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- **DEEP** (pending) - 11/18 and 11/20, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm, volunteers are needed - contact Lee Gaston, lee_gaston@fws.gov
- **Captain Shiska Bob** - 11/17 - 11/19, Fairgrounds - interactive water cycle spinner game; servers and other volunteers are needed, contact John O'Connell, john.oconnell@ag.tamu.edu
- **Brazos Bend State Park, "Holiday in the Park"** - 12/13, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, contact Ruby Lewis, rubylewis77515@ymail.com
- **BNWR Discovery Center Open House** - 12/26 - 1/01, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, contact Ruby Lewis, rubylewis77515@ymail.com

K. Pittman mentioned we needed volunteers for the Captain Shiska Bob event on Tuesday and Wednesday and would need 4-6 volunteers, hopefully birders, for the Wingspan activity at Brazos Bend State Park's Holiday in the Park program. All VT and AT opportunities can be found on the chapter's website calendar.

Upcoming VT Opportunities

Kathy Pittman

- **Beach Sweep** – Tuesday, 12/02, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintana Beach, Dewey/16th Street entrance - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas, jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com & msluhu@gmail.com
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – 11/13 (11/15 cancelled), 9:00 am - 12:00 pm – contact Kathy Pittman
- Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA) - contact Oron Atkins, oronatkins3@gmail.com
- Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) - 12/14, 12/15, 12/16, 12/19, 12/20/25 and 1/03/2026; see calendar for event locations and details
- **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
- **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, utc_aal@yahoo.com
- **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>

Oron mentioned renovation at the GCBO field house was tentatively scheduled for 11/24. He asked those interested in helping to send him an e-mail, oronatkins3@gmail.com. Kathy also mentioned we would talk about a new volunteer project opportunity with EcoGators, a student organization at Brazosport College.

ECO Fund Applications

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman mentioned the fund award would be a maximum of \$1,000 since we have had additional donations come in this year. She referred to funds given for past projects included Brenda Stitt's planting project and John O'Connell's board games and encouraged members to apply by the December 31st deadline.

Spring AT Day

Kathy Pittman

K. Pittman presented for Kristine Rivers, noting it is time to begin planning our 2026 Spring AT Day. The tentative theme for 2026 will focus on water in various ways, including hands-on training activities. Planning will begin soon and volunteers are needed. Those interested in helping plan the event should contact Kristine Rivers.

Other Items

- Our next intern class will start in February 2026. Melanie Hollenshead will take the lead on this class.
- Send your pictures and news items for our newsletter to Patty Brinkmeyer at news@tmn-cot.org. The submission deadline is 5:00 pm on Thursday before the last weekend of the month. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.
- John Boettiger mentioned that Emily Howard has also recertified.

Meeting AT and VT Hours (* Hours you may count or a portion thereof)

VT - 0.75 hours plus drive time

Opportunity: CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin (Chapter Admin)

Project Category: Chapter Meeting

Service Description: November Chapter meeting

AT- 1.25 hours plus drive time

Opportunity: AT: I Received Training (Advanced Training): TMN AT

Chapter Meeting

Service Description: November Chapter meeting

The next General meeting will be held at 9:00 am on Wednesday, December 10, with social time at 9:30 am. We will elect board officers, our interns will present their project and graduate. Mary Schwartz will present "Vultures" for our AT.

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Attendance:	In-person	45
	Virtual	<u>11</u>
	Total	56

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Item 1 – September and October 2025 Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

		2025													
Budget		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	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	\$13,783.95	\$13,943.88	\$13,339.55				
INCOME ITEMS															
Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90	673.55	699.64	174.85			24.95		25.00	25.00			2,781.89	468.11
Interest Income	10.00	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.22	0.22			2.24	7.76
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					349.66	-249.66
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	25.22	25.22	0.00	0.00	7,377.31	-3,677.31
New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		150.00				450.91	150.20	600.75	150.00			2,353.26	2,696.74
INCOME TOTALS	8,950	\$2,597.35	799.02	1,873.65	1,222.83	2,000.24	0.25	476.11	159.93	625.97	175.22	0.00	0.00	9,930.57	-980.57
A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	\$

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

	2025														
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget Delta
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 Di	1,750		869.34	59.60						115.89	326.73			1,371.56	378.44
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										480.00	777.80				
Registration & Expenses	1,500													1,257.80	242.20
State Meeting Sponsorship &															
Scholarships	750						300							300.00	450.00
Materials	500													0.00	500.00
EcoFund Projects	500									495.00				495.00	5.00
Field Research Bat Project	1,000			146.07		759.05				124.44				1,029.56	-29.56
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400									14.97				14.97	385.03
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175				46.99			46.99						93.98	81.02
TDECU Returned Check for ISF				1000.00											
TDECU Check/Amazon Debit				32				9.50							
Sub Total	9235	222.28	1,019.34	1,237.67	52.40	778.05	300.00	1,629.49	0.00	1230.3	1,104.53	0.00	0.00	7,574.06	1,660.94
A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	\$

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

2025															Totals	Budget Delta
Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December				
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	182.09	3,367.91	
EXPENSE TOTALS	12,785.00 (3,835)	222.28	1,094.34	1,237.67	113.50	824.04	300	1,629.49	0.00	1,230.30	1,104.53	0.00	0.00	7,796.15	5,028.85	

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 13,339.55 12,410.24 0.00 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