

**Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 9:00 am - 11:00 am (HYBRID)**  
**at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**9:00 am Call to Order**

**Kathy Pittman**

K. Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and requested Ruby Lewis to present while minor technical adjustments were made.

**Outreach Opportunities**

**Ruby Lewis**

- **Holiday in the Park, Brazos Bend State Park** - 12/13, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; we will do Wingspan, contact Ruby Lewis
- **BNWR Discovery Center Open House** - 12/26 - 1/01, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; contact Ruby Lewis

Ruby circulated the volunteer sign-up sheets. K. Pittman noted the BNWR open house is a large event and attracts visitors both around and beyond the country. Ruby mentioned she had received late notice about a fish event being held at Sea Center on Saturday, 12/13 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

**Approval of the General Meeting Minutes**

The draft copy of the minutes of the November 12, 2025, meeting was sent to the TMN-COT distribution list for review prior to the meeting. No changes were requested. Members approved the minutes as presented upon the motion of Mike Hampy, seconded by Barbara Whaley.

**Welcome**

K. Pittman welcomed attendees and those online, as well as guests, Bob Daugherty (Nanette Daugherty) and James Barnes (Susan Barnes). She also recognized those with December birthdays.

**Membership**

**John Boettiger**

K. Pittman gave the November reports as follows:

<b>Initial Certification:</b>	None		
<b>Recertifications:</b>	Ed Barrios	Ruby Lewis	
	Georgia Monnerat	John O'Connell	
<b>Milestones:</b>	<b>Kyle Purvis (500)      Cris Tobola (1,000)</b>		

**Congratulations to all!**

**VMS Data**

		November	Year to Date	
<b>Hours*</b>	VT	521	11,824	<i>Note: VMS data will not be considered final until mid-January 2026</i>
	AT	50	2,056	
	Total	571	13,880	
<b>Impact data*</b>	Adults	204	5,159	
	Youth	376	13,406	
	Total	580	18,565	

## 2026 Proposed Officer Slate

**Kathy Pittman**

K. Pittman presented the proposed Chapter officer slate for 2026 as follows:

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

Kathy called for floor nominations, noting the individuals must be present. There being no nominations from the floor, Kristine Rivers entered a motion for vote on the proposed slate, seconded by Betty Skweres and approved by vote. Members voted unanimously to approve the 2026 slate of officers as presented. K. Pittman thanked Mickey Dufilho and members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

**AT Presentation** - Mary Schwartz, TMN-COT Class of 2018 and former training director from 2019 - 2022, presented "Vultures: Birds with a Purpose"

**BREAK** - Members enjoyed the delicious, decorated cake in celebration of our graduating interns!

## Graduation for the 2025 Fall Intern Class

B. Whaley called the names of the graduating interns to come forward, introduced them and formally welcomed them to the TMN-COT Chapter:

Susan Barnes	Becky Blaylock	Larry Curtner
Nanette Daugherty	Barbara Lund	Ronald McLaughlin
Julie Orr	Carrie Scott	Ed Stiles
Shannon Wilson		

On behalf of the graduating interns, Susan Barnes presented the November 19 class project to the Chapter, Follet's Island (Public Access #3) Beach Clean-up. The group recorded approximately 60 lb. of trash picked up with the Ocean Conservancy trash collection app, Clean Swell®.

K. Pittman asked about the next intern class. Barbara stated she expected to have 19 members. Melanie Hollenshead will direct the training, which will have evening classes.

## Great Texas Bat Bridge Survey

**Mickey Dufilho**

M. Dufilho gave a short presentation about this new opportunity, which is a partnership of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) - Texas Nature Trackers and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). It involves teams of at least two (2) people conducting surveys of bridge structures for the presence of bats and/or swallows. There are 3,000 TxDOT bridges in the Greater Houston area. The surveys are to be held between sunup and sundown on seven (7) Sundays from December 2025 - August 2026. Mickey is planning a training session in January, and the team will train volunteers in the field as well.

## Upcoming VT Opportunities

Kathy Pittman

- **Beach Sweep** – Monday, 1/05, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintana Beach, meet at the jetties, not the 16th Street entrance - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas, [jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com](mailto:jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com) & [mslulu@gmail.com](mailto:mslulu@gmail.com)
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – 12/18 and 12/20, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm – contact Kathy Pittman
- **Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA)** - contact Oron Atkins, [oronatkins3@gmail.com](mailto:oronatkins3@gmail.com)
- **Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's)** - 12/14 - 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](mailto:utc_aal@yahoo.com)
- **TMN-COT iNaturalist Data Collection Project** - contact Amanda Gabehart, [sylshessa@aol.com](mailto:sylshessa@aol.com)
- **Time to Restore Project** – self-directed, contact Kathy Pittman  
<https://www.usanpn.org/community/TimeToRestore>

L. Salinas corrected the Quintana beach sweep location for 1/05, relocated to the jetties, not 16th Street. O. Atkins mentioned the GCBO project underway, a couple of boardwalks and some larger projects coming up. He recently sent out information about a project for planting wetlands plant materials along the bank at the Eagle Nest Lake Unit on 12/11. Information is posted on the website calendar. K. Rivers stated she also needs help with the Freeport Christmas Bird Count, which can be done in the afternoons.

## ECO Fund Applications

Kristine Rivers

K. Rivers noted the fund award, normally \$500, was doubled this year to a maximum of \$1,000 this. She urged members with special projects to submit their applications by the December 31 deadline.

## Spring AT Day

Kristine Rivers

K. Rivers talked about our 2026 Spring AT Day, with a focus on water in various ways, including hands-on training activities. The first planning meeting will be held via Zoom at 2:00 pm and volunteers are needed. Those interested in helping plan the event should contact Kristine Rivers.

## Treasurer

Don Sabathier

D. Sabathier presented the summary report for November (refer to the Full Income Statement attached as Item 1). K. Pittman noted was his last after having served as treasurer the past 10 years.

### November 2025

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$ 12,410.24
Revenue Summary	0.20
Expense Summary	<u>869.69</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	\$11,540.75

Membership dues are coming up in January and must be paid by the end of March. Don encouraged

anyone with questions to contact our new Treasurer, Amanda Smith ([embrey.amanda16@gmail.com](mailto:embrey.amanda16@gmail.com)).

## Other Items

- Our next intern class will start in February 2026. Please tell your friends!
- Send your pictures and news items for our newsletter to Patty Brinkmeyer at [news@tmn-cot.org](mailto: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.
- K. Pittman encouraged our new graduates and other members to attend the annual "Hog Wild Holiday Party".

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

VT - 1.0 hours plus travel time

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

Project Category: Chapter Meeting

Service Description: December Chapter meeting

AT- 1.25 hours plus drive time

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

Service Description: Mary Schwartz, "Vultures: Birds with a Purpose", and Susan Barnes (for  
Graduating Intern Class, Fall 2025), "Follet's Island (Public Access #3) Beach Clean-up"

The next General meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, with social time at 5:30 pm.

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Attendance:	In-person	48
	Virtual	10
	Total	58

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Purvis, Secretary

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

Item 1 – November 2025 Income Statement

	2025	COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025												Budget Delta		
		Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
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	\$12,410.24				
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>																
1 Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90	673.55	699.64	174.85				24.95		25.00	25.00		2,781.89	468.11	
1 Interest Income	10.00	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.22			0.25	0.25	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.20		2.44	7.56
1 Member Donations	300	23.79	23.79	23.79	1,047.78	1,000.00									2,119.13	-1,819.13
1 Sponsor/Non-member Donations		10.00		1,000.00		1,000.00									2,010.00	-2,010.00
1 Member Payments for New Shirts	40														0.00	0.00
1 Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100	238.67	101.49												349.66	-249.66
1 Amazon Débit Reimbursement		114.39													114.39	-114.39
1 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	0.20	0.00	7,377.51	-3,677.51	
1 New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		150.00					450.91	150.20	600.75	150.00			2,553.26	2,696.74
1 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	0.20	0.00	9,930.77	-980.77	

	2025	COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025												Budget Delta			
		Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>																	
1 Approved Donations	300		150.00												150.00	150.00	
1 Speakers Bureau															0.00	0.00	
1 Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	200														0.00	200.00	
1 Membership Director Expenses	50														0.00	50.00	
1 Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30	7.52				5.41									12.93	17.07	
1 Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D	1,750		869.34	59.60						115.89	326.73				1,371.56	378.44	
1 Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40														0.00	40.00	
1 Special Recognition	200														0.00	200.00	
1 Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (3 years	1,600								1,573.00						1,573.00	27.00	
1 Godaddy Website maintenance	200	214.76													214.76	-14.76	
1 New Officer/Member Name Tags	40					19.00									19.00	21.00	
1 State Annual Conference										480.00	777.80					1,257.80	242.20
1 Registration & Expenses	1,500																
1 State Meeting Sponsorship &																	
1 Scholarships	750							300.00							300.00	450.00	
1 Materials	500														490.00	10.00	
1 EcoFund Projects	500									495.00					495.00	5.00	
1 Field Research Bat Project	1,000		146.07			759.05				124.44					1,029.56	-29.56	
1 Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400										14.97				14.97	385.03	
1 Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175				46.99			46.99							93.98	81.02	
1 TDECU Returned Check for ISF			1,000.00												1,000.00	-1,000.00	
1 TDECU Check/Amazon Debit			32.00												41.50	-41.50	
1 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	490.00	0.00	8,064.06	1,170.94		

(See Income Statement, continued next page)

## Income Statement, continued)

	A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	S
		2025														
		Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Budget Delta
17	TMN Text Book Order	1500													0.00	1,500.00
18	Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1200												298.94	298.94	901.06
19	Intern Name Tags	150				33.25								80.75	114.00	36.00
20	Intern Class Marketing	100					45.99							45.99	54.01	
21	Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	250												0.00	250.00	
22	Intern Class Supplies	200				27.85								27.85	172.15	
23	Intern Class Scholarships	150												0.00	150.00	
24	Intern Registration Reimbursement		75.00											75.00	-75.00	
25	<b>Sub Total</b>	3550	0.00	75.00	0.00	61.1	45.99	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	379.69	0	561.78	2,988.22
26	<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	12,785.00	222.28	1,094.34	1,237.67	113.50	824.04	300	1,629.49	0.00	1,230.30	1,104.53	869.69	0.00	8,625.84	4,159.16
27		(3,835)														
28	<b>Ending Balance</b>	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	11,540.75	0.00			
29																
30	COT Chapter Lifetime membership Dues \$400.00															
31	COT 2025 Annual Dues \$25.00															
32	2025 Intern Class fee: \$150.00															
33	Members attaining 4,000, 5,000 or 10,000 VT hours are exempt from dues the next calendar year															
34	2025 Travel reimbursement: c67/mile															
35																