



**Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6:00 pm – 8:00pm (HYBRID)**  
**at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

**6:00pm Call to Order**

**Kathy Pittman**

K. Pittman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Approval of the General Meeting Minutes**

The draft copy of the minutes of the December 10, 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 Oron Atkins, seconded by John Boettiger.

**Welcome**

K. Pittman welcomed attendees and those online, as well as guests, Bob Daugherty (Nanette Daugherty) spouse and four interns from the previous class. She also recognized those with January birthdays.

K Pittman also congratulated Kathy Purvis and Don Sabathier for all their work and guidance for the chapter as secretary and treasury. She also recognized the new board members, Donna Rich as secretary, Amanda Smith as Treasury and Nannette Daugherty as Class Representative for the Fall class 2025.

**Membership**

**John Boettiger**

K. Pittman gave the December reports as follows:

<b>Initial Certifications:</b>	Susan Barnes	Nannette Daugherty
<b>Recertifications:</b>	Sarah Castillo	Ayssa Corona
	Brian Hanson	Denis James
	Vicki Kirby	Tara Lawrence-Johnson
	Sharajane Marcy	Nannette Daugherty
<b>Milestones:</b> None		

**Congratulations to all!**

**VMS Data**

		<b>December</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Hours*</b>	<b>VS</b>	541	12,573
	<b>AT</b>	<u>69</u>	<u>2,169</u>
	<b>Total</b>	610	13,880
<b>Impact data*</b>	<b>Adults</b>	590	5,776
	<b>Youth</b>	<u>271</u>	<u>13,465</u>
	<b>Total</b>	861	19,241

*Note: VMS data will not be considered final until mid-January 2026*



Volunteer Time (VT) will now be designated as Volunteer Service (VS) to coordinate with the State's definition.

**AT Presentation** – Barbara Whaley TMN-COT Class of 2023 and training director from 2025 – current, presented "Entomophagy-The Practice of Eating Insects"

**BREAK** – Thank you to the members who brought refreshments!

### **Governing Documents Revisions**

**David Skweres**

Every 3 years, the State Office publishes updates to our Governing Documents.

- ByLaws
- Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP)
- Chapter Operating Handbook (COP)

All members will receive the changes or revisions to the ByLaws, and CMOP. We will vote to adopt these at our February meeting. They will also be given the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct which should be read by all members. The Code of Ethics and the Standards Conduct can be found on the State website under "For Chapters" tab.

The documents committee is currently reviewing the State COH template updates and are working to incorporate them into our Chapter's document.

### **2026 Advanced Training Day: Water. Water Everywhere!**

**Kristine Rivers**

February 28, 2026, 8am to 3 pm, location to be announced when confirmed. Lunch will be provided by the Chapter. Free for Chapter members, and a small fee for non-members.

- Contact Kristine Rivers at [kristine@birdingforfun.com](mailto:kristine@birdingforfun.com), if you would like to help with planning or event set-up! Also please enter the display contest – subjects related to water and water issues.

### **2026 Spring Intern Training**

**Melanie Hollinshead**

Registration is open. The classes start on Saturday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, on Tuesday evenings at Agrilife from 5:30pm to 8:30pm and on Saturdays. See our website for registration details and payment link if interested. Fee is \$150.00 per person. All chapter members are invited to attend intern classes, field trips and enrichment classes and meet the new interns.



**2025 Year in Review**

**Kathy Pittman**

- 12.6K hours of Volunteer Service
- 19.2Km persons impacted
- Est.\$420K financial impact
- 87 members are recertified
- 14 new initial certifications
- 138 members – active, interns and advisors
- Over180 + events members could participate in!
- 2025 Intern training had 14 graduates, with 3.1K At and Initial training hours.

In Memory of those we lost in 2025.... Kim Richardson and Lorna Witt

Thanks for all you do. WE ARE REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION!

**Treasurer**

**Amanda Smith**

K Pittman presented the summary report for December 2025 (refer to the Full Income Statement attached as Item 1).

**December 2025**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$ 11540.75
Revenue Summary	174.30
Expense Summary	<u>1857.64</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$9857.41</b>

Membership dues are due in January and must be paid by the end of March. Dues can be paid online, by mail, in person and through the TDECU. Anyone with questions can contact our new Treasurer, Amanda Smith ([embrey.amanda16@gmail.com](mailto:embrey.amanda16@gmail.com)).

**Great Texas Bat Bridge Survey**

**Mickey Dufilho**

M. Dufilho gave a short presentation about this new opportunity, which is a partnership of the TPWD, Texas Nature Trackers and 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 has planned a training at Agrilife on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 1pm with Addison Gaines with TPWD.



## Upcoming VS Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- **Beach Sweep** – Monday, 2/09, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintina Beach, Dewey/16<sup>th</sup> Street entrance - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas, [jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com](mailto:jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com) & [mshluhu@gmail.com](mailto:mshluhu@gmail.com)
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – Thursday Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and Sat Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm – contact Kathy Pittman
- **Upcoming Construction Projects** (TBA) - contact Oron Atkins, [oronatkins3@gmail.com](mailto:oronatkins3@gmail.com)
- **BCPD Dunes Day** Sat, Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 12pm, Stalman Park, Surfside – Nathan Murphy.
- **Wetlands Planting at Eagle Nest Lake** - 01/16, 01/28, 01/29, 01,30, 02/05 and 02/06 – 9am to 12pm, contact Jennifer Wilson ([Jennifer-Wilson@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer-Wilson@fws.gov))
- **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 Hollingshead
- **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>

O. Atkins mentioned the Yellow-legged Hornet Monitoring project. We need volunteers, please contact [oronatkins3@gmail.com](mailto:oronatkins3@gmail.com).

## Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- **DEEP Sessions @ BNWR** – 02/17 and 02/19, contact Lee Gastonat [lee\\_gaston@fws.gov](mailto:lee_gaston@fws.gov).
- **Stephen F. Foster County Park** – Historical Reenactment, reptile and mammals booth, 02/06

## Final Items

- Cynthia Grandjean discussed that the Plein Air Painting Group will have a show at the Brazosport Art League in Clute, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>-March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Opening night reception is on Feb 20 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

## Questions?

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

VS - 1.25 hours plus travel time

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

Project Category: Chapter Meeting

Service Description: January Chapter meeting

AT- 0.50 hours

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

Service Description: Barbara Whatley, "Entomophagy, The Practice of Eating Insects", Class of 2023 and current Intern training Director.



The next General meeting will be held at 9:00am pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, with social time at 8:30 pm. Bring a Friend!

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm

Attendance:	In-person	41
	Virtual	19
_____	Total	60

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Rich".

Donna Rich, Secretary

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



Item 1 – December 2025 Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2025

2025	Budget												Totals	Budget Delta
	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	\$11,540.75		
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>														
Membership Dues	3,250	1,158.90	673.55	699.64	174.85		24.95		25.00	25.00		24.95	2,806.84	443.16
Interest Income	10.00	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.17	7.39
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											24.22	24.22	-24.22
Special AT-Remote/Non Member fees	100	238.67	101.49					9.50					349.66	-249.66
Amazon Debit Reimbursement		114.39											114.39	-114.39
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>1,545.95</b>	<b>799.02</b>	<b>1,723.65</b>	<b>1,222.83</b>	<b>2,000.24</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>25.20</b>	<b>9.73</b>	<b>25.22</b>	<b>25.22</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>49.34</b>	<b>7,426.85</b>
New Intern Class Receipts	5,250	\$1,051.40		150.00				450.91	150.20	600.75	150.00		124.96	2,678.22
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>8,950</b>	<b>\$2,597.35</b>	<b>799.02</b>	<b>1,873.65</b>	<b>1,222.83</b>	<b>2,000.24</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>476.11</b>	<b>159.93</b>	<b>625.97</b>	<b>175.22</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>174.30</b>	<b>10,105.07</b>
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>														
Approved Donations	300		150.00											150.00
Speakers Bureau														0.00
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	200													0.00
Membership Director Expenses	50													0.00
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30	7.52			5.41									12.93
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Day	1,750		869.34	59.60					115.89		326.73			1,371.56
Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40													0.00
Special Recognition	200													0.00
Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (3 years)	1,600							1,573.00						1,573.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	200	214.76												214.76
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40					19.00								19.00
State Annual Conference Registration & Expenses	1,500								480.00		777.80			829.51
State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750						300.00							711.52
Education Outreach Support Materials	500													1,011.52
EcoFund Projects	500									495.00				490.00
Field Research Bat Project	1,000			146.07		759.05				124.44				101.69
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	400									14.97				596.69
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cakes	175				46.99			46.99						99.98
TDECU Returned Check for ISF				1,000.00										1,029.56
TDECU Check/Amazon Debit				32.00				9.50						14.97
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>9235</b>	<b>222.28</b>	<b>1,019.34</b>	<b>1,237.67</b>	<b>52.40</b>	<b>778.05</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>1,629.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1230.3</b>	<b>1,104.53</b>	<b>490.00</b>	<b>1,642.72</b>	<b>9,706.78</b>
TMN Text Book Order	1500													0.00
Zeiglers-Intern T-Shirts	1200												298.94	1,500.00
Intern Name Tags	150			33.25									80.75	298.94
Intern Class Marketing	100					45.99								114.00
Intern Class - Zoom Annual fees	250													36.00
Intern Class Supplies	200				27.85									45.99
Intern Class Scholarships	150													54.01
Intern Registration Reimbursement			75.00											0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3550</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>45.99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>379.69</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>12,785.00</b>	<b>222.28</b>	<b>1,094.34</b>	<b>1,237.67</b>	<b>113.50</b>	<b>824.04</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,629.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,230.30</b>	<b>1,104.53</b>	<b>869.69</b>	<b>1,857.64</b>	<b>10,483.48</b>
	(3,835)													2,301.52
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	11,540.75	9,857.41		
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														