



**Texas Master Naturalist™- Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 9:00 am to 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.

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the January 14, 2026, 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 Rose Wagner, seconded by Oron Atkins

Welcome

K. Pittman welcomed attendees and those online, as well as multiple guests. She also recognized those with February birthdays.

Membership

John Boettiger

John gave the January reports as follows:

Initial Certifications: None

Recertifications: Hugo Martinez

Milestones: Anna Loonam – 250 hours Kathy Pittman – 2500 hours

Congratulations to all!

VMS Data for January 2026*

		January	Year to Date
Hours*	VS	709	709
	AT	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>
	Total	806	806
Impact data*	Adults	37	37
	Youth	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	37	37

**Data not considered final until mid-March*



AT Presentation – Maureen Wilde, Past President of the TMN-Galveston Bay Area Chapter - presented "Sea Beans and More – Treasures from a Drifter"

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 (COH)

All members were emailed on January 20, 2026, a summary of the changes to the ByLaws and the Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP) along with the copies of the revised documents. The board approved the Chapter ByLaw revisions on January 7, 2026. Members approved the Chapter ByLaws as presented today upon the motion of Rose Wagner and seconded by John Boettiger, none opposed. CMOP is accepted by the TMN-COT Chapter as written.

The documents committee is currently reviewing the State COH template updates and are working to incorporate them into our Chapter's document. The COH will be presented to the Chapter once they are completed and approved by the Board.

2026 Advanced Training Day: Water. Water Everywhere!

Kristine Rivers

February 28, 2026, 8am to 3 pm, at the Brazoria County Parks Administration Building, 41871 State Highway 288, Angleton, Texas 77515. 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, 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 Hollenshead

Cancelled due to lack of participants.



Treasurer

Amanda Smith

A Smith presented the summary report for January 2026 (refer to the Full Income Statement attached as Item 1).

January 2026

Beginning Balance	\$9,857.41
Revenue Summary	793.69
Expense Summary	34.98
Ending Balance	\$10,616.12
Savings Balance	\$6.39

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).

Camp Mohawk

Dick Schaffhausen

Dick received a \$200.00 grant from the Bring Back the Monarchs (NPSOT) to create a pocket prairie at Camp Mohawk. The area has been cleared and seeded with plans to plant the Monarch waystation this spring/summer. Contact Dick if you want to participate, dickandonna2@comcast.net.

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. Our Chapter has 28 members trained. Contact Mickey- dufilhos@hotmail.com.

Upcoming VS Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- **Beach Sweep** – Monday, 03/02, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintina Beach, Dewey/16th Street entrance - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas, jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com & mshluhu@gmail.com.
- **Nest Fest 2026 – Follet’s Island – 03/10, 9-12 noon**. To remove marine debris from nesting habitats for birds and sea turtles. Registration required <https://www.splashtx.org/nestfest>
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – Saturday 02/21, Thursday 03/19 and Saturday 03/21, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm – contact Kathy Pittman Pittmankw4@aol.com.



- **Camp Mohawk Pocket Prairie** – workdays TBA, Contact Dick Schaffhausen, dickanddonna2@comcast.net.
- **Resoft Park Pollinator Gardens** – workdays TBA, contact, Kate Harris, harriskd11@hotmail.com
- **Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA)** - contact Oron Atkins, oronatkins3@gmail.com
- **Yellow-legged Hornet Monitoring** - We need volunteers, please contact oronatkins3@gmail.com
- **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
- **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>

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- **DEEP Sessions @ BNWR** – 02/17 and 02/19, March 3rd, 5th, 24th, 26th, and May 5th - contact Lee Gaston at lee_gaston@fws.gov.
- **Spring Break BNWR Discovery Center Open House.** 03/07 through 03/17, 11-4pm.
- **Brazoria Heritage Day First Saturday in March**
- **Migration Celebration SBNWR** – 04/25 and 04/26, 11-4 pm.

Final Items

- Cynthia Grandjean discussed that the Plein Air Painting Group will have a show at the Brazosport Art League in Clute, Feb 17th-March 22nd, opening night reception is on Feb 20 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.
- John O'Connell – Texas Plastic Symposium March 25th at Texas A&M Galveston, Abstracts, posters and presentations are due by Feb 15th.

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: February Chapter meeting

AT- 1.25 hours

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

Chapter Meeting

Service Description: Maureen Wilde, past president of the TMN Galveston Bay Chapter, "Sea Beans and More- Treasures from a Drifter"



Item 1 – January 2026 Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2026

	2026												Totals	Budget Delta			
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			December		
Opening Balance		\$9,857.41															
INCOME ITEMS																	
Membership Dues	3,250	897.67														897.67	2,352.33
Interest Income	10.00	0.18														0.18	9.82
Member Donations	1,000															0.00	1,000.00
Sponsor/Non-member Donations																0.00	0.00
Member Payments for New Shirts	40															0.00	40.00
Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100															0.00	100.00
Amazon Debit Reimbursement																0.00	0.00
Sub Total	4,400	897.85	0.00	897.85	3,502.15												
New Intern Class Receipts	4,200	-\$104.16														-104.16	4,304.16
INCOME TOTALS	8,600	\$793.69	0.00	793.69	7,806.31												
EXPENSE ITEMS																	
Approved Donations	350															0.00	350.00
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															0.00	30.00
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D	1,750															0.00	1,750.00
Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40															0.00	40.00
Special Recognition	200															0.00	200.00
Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (3 years	0															0.00	0.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	200															0.00	200.00
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40															0.00	40.00
State Annual Conference																	
Registration & Expenses	2,100															0.00	2,100.00
State Meeting Sponsorship &																	
Scholarships	750															0.00	750.00
Materials	700															0.00	700.00
EcoFund Projects	1,000															0.00	1,000.00
Field Research Bat Project	1,550															0.00	1,550.00
Zoom Annual Fees	250															0	250.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400															0.00	400.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175	34.98														34.98	140.02
25th Anniversary Recognition	2,000															0.00	2,000.00
Sub Total	11785	34.98	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.98	11,750.02							
TMN Text Book Order	630															0.00	630.00
Zeiglers-Intern Shirts	600															0.00	600.00
Intern Name Tags	180															0.00	180.00
Intern Class Marketing	100															0.00	100.00
Intern Class Supplies	300															0.00	300.00
Intern Class Scholarships	0															0.00	0.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement																0.00	0.00
Sub Total	1810	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	1,810.00	
EXPENSE TOTALS	13,595.00	34.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.98	13,560.02	
		(4,995)															
Ending Balance		10,616.12															\$758.71
Savings		6.39															

COT Chapter Lifetime membership Dues \$400.00
 COT 2026 Annual Dues \$25.00
 2026 Intern Class fee: \$150.00
 Members attaining 4,000, 5,000 or 10,000 VT hours are exempt from dues the next calendar year
 2026 Travel reimbursement: c67/mile



The next General meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, with social time at 5:30 pm. Bring a Friend!

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 11:22 am

Attendance:	In-person	66
	Virtual	11
_____	Total	77

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary

cc: Board Members
Piper Sparkman, AgriLIFE Secretary (piper.sparkman@ag.tamu.edu)
Larry Peterson (lfpete@swwell.net)