



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 9:00 am – 11:00 am (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:04 am Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees	Present
Kathy Pittman (President)	X	Mickey Dufilho (Immediate Past President)	X
Jimmy Salinas (Vice-President/Programs)	X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	X
Donna Rich (Secretary)	X	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	A
Amanda Smith (Treasurer)	A	Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	X
Chapter Advisor(s)		Betty Skweres (2025 Sprin Class Rep.)	X
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	X	Barbara Whaley (New Class Dir.)	X
Jordan Kieffer (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	A	Kristine Rivers (Advanced Training Director)	A
Guests/Other		Patty Brinkmeyer (Communications Dir.)	X
Luanne Salinas	X	David Skweres (State Rep.)	X
		Melanie Hollenshead (Training)	X
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Director)	A
		Nannette Daugherty (2025 Fall Class Rep)	A
X - present, V - virtual & A - absent		Quorum	Yes

(see Attendance Record attached as Item 1)

- **Welcome Visitors** – None
- **Agenda Additions/Corrections** - None presented.
- **Approve Previous Board Minutes** - The draft copy of the minutes of March 4, 2026, Board meeting was sent via e-mail to Board members for advance review.
- **Minutes Approval** – **No corrections.**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approving the March Board minutes	Barbara Whaley	Jimmy Salinas	Minutes approved as presented.

Action Register Review/Updates (see Item 3: for Action Register) Kathy Pittman

- We closed out the Renewal/Update of the COH Guidelines and the Conflict-of-Interest forms and added the State Meeting Sponsorship dues that are due in June.

Chapter Governing Documents Discussion David Skweres

“Red line” documents were received from State in November as follows:



- By Laws were passed at the Chapter meeting on February 11, 2026. David has sent the Chapter Meeting minutes to the state confirming the vote.
- Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP) is accepted by the TMN-COT chapter as written.
- Chapter Operating Handbook (COH). The new revised COH was passed at the Chapter meeting on March 11, 2026. David sent the Chapter minutes to the State confirming the vote.
- We have completed the governing documents requirements.

Presidents Report

Kathy Pittman

- Kathy thanked Jimmy for running the March Board meeting and the upcoming General Meeting in April. We will not have any VMS reports or financials today since it is the first of the month.
- There is no new information on the VMS consolidation/upgrade. Apparently new entries into VMS cannot be deleted. We need to ask Dave Brandes how to handle that issue.
- There is a new project coordinator to support TMN and MG websites- Ashley Westerfeld MBA. The Tech Tuesday calls will resume.
- Annual meeting date is October 22-25 in Waco, Texas.
- We will now start the planning for the 25th Anniversary Celebration.
 1. Patty – newsletter to include articles on members from the original class.
 2. Rose – to find 25th Anniversary pins to present to the original members and to other members as they reach their 25th year milestone.
 3. Logo for the 25th Anniversary
 4. County Proclamation at the County Commissioner’s Court.

Vice President/Programs

Jimmy Salinas

- April- Jace Tunnell- Beach Combing
- May- Debbie Griffith – Archaeology digs along the Texas Coast.
- June – Patty Brinkmeyer – Pollinators/Habitat Gardening

Membership

John Boettiger

Initial Certification

Larry Curtner

Recertifications

Ed Barrios	Herbert Myers
James Calvert	Donna Rich
Marty Cornell	Kristine Rivers
Mickey Dufilho	Mary Schwartz
David Dungan	Betty Skweres
Annaliese Glover	David Skweres
Angela Griffin	Andy Smith
Paula Hanson	Betty Taylor
Melanie Hollenshead	Herbert Taylor
Phillip Huxford	Regina Tippet
Chris Kneupper	Crystal Tobola
Anna Loonam	Janet Townsend

Milestones

None



VMS Data

		March	Year to Date
Hours*	VS	1,568	3,528
	AT	<u>196</u>	<u>889</u>
	Total	1,764	4,417
Impact data*	Adults	971	1,178
	Youth	<u>7,281</u>	<u>7,283</u>
	Total	8,252	8,461

**Will not be considered final until mid-May 2026*

Treasurer

Amanda Smith

March 2026	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$11,698.13
	Revenue Summary	509.39
	Expense Summary	1021.50
	ENDING BALANCE	\$11,189.02

(See item 2: for Full Income Statement)

2026 Bat Monitoring Update

Mickey Dufilho

- New Manager of the bat monitoring project. They would like to have 2 monitors in the same grit 5km apart.
- We are only sampling one time.
- See Item 4: Bat monitoring sites, Duplexes identified in green.

Volunteer Service

Oron Atkins

Upcoming VS Opportunities – April/May2026

- **Exploration Green Workday** – every Wed, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm – contact Christie Taylor, <https://www.explorationgreen.org/>
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
- **Beach Sweep** –04/06 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Quintina Beach - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol** – Jace Turnell – self-directed (<https://www.nurdlepatrol.org/app/>)
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey** – Melanie Hollenshead - self directed
- **Adopt a Loop for TMN** – contact Cris Tobola - self directed



- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** - Thursday 04/16 and Saturday 04/18, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon (3rd Saturdays and preceding Thursday) – contact Kathy Pittman.
- **Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA)** – contact Oron Atkins
- **Yellow-Legged Hornet CS Project (TBA)**- contact Oron Atkins, Oron has requested more traps.
- **Black Light Moth/Bat Night** – at across the street from DFNC, Friday 04/17. 7:30pm, contact Angela Griffin.

Outreach

Ruby

- **DEEP sessions at BNWR** - 04/28, 05/05, 05/07, and 05/12 - contact Lee Gaston (lee_gaston@fws.gov).
- **Spring Fling** – 04/04 through 05/02 9 am to 4 pm contact Celeste Silling
- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day** – 04/18, 11 am to 3 pm – contact Ruby Lewis
- **Migration Celebration set up** – 04/24, 8am to 1pm – contact Barbara Whaley
- **Migration Celebration** – 04/25 and 04/26, 10 am to 4pm – contact Barbara Whaley
- **Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk** First week in June

Communications

Patty Brinkmeyer

Patty discussed new Gaggle mail – free, no adds and can edit emails. She set up three groups Board members, Members and News group. We decided to try this with the board for a month. She brought her Eco fund Habitat hero information to sign up and pledge to receive a sticker.

Chapter Host

Rose Wagner

We plan on having cupcakes/cake for Volunteer Appreciation Month

Class Rep. Spring 2025

Betty Skweres

No reports

Class Rep Fall 2025

Nannette Daugherty

Not reports

Chapter Advisors

John O'Connell/Jordan Kieffer

John mentioned a Well Owner Webinar (04/02) and well water testing (03/31 and 04/01). Texas Water Resources developed a free course for Master Gardeners and Texas Master Naturalists. The course title is Texas Watershed Education Volunteer Comprehensive Training. It is an eight-hour class, through Agrilife Learn online. He has received the Coastal version of the watershed game. He stated he will not be here for the May Board meeting.

New Business

Barbara Whaley discussed that Ocean Landreneau completed the Intern training and has turned 18 now.

T E X A S



Cradle of Texas Chapter
AgriLife Extension Bldg.
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903
<https://bmn.org/tmncot/>

She would like to be added to the VMS system to log her volunteer hours to become a TMN. Barbara and Kathy contacted the state with no response. She already is in the TPWD because she works at Sea Center.

Oron mentioned he received two turtle carapaces. Discussion ensued about needing tags/certification to be allowed to use and touch.

General Meeting Agenda – The general meeting will be held April 8, 2026, 9 am, Social at 8:30 am. Please send any meeting agenda items to Kathy Pittman no later than SUNDAY evening prior.

The next Board meeting will be May 6, 2026, at 9am. Please send any agenda items to Kathy Pittman by Sunday evening prior.

President Kathy Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Rich".

Donna Rich, Secretary

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



Item 1: Attendance Record

Attendance 2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Kathy Pittman - President	X	X	A	X									
Jimmy Salinas -VP	X	A	X	X									
Donna Rich - Secretary	X	X	X	X									
Amanda Smith - Treasurer	A	X	X	A									
Advisors													
John O'Connell - AgriLife	X	A	X	X									
Jordan Kieffer - TPWD	V	A	X	A									
Immediate Past President													
Mickey Dufilho	X	A	A	X									
Appointed Board/Committee Members													
Oron Atkins - Volunteer Ops	X	X	X	X									
John Boettiger- Membership	A	A	X	A									
Nannette Daugherty Fall Class 2025 rep	A	A	A	X									
Betty Skweres - 2025 Spring Class Rep	X	X	X	X									
Melanie Hollenshead - Training	X	X	X	X									
Barbara Whatley - Training	X	A	X	X									
Ruby Lewis - Outreach	A	A	X	A									
Rose Wagner, Chapter Host	A	X	X	X									
Patty Brinkmeyer - Communications	X	X	X	X									
David Skweres - State Rep	X	X	X	X									
Kristine Rivers - AT	V	X	X	A									

Attendance 2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Guests													
Luanne Salinas	X			X									
Kathy Purvis	X												
Amanda Gabehart			X										
Don Sabatier	X												
Angela Griffin		X											



Item 2 – March 2026 Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2026

2026	Budget												Totals	Budget Delta		
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December				
Opening Balance	\$9,857.41	\$10,616.12	\$11,698.13													
INCOME ITEMS																
Membership Dues	3,250 ³	897.67	1222.72 ³	124.36												2,244.75 1,005.25
Interest Income	10.00	0.18	0.17	0.19												0.54 9.46
Member Donations	1,000			219.00 ³												219.00 781.00
Sponsor/Non-member Donations				24.84												24.84 -24.84
Member Payments for New Shirts	40															0.00 40.00
Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100		170.40	15												185.40 -85.40
Amazon Debit Reimbursement																0.00 0.00
Sub Total	4,400	897.85	1,393.29	383.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,674.53 1,725.47
New Intern Class Receipts	4,200 ³	-\$104.16 ³		129.00 ³												24.84 4,175.16
INCOME TOTALS	8,600	\$793.69	1,393.29	512.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,699.37	5,900.63
EXPENSE ITEMS																
Approved Donations	350			219.00 ³												219.00 131.00
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		75.74 ³													0.00 50.00
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field Dr	1,750 ³		190.55 ³	525.14 ³												75.74 -45.74
Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40															715.69 1,034.31
Special Recognition	200															0.00 40.00
Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (3 years)	0															0.00 200.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	200															0.00 0.00
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40															0.00 200.00
State Annual Conference																0.00 40.00
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			220.00 ³												0.00 1,000.00
Zoom Annual Fees	250															220.00 1,330.00
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400															0 30.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175	34.98 ³	44.99 ³													0.00 400.00
25th Anniversary Recognition	2,000															79.97 95.03
Sub Total	11785	34.98	311.28	964.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,310.40	10,474.60
TMN Text Book Order	630															0.00 630.00
Zeiglers-Intern Shirts	600 ³															0.00 600.00
Intern Name Tags	180 ³															0.00 180.00
Intern Class Marketing	100															0.00 100.00
Intern Class Supplies	300			57.36 ³												57.36 242.64
Intern Class Scholarships	0															0.00 0.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement																0.00 0.00
Sub Total	1810	0.00	0.00	57.36	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	57.36	1,752.64
EXPENSE TOTALS	13,595.00	34.98	361.28	1,021.50	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,417.76	12,177.24
	(4,995)															
Ending Balance		10,616.12	11,698.13	11,189.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,331.61	
Savings		6.39	6.39	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: \$67/mile



Item 3: Action Register

Cradle of Texas Action Item Register - working copy (UPDATED 02/03/2026)				
Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Status	Comments
25th Anniversary Celebration	Kristine Rivers	Dec-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> <p>November 2025 - Camp Mohawk Pocket Prairie fund proposal approved as a 25th Anniversary Project.</p> <p>December 2025 - Committee members will include R. Wagner (when planning party functions), O. Atkins (projects), B. Whaley, K. Rivers, M. Dufilho (historian), J. Boettiger (member since 2001), N. Daugherty (Class rep for 12/25 graduating interns) & K. Pittman. Kathy will also check with Connie Stolte to see if she's interested in serving as Committee chair.</p> <p>January 2026 - Kristine has volunteered to chair. We will start actively planning after Feb AT day.</p>
Send check for \$300.00 for State Meeting Sponsorship	Treasurer	June		



Item 4: Bat monitoring Sites



