



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

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

6:02 pm Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathyn Pittman called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the June 10, 2026, meeting was sent to the TMN-COT distribution list for review prior to the meeting. No changes were requested. Members approved of 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 multiple guests. She also wished Happy Birthday to everyone with July birthdays.

Membership

John Boettiger

John gave the June reports as follows:

Initial Certifications	Barbara Lund	
Recertifications:	Cynthia Grandjean	Carolyn May-Monie
	Jodi Jung	Jo Myers
	Brenda Martin	Andy Smith
Milestones:	Herbert Taylor	250 Hours

Congratulations to all!

VMS Data for June 2026*

		June	Year to Date
Hours*	VS	916	8,114
	AT	86	1,259
	Total	1,002	9,273
Impact data*	Adults	90	3,460
	Youth	90	13,013
	Total	180	16,473

**Data not considered final until mid-August*



AT Presentation – Amber Zelmer, she currently is the Animal Nutrition Supervisor for the Houston Zoo. She has over 15 years' experience working at zoos and aquariums and has worked with endangered species including the Mariana Crow. "Fotten Aga – Snapshots of my time with the Mariana Crow Recovery Project".

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

Water Wednesdays

John 'Connell

The next Water Wednesday is July 15, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, "The Human Water Cycle – The Biology of Wastewater". Please see the registration link in the email that was sent to all members.

25th Anniversary Planning

Kristine Rivers

The Chapter will mark its 25th year on September 12, 2026. We would like to plan a series of events over the next year to commemorate this important anniversary.

- County Commissioners' Court will be held on September 8, 2026, at 9 am at the Brazoria County Courthouse Administration Building (237 E Locust Street, Second Floor). Please wear your Anniversary T-shirt
- Member Luncheon is on Saturday, November 14th from 12-2:00 pm.
- Trips to places of interest
- Fall Field Day will be on October 14, 2026, possibly at Brazos Bend Park.

Please contact Kristine Rivers, Planning Committee Chair at kristinerivers8@gmail.com if interested in helping to plan these events.

Bamberger Ranch Preserve and Bracken Cave

**Dick Schaffhausen
and Mickey Difilho**

Bracken Cave is planned on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 4 pm. The cost is \$32.55. Bamberger Ranch on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 9 am, at a cost of \$30.00. They need to know how many people are planning on attending by September 1, 2026, and payment is due by September 15, 2026. Contact Dick if interested at dickanddonna2@comcast.net

Bat Projects – Updates

Mickey Dufilho

The Great Bat Bridge Survey was on June 28, 2026. Our chapter had 4 teams surveying bridges in Brazoria County. We surveyed 37 bridges, 5 had bats, with one new bridge with bats. Numerous bridges had active swallow nests. Our chapter is leading all other chapters for the number of bridges surveyed.

This is the last week of the Bat Acoustic Monitoring Survey. We have had no problems with any equipment. We have added 11 sites this year, including Kim Calhoun and Phil Huxford as well as 8 USFWS sites and one at the Justin Hurst Wildlife Management area.

25th Anniversary T-shirts:

Patty Brinkmeyer

Patty brought the T-shirts to distribute to members who ordered them. She will also bring them to the August Chapter meeting.

Treasurer

Amanda Smith

Amanda presented the summary report for June 2026 (refer to the Full Income Statement attached as Item 1).

June 2026

Beginning Balance	\$10,675.95
Revenue Summary	2,477.04
Expense Summary	2,732.11
Ending Balance	\$10,420.70
Savings Balance	\$6.39

Upcoming VS Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- **Beach Sweep** – Monday, 08/10, 8:00 am to 10:00 am, meet at the Jetties, - contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas, jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com & msluhu@gmail.com.
- **DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays** – Thursday 07/16, and Saturday 07/18, 8:00 am - 11:00 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, harrisd11@hotmail.com
- **BCPD Resoft Park Plantings, Apple Snails and Fishing Line removal** – TBD, contact Oron Atkins, oronatkins3@gmail.com
- **Abigail Arias City of Angleton Park Plantings** – November
- **GCBO Bird Feeder Maintenance** self-directed/dates TBA – contact Kayla Pringle, kpringle@gcbo.org
- **Quintana Beach Sweep Cleanup** – Splash 08/29 – contact Celeste Silling, csilling@gcbo.org
- **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., 8:30 am to 11:30am – 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** – Melanie Hollenshead – self directed
- **Adopt a Loop for TMN** – self-directed, contact Cris Tobola, utc_aal@yahoo.com
- **TMN COT iNaturalists Data Collection Project** - contact Amanda Gabehart, sylshessa@aol.com

Outreach Opportunities

Ruby Lewis

- **Sea Center Shark Celebration** – 07/18, 11 am – 3 pm, contact Jordan Kieffer or Ruby Lewis.
- **BCLS Summer Reading Club Library Programs** – JUNE AND JULY!

BCLS Summer Reading Club – Texas Reptiles – Dates below ↗ contact [Ruby Lewis](#)

JUNE	JULY
4 th West Pearland Library 10:30, 12:00, 2:00, 3:30	7 th Angleton Library, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
9 th Freeport Library 2:00, 4:00	8 th Lake Jackson Library, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
15 th West Columbia Library 2:00, 4:00	16 th Sweeny Library, 2:00
16 th Alvin Library, 11:00, 2:00	21 st Manvel Library, 2:00, 4:00
18 th Clute Library, 2:00, 4:00	23 rd Danbury Community Center, 11:00
24 th Pearland Tom Reid Library 12:00, 2:00, 4:00	28 th Brazoria Heritage Foundation Gym, 2:00

Final Items

- Intern training will be starting in September on Wednesday mornings directed by Barbara Whaley. Please tell your friends who may be interested in watching the website for further information.

Questions? None

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

VS - 1.0 hours plus travel time

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

Project Category: Chapter Meeting

Service Description: May Chapter meeting

AT- 1.0 hours

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

Chapter Meeting

Service Description: Amber Zelmer, "Fotten Aga – Snapshots of my time with the Mariana Crow Recovery Project."

The next General meeting will be held at 9:00 am on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, with social time at 8:30 am. Bring a Friend!

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm



Attendance:	In-person	37
	Virtual	<u>11</u>
	Total	48

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DRich'.

Donna Rich, Secretary

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



Item 1 – June 2026 Income Statement

COT MASTER NATURALIST INCOME STATEMENT for 2026

	2026													
	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Opening Balance		\$9,857.41	\$ 10,616.12	\$11,698.13	\$11,189.02	\$10,475.77	10,675.77							
INCOME ITEMS														
Membership Dues	3,250	897.67	1222.72	124.36			249.36							2,494.11
Interest Income	10.00	0.18	0.17	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.19							1.09
Member Donations	1,000			219.00		200.00	1000.00							1,419.00
Sponsor/Non-member Donations				24.84										24.84
Member Payments for New Shirts	40						1227.49							1,227.49
Special AT-Remote/Non Member fee	100		170.40	15										185.40
Amazon Debit Reimbursement														0.00
Sub Total	4,400	897.85	1,393.29	383.39	0.18	200.18	2,477.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,351.93
New Intern Class Receipts	4,200	-\$104.16		129.00	-129.00									-104.16
INCOME TOTALS	8,600	\$793.69	1,393.29	512.39	-128.82	200.18	2,477.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,247.77
EXPENSE ITEMS														
Approved Donations	350			219.00	200.00		300.00							719.00
Speakers Bureau														0.00
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	200													0.00
Membership Director Expenses	50													0.00
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30		75.74											75.74
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D	1,750		190.55	525.14										715.69
Member Shirt Purchases (if any)	40													0.00
Special Recognition	200													0.00
Travelers D&O Ins. Premium (3 years)	0													0.00
Godaddy Website maintenance	200													0.00
New Officer/Member Name Tags	40													0.00
State Annual Conference														0.00
Registration & Expenses	2,100													0.00
State Meeting Sponsorship &														0.00
Scholarships	750													0.00
Materials	700						274.7							274.70
EcoFund Projects	1,000						409.39							409.39
Field Research Bat Project	1,550			220.00	339.44		129.02							688.46
Zoom Annual Fees	250													0
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400													0.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175	34.98	44.99		44.99									124.96
25th Anniversary Recognition	2,000						1619.00							1,619.00
Sub Total	11785	34.98	311.28	964.14	584.43	0.00	2,732.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,626.94
TMN Text Book Order	630													0.00
Zeiglers-Intern Shirts	600													0.00
Intern Name Tags	180													0.00
Intern Class Marketing	100													0.00
Intern Class Supplies	300			57.36										57.36
Intern Class Scholarships	0													0.00
Intern Registration Reimbursement														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	57.36
EXPENSE TOTALS	13,595.00	34.98	361.28	1,021.50	584.43	0.00	2732.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,734.30
	(4,995)													
Ending Balance		10,616.12	11,698.13	11,189.02	10,475.77	10,675.95	10,420.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$563.47
Savings		6.39	6.39	6.39	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: c67/mile