



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

Texas Master Naturalist™ - Cradle of Texas Chapter
Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 9 am to 11:00 am, (HYBRID)
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

9:00 am Call to Order

Kathy Pittman

Kathyn Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Approval of the General Meeting Minutes

The draft copy of the minutes of the July 8, 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 Rose Wagner, seconded by Nannette Daughterty

Welcome

K Pittman welcomed attendees and those online, as well as multiple guests. She also wished Happy Birthday to everyone with August birthdays. She welcomed our new TPWD Advisor Morgan Degner. Kathy also mentioned the passing of Chapter member Roy Morgan.

Membership

John Boettiger

John gave the July reports as follows:

Initial Certifications	Rebecca Blaylock	Ronald McLaughlin
Recertifications:	Scott Brown	Brian Hanson
	Kimberly Calhoun	Rainbo Johnson
	Larry Curtner	Nicole Lochmann
	Jerry Epner	Georgia Monnerat
Milestones:	Dennis Charleton	500 Hours
	Leisa Glover	500 hours
	Jim Nance	1000 hours

Congratulations to all!

VMS Data for July 2026*

		July	Year to Date
Hours*	VS	800	9,301
	AT	<u>77</u>	<u>1,377</u>
	Total	877	10,678



Impact data*	Adults	156	3,878
	Youth	<u>811</u>	<u>14,942</u>
	Total	967	18,820

**Data not considered final until mid-September*

AT Presentation – Jessica Chase, Agrilife Extension Agent and John Boettiger TMN COT Member presented, “Texas: An Update on the New World Screwworms.”

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

Intern Training

Barbara Whaley

The intern orientation will be on Wednesday, September 16, 9 am to 3 pm in the Agrilife Building. Classes will meet every Wednesday with a few Saturdays. PLEASE tell your friends and share on social media.

Water Wednesdays

John ‘Connell

The next Water Wednesday is August 19, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, “Land subsidence and its contribution to relative sea level and flooding risks in South Texas.” Please see the registration link in the email that was sent to all members.

Brazoria County Bat Acoustic Monitoring

Mickey Difilho

- Year 3 of the 5-year Citizen Science Project.
- Coordination with TPWD and NaBAT
- Deploy every Monday Through Thursday, from May 11-July 10. We had 3-4 monitors, 25 sites and 8 duplex sites (2 sites in the same GRTS 5Km apart)
- Results: We saw several bats that are uncommon in Texas, Northern Yellow, Southern Yellow and Silver Haired. There were several bats present that are considered Vulnerable including the American Perimyotis (tri-colored), Seminole and the Hoary Bat.

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
- October 14, 2026 (Wed, in lieu of the October Chapter Meeting)), 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, “Hike and Seek”, 9th Annual Fall Field Day at the Brazos Bend State Park.
- November 14, 2026, (Saturday), 12pm to 2 pm, 25th Anniversary Luncheon, Brazoria County Parks Department Event Center.
- December 11, 2026 (Friday), 9 am to 1 pm, Whooping Crane and Coastal Bird Tour, Rockport/Fulton.



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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 tour is planned for Monday, October 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$15.00. Bamberger Ranch tour is 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

25th Anniversary T-shirts:

Patty Brinkmeyer

Patty brought the T-shirts to distribute to members who ordered them.

Treasurer

Amanda Smith

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

July 2026

Beginning Balance	\$10,420.70
Revenue Summary	215.34
Expense Summary	323.60
Ending Balance	\$10,312.34
 Savings Balance	 \$6.39

Upcoming VS Opportunities

Oron Atkins

- **Beach Sweep** – Monday, 09/01, 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** – Each Thursday, and Saturday 08/15, 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



- **Quintana Beach Sweep Cleanup** – Splash 08/29, need to register – 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

- **GCBO Extreme Hummingbird Extravaganza- Set up Day-** 09/11, 8 am to 11 am- ontact Celeste mSiling.
- **GCBO Extreme Hummingbird Extravaganza** - 09/12 and 09/19, to 8 am to 12 pm – contact Celeste Siling or Ruby Lewis.
- **KBR Kids Day** – 10/18, Sunday
- **Sea Center Halloween Spooktacular-** 10/18, Sunday, Scary plants and animal theme.

Final Items

- Mary Schwartz announced that due to some of the schools consolidation, the DEEP Committee will be meeting to discuss changing the format in the Spring. She also announced that the famous Bald Eagle, “Jackie”, died recently of an unknown illness.

Questions? None

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

VS - 0.75 hours plus travel time

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

Project Category: Chapter Meeting

Service Description: May Chapter meeting

AT- 1.75hours

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

Service Description: Jessica Chaser and John Boettiger, “Texas: An Update on the New World Screwworms”



The next General meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, with social time at 5:30 pm. Bring a Friend!

Kathy Pittman adjourned the meeting at 11:16 pm

Attendance:	In-person	63
	Virtual	7
	Total	70

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary

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



Item 1 – July 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	\$10,616.12	\$11,698.13	\$11,189.02	\$10,475.77	10,675.77	10,420.70							
INCOME ITEMS															
Membership Dues	3,250	897.67	1222.72	124.36			249.36							2,494.11	755.89
Interest Income	10.00	0.18	0.17	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.17						1.26	8.74
Member Donations	1,000			219.00			1000.00							1,219.00	-219.00
Sponsor/Non-member Donations				24.84										24.84	-24.84
Grants Received						200.00									
Member Payments for New Shirts	40													0.00	40.00
25th Celebrations Shirts							1227.49	215.17						1,442.66	
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	0.18	200.18	2,477.04	215.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,567.27	-1,167.27
New Intern Class Receipts	4,200	-\$104.16		129.00	-129.00									-104.16	4,304.16
INCOME TOTALS	8,600	\$793.69	1,393.29	512.39	-128.82	200.18	2,477.04	215.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,463.11	3,136.89
EXPENSE ITEMS															
Approved Donations	350			219.00										219.00	131.00
Grants Expenditure					200.00										
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					48.87						124.61	-94.61
Special Annual AT Event/Fall Field D	1,750		190.55	525.14										715.69	1,034.31
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						300.00							300.00	450.00
Materials	700						274.7							274.70	425.30
EcoFund Projects	1,000						409.39							409.39	590.61
Field Research Bat Project	1,550			220.00	339.44		129.02							688.46	861.54
Zoom Annual Fees	250													0	-438.46
Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplie	400													0.00	400.00
Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cak	175	34.98	44.99		44.99									124.96	50.04
25th Anniversary Recognition	2,000							256.73						256.73	1,743.27
25th Anniversary T-Shirts							1619.00	18.00							
Sub Total	11785	34.98	311.28	964.14	584.43	0.00	2,732.11	323.60	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,950.54	6,834.46
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			57.36										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	57.36	1,752.64
EXPENSE TOTALS	13,595.00	34.98	361.28	1,021.50	584.43	0.00	2732.11	323.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,057.90	8,537.10
	(4,995)														
Ending Balance		10,616.12	11,698.13	11,189.02	10,475.77	10,675.95	10,420.70	10,312.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$455.21	
Savings		6.39	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