



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 10:48 a.m.

via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service's Microsoft Teams Meeting license

Bill Ahlstrom, President, called the meeting to order.

Attendance—Approximately 54 members joined the virtual meeting.

Format of the Meeting—**John O'Connell** displayed the following reminders to attendees:

- Turn off their microphone and turn off video to save on bandwidth
- The meeting will be recorded
- How to ask a question using the chat box
- The chat room will be monitored and hold questions until the end of each presentation.

Speaker—**Chris Kneupper** spoke on "History of the Forts Velasco." Information is available at <https://velascohistor/archaeology.weebly.com> or the TMN-COT website under "Cultural History."

Nature Note—**Mickey Dufilho** spoke on "Pollinator Citizen Science Results." More information is available at <https://sixleggedaggie.com/research/pollinator-project/>.

General Meeting training presentations can be found at <https://txmn.org/tmncot/training/advanced-training/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's Update—**Bill Ahlstrom** presented the following information:

- Lisa Myers intends to nominate Pete and Peggy Romfh for the **Member Emeritus** honor at the September General Meeting. The membership votes to confer the honor. John Boettiger, Membership Director, will email nominating information to the membership
- The State office has decided **certification/recertification VT hours required for 2020 will remain at 40**
- The State office is hosting a **Virtual Volunteer Fair on September 2**; an announcement will be sent within the next two weeks via the State Listserve
- **Community/Citizen Science guidance documents**, prepared by Texas Nature Trackers, will be sent to the membership via the State ListServe by the end of August. They focus on iNaturalist and eBird apps, but pertain to similar projects (e.g., our trash collection/analysis project)
- **COT is running the State TMN Facebook page** from August 9 to 15; coordination by Kathy Pittman
- **October 14 General Meeting is cancelled** due to overlap with the State Annual Meeting
- **General Meeting registration is open now through October 2; registration fee is \$55; COT is hosting the Photo, Art, and Media Contest**

Treasurer's Report—Don Sabathier presented the July financial statement. He asked that retired members check whether their former companies' giving departments provide matching donations.

1 July – 31 July 2019, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 11,178.84
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.16
Expense Summary	(\$ (0.00))
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 11,203.00

Volunteer Hours and Awards—On behalf of **John Boettiger**, Membership Director, Bill Ahlstrom provided the following data through July 31.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—July 31	1,886	5,111	7,997

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—July 31	7,290	1,194

Recertification 2020	4,000 VT Hours Milestone
Denis James Kenneth Sluis Brenda Martin Linda Sluis Candace Novak George Valadez Lawrence Ruhr Rose Wagner	Oron Atkins (class of 2016)

Advanced Training—**Bob Whitmarsh** indicated that he has no new links for opportunities other than the State Annual Meeting, which includes virtual field trips on October 13 (to be posted).

Ideas for Volunteer Service—**Oron Atkins**, Volunteer Service Director, displayed a few opportunities. [See also <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/>]

- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—August 20, 9a to 12p; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Workday**—every Thursday until further notice; 8:30a to 11:30a; contact Chris Kneupper
- **BCPD Trail Day**—third Thursday of the month; 8a to 12p; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **FOBWR Bobcat Woods Trail Project**—TBD; contact Oron Atkins
- **Trash Collection/Analysis Project**—self directed
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self directed.

Fall New Intern Training Class—**Mary Schwartz** provided information on plans for the fall class:

- Class begins Wednesday, August 26; five people currently registered
- Classroom sessions are currently planned as virtual due to COVID-19
- Field trips will still occur at designated locations
- On-line registration is available now.

TMN Annual Meeting—Bill Ahlstrom displayed the following information:

- Meeting dates are Wednesday, October 14, to Saturday, October 17
- \$55 registration fee



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- COT is hosting the Photo, Art, and Media contest; see posting on State website
- Our chapter is facilitating a virtual field trip to the Flo Hannah and Follets Island Strand Prairies.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," 1.50 hour
- Chapter Business Meetings Code: "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," 1 hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary, TMN-COT

Cc: Board Members
Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary, Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu