



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 11:12 a.m.
via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service's Microsoft Teams Meeting license

Bill Ahlstrom, President, called the meeting to order.

Attendance—Approximately 70 members and interns joined the virtual meeting and one guest speaker.

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

- Turn off 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; hold questions until the end of each presentation.

Susan Heath, GCBO Director of Conservation Research, spoke on "Update on Wintering Shrike Project." To volunteer for the project, contact Sue at sheath@gcbo.org.

Speaker—**Bryan Frazier**, BCPD Director, spoke on "Brazoria County Parks Department Update and Vision for the Future."

Nature Note—**Jackie Hicks** spoke on "GRANTing Wishes: An Update on COT's 2019 ECO Fund Grant Project at GCBO." More information about GCBO is available at <https://www.gcbo.org/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Lisa Myers nominated Pete and Peggy Romfh as **Honorary Master Naturalists** to recognize their outstanding contributions to the chapter. Bob Whitmarsh made the motion, and Oron Atkins seconded. There being no discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote of those present and voting (54 votes).
- Reminder: **October 14 General Meeting is cancelled** due to overlap with the State Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report—**Don Sabathier** presented the August financial statement.



1 August – 31 August 2020, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 11,203.00
Revenue Summary	\$ 149.15
Expense Summary	(\$ (428.86)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 10,923.29

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

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—August 31	2,031	6,219	8,250

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—July 31	8,015	1,314

Recertification 2020	250 VT Hours Milestone	1000 VT Hours Milestone
Cindy Goodrum Pam Peltier Karen Leder	Paula Hanson	Bill Ahlstrom

Ideas for Volunteer Service—On behalf of **Oron Atkins**, Volunteer Service Director, Bill Ahlstrom announced the following opportunities. [See also <https://txmn.tamu.edu/news/>]

- **GCBO Native Plant Workday**—every Thursday until further notice; 8:30a to 11:30a; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Analysis Project**—self directed
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self directed.

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

- Class began Wednesday, August 26 with twelve new interns
- Field trips occurring at designated locations; the first was at Hanson Riverside County Park on August 26, and our new, two-way radios were used.

TMN Annual Meeting—Bill Ahlstrom displayed the following information:

- Registration is open: meeting dates are Wednesday, October 14, to Saturday, October 17
- Registration fee is \$55
- 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.

GCBO's XHX Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza—Bill Ahlstrom displayed the following information:



- The event is virtual this year; link is <https://www.facebook.com/gulfcoastbirdobservatory/> or <https://www.gcbo.org/connect/xtreme-hummingbord-xtravaganza/>
- September 19 and 26, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

GCBO's Native Plant Nursery—Chris Kneupper said that people can purchase plants on-line at <https://www.gcbo.org/> and then pick up at the nursery.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," 1.75 hours
- Chapter Business Meetings Code: "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," 0.5 hour.

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

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