

Action Register Review—Mickey Dufilho led the review. [see COT Board Action Register at end of minutes.]

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
2020 State Meeting Planning	State Mtng Comm: Bob, Bill, Rose, Connie (chair), John O., Kim Richardson	Completed; feedback provided to the State Office
Board to determine whether to increase amounts charged (e.g., membership dues, training) to cover Square transaction fee or to absorb the fee	Larry Peterson and Board	Oct: Square fee is approximately 3% of each transaction [see Motion, above, passed at November meeting]

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the October 2020 financial information, below. He pointed out the notes in the report.

Kristine noted that Mary Schwartz has paid for the Zoom license necessary for intern training. Don will follow-up with Mary to ask for out-of-pocket receipts.

October 1-31, 2020, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 11,762.10
Revenue Summary	\$.20 ¹
Expense Summary	(\$ 0.00) ²
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 11,762.30

¹ PayPal did not send notice of the monthly contribution of 23.97; therefore, the November financials will show two contributions.

² There will be a couple of large expenses in November: State text/field books and field communications system for intern classes.

2021 Board Officer Election and Procedure—Kristine Rivers, as head of the nominating committee, asked all board members whether they wished to run/serve in 2021, and after some discussion and agreement by the board, suggested the following slate of officers for 2021:

President	Mickey Dufilho	Secretary	Lisa Myers
Vice President	Kristine Rivers	Treasurer	Don Sabather

In addition, Connie stated that she was willing to step down as State Representative, and Kathy Pittman indicated her interest. Other directors indicated their desire to serve in 2021. Others who volunteered for the nominating committee include: Mickey Dufilho, and Lisa Myers.

NOTE: *Later, John O’Connell pointed out that nominating procedures had not fully been followed; therefore, the nominating process would be redone, and COT members would be given at least 15 days’ notice of the slate approved by the board and voting procedures.*

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

General Meeting Programs—Mickey provided the following status on upcoming general-meeting speakers:

- **November**—Brian Roberts, Education Coordinator for the Wildlife Habitat Federation, speaking on “Restoring Native Prairies”; Nature Notes: Mickey Dufilho, speaking on “Chagas Disease: What a Master Naturalist Needs to Know”
- **December**—Class of 2020 New Class Project Presentations; 2021 officer election
- **January** (added later via email)—Wizzie Brown, Extension Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLIFE, speaking on “Bed Bug Biology and Management”; Nature Note TBD.
- **February**—Melanie Hollenshead, introducing her project, “Survey of the Spiders of Brazoria County”; Nature Tone TBD

Membership—Data Manager Dave Brandes sent the following October impact and awards data for inclusion in the minutes. Membership Director John Boettiger stated that 31 members have not yet certified for 2020, and nine have not yet turned in any time for 2020. John will remind members at the General Meeting next week to turn in all hours, and he will personally contact the affected members.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—October 31	2,318	6,411	8,729
October 1-31	200	140	340

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—October 31	9,657	1,764
October 1-31	778	338

250 VT Hours Milestone	1,000 VT Hours Milestone
Debbie Nance Kathy Pittman Jim Nance Connie Stolte	Jo Myers

Training Director—On behalf of Mary Schwartz, Kathy Pittman said that they were able to hold some socially-distanced, in-person training, and another intern dropped out, leaving nine interns in this class. Kristine Rivers praised Mary and her team for their excellent job—despite challenges posed by the pandemic.

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins noted the following opportunities:

- **Survey of the Spiders of Southern Brazoria County**—Contact Melanie Hollinshead (will begin sometime in January or February)
- **Hudson Woods Apple Snail Removal via Kayak**—two trips weekly; contact Thomas Adams, thomas_p_adams@fws.gov
- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—November 19, 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
- **Trash Collection/Analysis Project**—self directed
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self directed

The board discussed the possibility of setting up regular trash pick-up days, perhaps monthly and perhaps at Quintana Beach County Park. Oron will contact Patty Brinkmeyer and Jimmy and Luanne Salinas.

Advanced Training Director—Bob Whitmarsh will be in touch with the members of the Bonus AT Day committee to explore holding a virtual event. Lisa Myers again noted that without the expense of lunch, we could offer a stipend to an expert in his/her field.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis said that the Brazoria County Library System was so pleased with the virtual sessions COT developed, they would like more sessions and take-home projects.

Communications Director—Larry Peterson indicated that he will post updated EcoFund Grant information on the webpage.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
Ask local libraries if they are interested in showing the displays prepared for the Bonus AT Day	Ruby Lewis	October	Tabled	To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes March: No update (Ruby absent) April: Ruby contacted the library system and they would like to display them at libraries that have space starting in August. Ruby will coordinate a schedule and transport by a TMN member June: Ruby said libraries said fall would be best; they need a container to hold the presentation boards for transport between libraries or we can transport; Ruby will work out details in September Sept: no update Oct, Nov: Ruby not present Dec: Ruby not present Feb 2020: No action; Ruby will follow up Apr: Not discussed; libraries are closed May: Libraries still closed Jun/Jul/Aug: Libraries opened for limited hours/access; too soon for the displays
Review and update partners webpage (see below also)	Oron Atkins	ASAP	Ongoing	Sept: Oron has updated and will provide Neal with information to post on website Oct: Oron working to finalize changes Nov: Oron said that there will likely be 6 partners: USFWS Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex; GCBO; arts center complex at Brazosport College; Brazoria County Library System; Brazos Bend State Park; Brazoria County Parks Department Dave expressed concern that these relationships should be reciprocal



				<p>Dec: Agreements being worked on Feb 2020: Agreements being worked on Apr: Agreements being worked on May: No update; Bill said Angleton Parks & Recreation Department wants to be a VPAR Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov: No update</p>
Update VPAR agreements	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	<p>Sep: We have 16 partners; some paperwork is missing; Peggy Romfh checking to see if there is VT logged or not; the board agreed that agreements will be auto-renew with a 30-day cancellation clause and agreement contact information will be updated every two years Oct: Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR Nov: Oron is working to finalize Dec: Oron continuing to work on Feb 2020: Oron spoke with the Center for Arts and Sciences, which is in the process of consolidating all its entities; Oron will coordinate a meeting with them to discuss our relationship Apr: Oron is working to finalize May: Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is applying to be a new partner Jun: Bill said that APRD is requesting changes to its VPAR that Bill will send to the board; Oron will follow up Jul: Bill said APRD will respond on/about August 1 Aug: No update; Larry asked whether we should pursue a partnership agreement with Flo Hannah Prairie, but this is covered as it will be managed by our VPAR with TPWD NWRs Sep: Bill has been contacted by City of Angleton attorney; he is to meet with him about Angleton Parks and Recreation Dept Oct/Nov: no update</p>
Executive Committee to meet and draft wording for harassment and accommodations for disability policies	Kristine Rivers		Ongoing	<p>State suggested that chapters provide a “welcoming atmosphere”; Peggy Romfh requested that accommodations for impairments be included Feb 2020: The Executive Board has not yet met Apr: Not discussed May: Connie has collected some wording; John O’Connell will provide the 4H volunteer policy Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov: No update; Paul Cason will provide Sea Center Texas’ policy</p>
Hold a brief training session on entering hours in VMS via Smart Phone	?	TBD	Tabled	<p>To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours Apr: Not discussed May: No update Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings Aug: Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Annual Meeting</p>
Annual Chapter Financial Audit at AgriLIFE, Angleton	Don Sabathier, Mickey Dufilho (chair), Lisa Myers, Paul Cason, Kathy Pittman	10a 4 Dec 2020		Mandated by TMN State
Form Exploratory Committee for Bonus AT Day 2021	Bob Whitmarsh, Kristine Rivers, Rose Wagner,			Nov: Bob will contact committee members



	Lisa Myers			
End of year virtual election protocols need to be developed	Past President Kristine Rivers, nominating committee (Mickey, Lisa), John O'Connell	9 Dec General Meeting		Per Sep 28 Presidents' Meeting
Contact Melanie Hollenshead regarding: 1) AT for her Survey of the Spiders of Brazoria County Study VPAR; 2) presenting training at a General Meeting or Bonus AT Day; 3) invite her to the November Board Meeting	Bob Whitmarsh	ASAP		Nov: Melanie sent plans to the Board. She plans to present the program at the February General Meeting and advanced training to volunteers later
NEW Action Item(s) Added at November Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments	
Kristine will update the EcoFund Grant information, and Larry will post it on the web. At the November General Meeting, Kristine will announce the 2021 EcoFund Grant, with applications due by January 13	Kristine Rivers		Committee includes Kristine, Don, Oron, Lisa	

Vice President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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



Attendance 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Bill Ahlstrom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Mickey Dulilho	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Myers, Lisa	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	X			
Cason, Paul		X		X	X		X	X	O	X			
Immediate Past President													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X	X	X	X		X				X		
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	M	X	X		
Boettiger, John	X		X	X	X	X		X	E		X		
Lewis, Ruby		X		X	X	X	X	X	E		X		
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	X	X		
Pittman, Kathy		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	I	X	X		
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N				
Stolte, Connie	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	G	X	X		
Wagner, Rose		X			X	X	X	X		X	X		
Whitmarsh, Bob	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Guests													
McLain, Neal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Lewis, Laina						X							
Andalbo, Crystal											X		