



## **TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**  
**via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license**

**Mickey Dufilho, President**, called the meeting to order.

**Attendance**—Approximately 63 members and one guest speaker joined the virtual meeting.

**Format of the Meeting**—**John O’Connell** displayed 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.

**FEATURED SPEAKER**—**Wizzie Brown**, Extension Program Specialist Texas A&M AgriLIFE, spoke on “Bed Bug Biology and Management.”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Presentation of 2021 COT Officers, Directors, and Coordinators**—**Mickey Dufilho** presented the following:

- |                  |                |                  |                 |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| • President      | Mickey Dufilho | • Membership     | John Boettiger  |
| • Vice-President | Kathy Pittman  | • Adv’d Training | Bob Whitmarsh   |
| • Secretary      | Lisa Myers     | • Chapter Host   | Rose Wagner     |
| • Treasurer      | Don Sabathier  | • Communications | Larry Peterson  |
| • Past President | Bill Ahlstrom  | • 2020 Class Rep | Daveyon Edwards |
| • New Class Dir  | Mary Schwartz  | • State Rep.     | Connie Stolte   |
| • Outreach       | Ruby Lewis     | • VMS Coord.     | Dave Brandes    |
| • Vol. Projects  | Oron Atkins    | • Speakers Bur.  | Kristine Rive   |

**2020 Chapter Accomplishments**—**Mickey Dufilho** presented the following:

- Virtual meetings implemented
- Migration of Chapter website to State platform completed
- AT hours, VT hours, certifications, and milestones (final numbers available after mid-February VMS hours-entry deadline)
  - 11,347 Volunteer hours at end December
  - 1,998 Advanced training hours at end December
  - 98 Recertifications and certifications at end December
- First virtual training for new interns a success and interns certified
- FOBWR volunteers complete Bobcat Woods Trail
- DEEP program conducted in January and February
- Bonus Advanced Training Day, January 2020
- Loggerhead Shrike Study
- Advanced certification in entomology, Lisa Myers



- Attendees at Virtual State Meeting: 37 from COT chapter
- State Meeting virtual field trip of Flo Hannah Prairie and Follet’s Island Prairie, hosted by COT, presented by Susan Conaty and Mike Lange, and produced by Bob Whitmarsh
- Awards at Virtual State Meeting
  - John O’Connell – Advisor of the Year
  - Cynthia Grandjean – Painting
  - Patty Brinkmeyer – Photography
  - COT Sept. Newsletter (Editor, Lisa Myers)
- State Meeting Committee ran virtual photo contest (Kim Richardson, Bill Ahlstrom, Connie Stolte)
- Trash pickup project started by Jimmy and Luanne Salinas using Ocean Swell App
- State Facebook page for a week (Kathy Pittman)
- Passed internal audit of financial records
- Brazoria County Parks Department Nature Camps and Kids Fishing Day participation
- Produced 11 nature videos for county libraries (Ruby Lewis)
- Monthly water analysis/monitoring/reporting to Texas Stream Team (TST); six chapter members certified and engaged with this activity; ~72 analyses conducted and reported
- Passed VMS State audit
- At least one hour of AT was offered at every General membership meeting.

**Life in the Time of Covid—Mickey Dufilho** presented a photo montage of some member activities during the past year.

**FOBWR’s Bobcat Woods Trail Project—Mickey Dufilho** presented a photo montage of the rebuild under the direction of Oron Atkins.

**President’s Update—Mickey Dufilho** shared the following:

- The State Office has set aside 11 dates in 2021 for “TMN Tuesdays.” This hour-long, virtual AT will feature new and returning guest speakers. Information and an access link is available on the State website under #TMNTuesdays. The first date is January 12
- The first Virtual Volunteer Fair of 2021 will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. These sessions qualify for VT under the “TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair” category; more information on the State website
- Review of AgriLIFE’s current COVID-19 volunteer guidelines and some events that are approved for VT (trash collection; nurdle beach patrol; other approved Citizen Science projects; Virtual Volunteer Fairs).

**Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier** presented the December financial statement and stated that he has begun collecting COT \$25 dues for 2021 (COT website, mail to Don, or via TDECU); he sent an email with information.

**December 1-31, 2020, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 10,062.08
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.14
Expense Summary	\$ 0.00
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 10,086.22



**2021 EcoFund Grants Recipient—Kristine Rivers** announced Melanie Hollenshead as this year’s recipient. Melanie gave a brief overview of the project and will be providing volunteer training on her project, “Survey of the Spiders of Brazoria County” at the March General Meeting.

**Volunteer Hours and Awards—John Boettiger**, Membership Director, announced the following data through December 31, as provided by Dave Brandes.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
<b>YTD Totals—December 31</b>	2,473	6,572	9,045
<b>December 1-31</b>	23	15	38

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
<b>YTD Totals—December 31</b>	11,347	1,998
<b>December 1-31</b>	615	84

Initial Certification	2020 Recertification	250 VT Hours Milestone	500 VT Hours Milestone
Angela Griffin	Cynthia Grandjean Mike Hampy Larry Kirby	Vicki Kirby Catherine Sweet Beverly Walton	Melanie Hollenshead Vicki Kirby

**Bonus Advanced Training Day—Bob Whitmarsh**, AT Director, reminded members that Saturday, January 30 has been selected for the 2021 Bonus AT Day. The focus of this free, ~5-hour virtual event is *Flora of the Texas Gulf Coast*. Bob will be sending an email this week with information for (required) registration.

**2021 New Intern Training Class—Mary Schwartz** indicated that given current State participation guidelines, we will not be able to hold a spring training class, as planned, but she is already planning for the fall class that begins in September. Mary added that she needs volunteers for the training team; contact her at [mschwartz97@comcast.net](mailto:mschwartz97@comcast.net).

**President: Mickey Dufilho** adjourned the General Meeting at 11:20 a.m. Time codes allocated were:

- Presentation Code “AT: I Received Training,” 1 hour
- Chapter Business Meetings Code “CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin,” 1.5 hours.

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

Cc: Board Members  
 Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary, [Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu)