

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

President: Mickey Dufilho the meeting to order, presented the agenda and asked for additions or corrections.

Attendance—

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees	Present
Mickey Dufilho (President)	✓	Bill Ahlstrom (Immediate Past President)	
Kathy Pittman (Vice-President/Programs)	✓	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	✓
Lisa Myers (Secretary)		Mary Schwartz (New Class Dir.)	✓
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	✓	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)	✓
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	✓
		Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)	
		Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	✓
		Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	
		Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	✓
		Daveyon Edwards (Class of 2020 Rep.)	✓
		Kristine Rivers (Speakers Bureau)	✓
		Quorum	Yes

Approve Previous Board Minutes—The January Board and General Meeting minutes were sent to the Board for review, and the corrections suggested by board members were made. The minutes were approved.

Minutes Approval—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the January Board- and General-Meeting minutes	Rose Wagner	Don Sabathier	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the 2021 Budget	Larry Peterson	Oron Atkins	Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

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

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
Form Exploratory Committee for Bonus AT Day 2021; plan event	Bob Whitmarsh and committee	Completed

TMN Tuesdays—Mickey Dufilho said that the next session is February 9 at 12p; the focus is “Nature’s Best Hope” led by Doug Tallamy.

Temporary Policy Change for AT—Mickey Dufilho reported the following:

- All 8 hours of AT can be earned via live or virtual or prerecorded programs if there is/was live Q&A
- Attending a #TMNTuesday virtually on day of or afterwards via recording can count for AT
- Virtual Volunteer Fair can count for AT

President’s Meeting—Mickey Dufilho reported the following issues as a result of the recent meeting:

- Whether viewing (only) videos of sessions from the Annual State Meeting should count as AT; John O’Connell thought they should
- Oron later checked with Dave Brandes to see whether Virtual Volunteer Fairs are coded as VT or AT; they are currently coded VT

Membership—Data Manager Dave Brandes sent the following January impact and awards data for inclusion in the minutes. The numbers for 2020 will be final 45 days after December 31.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—January 31	124	12	136

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—January 31	1,073	276

1000 VT Hours Milestone
Bob Whitmarsh

March Board Meeting—Mickey Dufilho said that the March 3 date conflicts with the Texas Mid-Coast NWRC Volunteer Appreciation event. She asked if a change of the board meeting to either Tuesday, March 2 or Thursday, March 4 is convenient. She will poll those not present.

Proposed Project from Chris Arceneaux (chris.arceneaux@txgcmn.org, 832-216-2483)—The board thought that this was a good opportunity but not sure if Harvest for the Hungry would be interested. Oron will contact Chris for more information.

General Meeting Programs—Kathy Pittman provided the following status on upcoming, general-meeting speakers:

- **February—**Jennifer Wilson, TPWD, “Managing Black Rails and their Environment”; Nature Note, Kathy Pittman, “Ringtails”
- **March—**Melanie Hollenshead, introducing her project, “Survey of the Spiders of Brazoria County”; Nature Note, Bob Whitmarsh, “Side Oats Grama”
- **April—**Steve Lenox, “Forestry and Wildlife Habitat”; Nature Note TBD

She noted the following ideas for future topics:

- Rainwater Conservation / Earth Kind plants: John O’Connell and Dana Arnold?
- Flower Garden Coral Reefs: Kelly Drinnen
- Super Trees
- Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
- Monofilament Collection and Recycling

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the January 2021 financial information, below. He said that to date, 55 members have paid 2021 dues. The speaker’s honorarium has been sent to Peggy Romfh. Don has filed the IRS 990-N and received an acceptance notice.

January 1-31, 2021, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 10,086.22
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,294.20
Expense Summary	\$ 9.73
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 11,370.69

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

Outreach—Ruby Lewis announced the following:

- Friends of BWR is holding Refuge Saturdays open houses as follows; volunteers will be needed; she has purchased two dog kennels for “hands off” viewing of reptiles.
 - March 13, BNWR
 - March 27, Bobcat Woods Trail
 - April 10, Dow Woods
 - May 8, Cannan Woods
- Brazoria Heritage Day—March 6. FOBWR is attending and will hand out TMN literature
- Sea Center Texas Nature Day—April 17; scaled down, outdoor event; socially distanced;

Also, Ruby has begun recording new videos for school/library use. She is also doing webinars for the Girl Scouts. Daveyon requested information and will ask Angleton schools if they are interested in the videos.

Communications—Larry Peterson is assembling “mugshots” of all members into one file for the webpage. He is also working on making training resources and presentations available on the website. He ran into some problems posting the Bonus AT Day files but will resolve. The GoDaddy subscription for the old website has been renewed for six months. The board expressed concern regarding loss of archives if the new website allows only five years of data or files below a certain size.

Chapter Advisor—Paul Cason reported that Sea Center Texas was involved in a “cold stun” turtle event in January. Fifty-one green sea turtles were collected from Matagorda and brought to Sea Center. They were warmed up and data was collected. They were then transported to Galveston and released. They were not returned to Matagorda because the waters there are shallow and colder.



Chapter Advisor—John O’Connell will be presenting a program on Monofilament and Nurdles on February 18 through TPWD. He will send a link to the membership. The board discussed the need to get more people involved in recycling monofilament (fishing line); this could be a volunteer opportunity. John may do a Nature Note at a future date.

John also mentioned the TexasSpeaks online survey conducted by Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service with the purpose of listening to Texas citizens as they identify the strengths and needs of their communities. The goal of the survey is to engage Texas citizens to create the most accurate and helpful data to support Texas communities at both the state and local levels. The url for the survey is tx.ag/Dy5Dvyl. John will send the link and information to members and ask them to share.

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins indicated the following opportunities:

- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project—self-directed
- Nurdle Beach Patrol—self-directed
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey—(upcoming) self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead

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 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/Dec/Jan2021: No update
Update VPAR agreements	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	<p>Sept: 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</p> <p>Oct: Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR</p> <p>Nov: Oron is working to finalize</p> <p>Dec: Oron continuing to work on</p> <p>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</p> <p>Apr: Oron is working to finalize</p> <p>May: Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is applying to be a new partner</p> <p>Jun: Bill said that APRD is requesting changes to its VPAR that Bill will send to the board; Oron will follow up</p> <p>Jul: Bill said APRD will respond on/about August 1</p> <p>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</p> <p>Sep: Bill has been contacted by City of Angleton attorney; he is to meet with him about Angleton Parks and Recreation Dept</p> <p>Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan2021: 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</p> <p>Feb 2020: The Executive Board has not yet met</p> <p>Apr: Not discussed</p> <p>May: Connie has collected some wording; John O’Connell will provide the 4H volunteer policy</p> <p>Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan2021/Feb: No update; Paul Cason will provide Sea Center Texas’ policy (received)</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</p> <p>Apr: Not discussed</p> <p>May: No update</p> <p>Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings</p> <p>Aug: Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Annual Meeting</p>
Distribution of 2020 recertification and milestone pins	John Boettiger, John O’Connell	ASAP		<p>To be announced at December General Meeting</p> <p>Jan21: To be mailed to members per State’s request. Kristine suggested that included in the mailing should be a request for members to update their VMS info. John O’Connell suggested crush-proof mailing materials. Mailing in February after deadline for entry of final VMS hours</p> <p>Feb: Still awaiting milestone pins from State; because of cost of shipping pins to each members (\$5+), John is going to have a point person in various areas; distribution TBD</p>
COT 20 th Anniversary Celebration Committee	Rose, Mickey, Lisa, Daveyon, John B.	TBD		<p>Rose will also ask members of the host committee if they also wish to participate</p> <p>Feb: Committee met 2/1; the committee suggested that the anniversary celebration and Hog Wild be combined on Dec.8, and Ed Barrios agreed to offer his house as the venue; however, no alcohol allowed if</p>



				this is an official TMN event; caterer for appetizers TBD
NEW Action Item(s) Added at February Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments	
Will Volunteer Fair count as AT or VT	Mickey			
Review the AgriLIFE alcohol policy for COT 20 th Anniversary event	John O'Connell			

President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:10 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													
Mickey Dufilho	X	X											
Kathy Pittman	X	X											
Sabathier, Don	X	X											
Myers, Lisa	X												
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X	X											
Cason, Paul		X											
Immediate Past President													
Bill Ahlstrom	X												
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X											
Boettiger, John	X	X											
Edwards, Daveyon	X	X											
Lewis, Ruby	X	X											
Peterson, Larry	X	X											
Schwartz, Mary	X	X											
Stolte, Connie	X												
Wagner, Rose	X	X											
Whitmarsh, Bob													
Rivers, Kristine (non-voting)	X												
Guests													
													1