



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

President: Mickey Dufilho called 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 February 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 February Board- and General-Meeting minutes	Larry Peterson	John Boettiger	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
No new motions			

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

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
Will Volunteer Fair count as AT or VT	Mickey Dufilho	Mch2021: WILL count as VT
Review the AgriLIFE alcohol policy for COT 20 th Anniversary event	John O’Connell	Mch2021: There is no prohibition if event is not held on a state site

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

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

- **March**—Melanie Hollenshead of COT, “Basic Spider Biology”; Nature Note, Bob Whitmarsh, “Side Oats Grama”
- **April**—Steve Lenox of Muslow Forestry, “Forestry Opportunities and the Role of the Consulting Forester”; Nature Note, Bob Salzer, “Postage Stamps with Natural and Historical Themes”
- **May**—Kristine Rivers, COT and Birding for Fun, “A Bird’s Eye View on Behavior”; Nature Note, Chris Kneupper, “Some Old Maps of Texas, 1727-1822.”

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the February 2021 financial information, below. He said that to date, several members have not paid 2021 dues; he will send personal email reminders. We received \$210 in non-member fees for the Bonus AT Day.

February 1-28, 2021, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 11,370.69
Revenue Summary	\$ 808.55
Expense Summary	\$ 399.38
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 11,779.86

Membership—John Boettiger presented Data Manager Dave Brandes’ February impact, recertification and awards data for inclusion in the minutes. Kristine asked if we could spend more time honoring recipients at the General Meetings. Mickey will move up the announcement in the agenda. Kristine added that we could have a special recognition for Phil Huxford’s 15,000-hour milestone at COT’s 20-year anniversary celebration.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—February 28	169	43	212

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—February 28	2,168	534

2021 Recertifications		1000 VT Hours Milestone
John Boettiger	Vicki Kirby	Chip Sweet
Dave Brandes	Lisa Myers	
Melanie Hollenshead	Debbie Nance	
Larry Kirby	Larry Peterson	

John reviewed the plan to distribute 2020 certification, recertification, and milestone pins. **The following “City Czars” have volunteered to coordinate distribution with members after all pins are received from State.** Also reported was the number of recipients per milestone for 2020. He has all the milestone pins needed for 2020 except for 15,000 hours, and he has not been told

when he will receive special 2020 pins or how quickly he will receive 2021 pins after requesting them.

CITY CZAR	# OF 2020 RECERTIFICATIONS	CITIES IN BRAZORIA COUNTY	2020 Hours	# of Recipients
John Boettiger	15	Part of Lake Jackson and others	250	8
Oron Atkins	12	Part of Lake Jackson	500	7
Bob Whitmarsh	12	Part of Lake Jackson	1000	4
Daveyon Edwards	3	Angleton	2500	2
Kathy Pittman	11	Alvin and Rosharon	4000	2
Mickey Dufilho	7	Brazoria, West Columbia & Sweeny	5000	1
Mary Schwatz	4 plus 1	Freeport, Clute & Initial Certification	10,000	0
Larry Peterson	2	Manvel	15,000	1
Don Sabathier	1	Pearland		
	67 plus 1			

Training Director—Mary Schwartz mentioned that she suggests as a future discussion having a training director for each of the two fall and spring classes. She added that she has not yet received the new-member name badges due to delays from the supplier.

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins reported the following opportunities:

- **Harvest for the Hungry**—Possible restoration project; more information later
- **GCBO’s Spring Fling at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary**—April 3 through May 8; Regina Tippettt coordinating; planning underway (*John O’Connell noted that he has not yet received new volunteer guidelines based on the governor’s announcement yesterday. He requested a small committee to determine COT’s preparedness plan); Mickey will contact Regina for latest information
- **Adopt-a-Loop**—Possible citizen science opportunity for COT from TPWD’s Great Texas Wildlife Trails program. Oron explained the requirements for participation; Deb Nance has offered to coordinate and procure volunteers; we need to decide which trail loops to support; the Board agreed to support participation
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self-directed
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—(upcoming) self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead.

Advanced Training Director—Bob Whitmarsh has added a couple of items to the Calendar. He indicated that the Fall Field Day committee would like to hold an event in October at Cannan Bend Recreation Area.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis provided the following:

- **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.

Communications Director—Larry Peterson noted that “mugshots” of members have been posted to the website.

Speakers Bureau Coordinator—Kristine Rivers said that Osher Lifelong Learning Institute needs presenters for their summer program.

Chapter Advisor—John O’Connell said that COT can now meet in person, but we need to submit a preparedness plan. He has not gotten county guidelines. Several board members expressed concern regarding meeting in person in the near future.

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/Feb/Mch: No update
Update VPAR agreements	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	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 Oct: Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR 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 May: Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is



				<p>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/Dec/Jan/Feb2021: 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/Dec/Jan2021/Feb/Mch: 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 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>
Distribution of 2020 recertification and milestone pins	John Boettiger, John O’Connell	ASAP		<p>To be announced at December General Meeting 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 Feb: Still awaiting milestone pins from State; because of cost of shipping pins to each member (\$5+), John is going to have a point person in various areas; distribution TBD Mch: See report, in minutes</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 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 this is an official TMN event; caterer for appetizers TBD Mch: Meeting today; will report next month</p>
	John O’Connell	ASAP		Mch2021: No prohibition from State if not on a state facility
NEW Action Item(s) Added at March Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments	
GCBO Spring Fling	Mickey Dufilho	ASAP	Mch2021: Mickey will contact Regina Tippet for more information and to ask her to present at next week’s general meeting	
Adopt-a-Loop	Mickey Dufilho	ASAP	Mch2021: Mickey will contact Deb Nance for more information and to present at next week’s general meeting	



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903
<https://txmn.org/tmncot/>

President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:05 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	X										
Kathy Pittman	X	X	X										
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X										
Myers, Lisa	X		X										
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X										
Cason, Paul		X											
Immediate Past President													
Bill Ahlstrom	X		X										
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X										
Boettiger, John	X	X	X										
Edwards, Daveyon	X	X	X										
Lewis, Ruby	X	X	X										
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X										
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X										
Stolte, Connie	X		X										
Wagner, Rose	X	X	X										
Whitmarsh, Bob			X										
Rivers, Kristine (non-voting)	X		X										
Guests													
													1