



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.
 via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

Mickey Dufilho, President, called the meeting to order.

Attendance—Approximately 65 members and one guest speaker joined the virtual meeting.

Format of the Meeting—**Mickey Dufilho** 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.

Volunteer Hours, Certifications, and 2020 Pins—**Mickey Dufilho**, on behalf of **John Boettinger**, Membership Director, announced the following data for March, as provided by Dave Brandes.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—March 31	996	236	1,232

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—March 31	2,884	764

2021 Recertifications		Milestones
Oron Atkins	Jim Nance	None
Mickey Dufilho	Kathy Pittman	
Paula Hanson	Dick Schaffhausen	
Denis James	Chip Sweet	
Chris Kneupper	Regina Tippet	
Roy Morgan	George Valadez	

Mickey reviewed the **new** plan to distribute 2020 certification, recertification, against-all-odds, and milestone pins.

- For those in Lake Jackson, Clute, Richwood, Freeport: Pick up will be Sea Center Texas
- For Brazoria, West Columbia, Sweeny, Angleton, Alvin: Pick up at AgriLife offices in Angleton
- For Manvel and Pearland: Your pins will be mailed.
- **Pickup starting Thursday, April 22.**

FEATURED SPEAKER—**Steve Lennox**, Muslow Forestry, spoke on “Forestry Opportunities and the Role of the Consulting Forester.”

Nature Note—**Bob Salzer**, COT Member, spoke on “Postage Stamps and Pollinators.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's Update—Mickey Dufilho shared the following:

- **#TMNTuesdays** presented by the State Office on the second Tuesday of each month. Can count AT time if attending live or listening afterwards. Link for each month is on the State TMN website under #TMNTuesdays
- **Be the Change initiative by Texas Parks and Wildlife:** Exploring diversity, equity and inclusion opportunities in our natural resource and conservation community. April 20th, 12pm CST, is the next installment in this mini-webinar series. The speaker is David Buggs, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Texas Parks & Wildlife. More information will be sent via the State email listserve. You must register in advance, and it counts as AT.
- **TMN License Plates:** By purchasing a Texas Master Naturalist license plate, provide financial support to the TMN program and its conservation and stewardship of Texas' natural resources. ANYONE can purchase this plate and **\$22 of each \$30 annual plate fee comes directly back to the TMN Program.** Once ready, the plate is available for purchase on the website: <https://www.myplates.com/>. The State office will announce via its [website](#), our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Follow TMN on social media or join the TMN [email listserv](#).
- **Current COVID Guidelines:** maintain 6-foot social distance for indoor and outdoor activities and wear a mask. The COT chapter is discussing when we can resume in-person meetings; stay tuned for a membership survey



Adopt-a-Loop Volunteer Opportunity—Debbie Nance, Coordinator, shared the following:

- Contact Debbie Nance if you interested and include the site or sites you'd most like to visit; Debbie's information: debnance@gmail.com text to cell phone 281-898-8540; She will contact you about: start date; training on form to fill out and how to survey; training on ebird and iNaturalist
- General guidelines:
 - Contact the site contact and arrange a visit
 - Visit each site by May 31 and complete the Great Texas Wildlife Trails Adopt-a-Loop initial checklist
 - Join the GTWT Adopt-a-Loop iNaturalist project. Take at least two photos of birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, wildflowers, trees, or any other form of animal or plant you observe. Upload the photos to iNaturalist on your computer
- Debbie displayed a list of sites that COT members have already signed up for.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis provided the following:

- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day—**April 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; scaled down, outdoor event; socially distanced; Ruby is contacting volunteers
- **Brazoria County Wildlife Refuge Cleanup Day—**April 20, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Tom Schneider (FWS) or Lisa Myers



- **Surfside World Migratory Bird Day**—April 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 418 Parkview; four volunteers needed
- **City of Clute Earth Day**—April 24 at Clute Municipal Park, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Kids Real Big Fish Bash**—May 8, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; contact Sea Center
- **Brazoria County Bird Bash (Angleton)**—October 9.

VT Opportunities—Oron Atkins provided the following opportunities approved for VT.

- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed; the Salinases will be setting group dates soon
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self-directed
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—(upcoming) self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead.
- **Adopt-a-Loop**—Possible citizen science opportunity for COT from TPWD’s Great Texas Wildlife Trails program
- **GCBO’s Spring Fling at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary**—April 3 through May 8; Regina Tippett coordinating
- **Sea Turtle Patrol**— (training required and has occurred); contact Roland Davis
- **Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2021**— (training/testing required); self-directed
- **BNWR Cleanup Day at Discovery Center**—April 20, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Tom Schneider (FWS) or Lisa Myers
- **Green Nursery, Volunteer Workdays**—April 14, 15, 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (RSVP, screening form and face mask required); contact Christie Taylor
- **Apple Snail Removal at Hudson Woods**—Contact is David Heinicke, but contact Oron first if interested
- **Sea Center Tour Guides Training**—Contact Sea Center. Dates: Thursday, April 22, 1-3:30 p.m.; Friday, April 23, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 25, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the March financial statement and reminded members to pay the COT, \$25 dues for 2021.

March 1-31, 2021, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 11,779.86
Revenue Summary	\$ 83.08
Expense Summary	\$ 275.02
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 11,971.80



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
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President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the General Meeting at 11:25 a.m. Time codes allocated were:

- Presentation Code "AT: I Received Training," 1.5 hours
- Chapter Business Meetings Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," 1.0 hour.

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

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