





prepared for the Bonus AT Day (Feb 2019)		Removed at the request of Ruby as this action will likely never happen
Set up on-line registration for those wishing to register for one of the in-person slots for the July General Meeting	John O'Connell	<b>Aug:</b> There will be no limit for in-person attendance as only 30 attended in July; Board will continue to monitor CDC and AgrILIFE guidelines and adjust as necessary; August will be hybrid meeting with packaged or served snacks

**BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS**

**President’s Report**—On behalf of Mickey Dufilho, who could not attend the meeting, Kathy Pittman reported the following:

- No TMN Presidents Meeting in July
- August General Meeting: Reminder that the August meeting will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual attendance.

**Report on Intern-Recruitment Committee Meeting**—On behalf of Mickey Dufilho, Kathy Pittman reported the following:

- An information/orientation meeting for potential interns will be held on August 12, 6:30 p.m. (social), 7:00 p.m. (program) at the Angleton library
- Refreshments to be brought by Board Members attending
- Mickey will provide a short presentation on the Texas Master Naturalist program
- Mary Schwartz, Larry Peterson, and Dick Schaffhausen will handle publicity
- Mickey will communicate with members asking them to share the invitation with prospective members
- Bob Whitmarsh will coordinate information/presentations on Chapter activities including: beach sweep (Jimmy and Luanne Salinas); apple snails (Kristine Rivers); Nash Prairie and seed gathering (Susan Conaty); FOBWR projects (Oron Atkins and Marty Cornell); Brazoria County spider project (Melanie Hollenshead); library programs (Ruby Lewis); sea turtles (Ruby Lewis or Kim Richardson); pollinators (ask Patty Brinkmeyer); other (Bob Whitmarsh).

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

- **August**—**Kelly Drinnen**, NOAA, on the recent expansion of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary; no Nature Note (will allow more time for Kelly)
- **September**—**Deborah January-Bevers**, President and CEO of Houston Wilderness, on “Texas Native ‘Super Trees’ and their Benefit to the Environment”; Nature Note, **Dick Schaffhausen** on “The Birds of Resoft County Park Rookery”; Kathy will invite Master Gardeners to attend; ask Sue Heath if she would like to promote this year’s shrike study
- **October**—Field Day at Cannan Bend Recreation Area
- **November**—TBD; suggested topic: red tide and other water-quality issues
- **December**—COT 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (no intern presentations: see Training Director, below).

**Treasurer’s Report**—Don Sabathier presented the July 2021 financial information, below. He indicated that we have not yet received corporate matching dollars for Mike Mullins’ volunteer hours, and he will follow up with Mike. He also stated that several budgeted items, including

GoDaddy fees and D&O premium will be higher than planned, and he reminded the board that we have approved more expenses this year than were planned in the budget. We saved money in the past year by not having in-person meetings (coffee, supplies, celebration cakes), but these expenses will resume as we recommence in-person meetings. Also, Melanie Hollenshead has not yet submitted expenses for her grant project; Kristine will invite Melanie to update the Board on the spider survey.

**1-31 July 2021, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 12,443.12
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.18
Expense Summary	\$ 125.42
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 12,341.88

**Membership**—John Boettiger presented Data Manager Dave Brandes’ July impact and recertification data for inclusion in the minutes.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
<b>YTD Totals—July 31</b>	2711	5067	7778

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
<b>YTD Totals—July 31</b>	6647	1316

\* July only: 477 VT and 49 AT Hours

2021 Recertifications and Awards
none

John also reported the following:

- 45 members have recertified for 2021 as of July 31
- 12 milestones have been achieved as of July 31
- Most certification/recertification/milestone pins have been distributed; he asked Crystal Andablo to hold any pins not claimed at the August General Meeting
- He will recognize all milestones from 2020 and 2021 to date at the August meeting; he asked that Larry or Dick Schaffhausen take pictures
- He asked that we have a cake at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to honor major milestones in 2020 and 2021.

**Training Director**—Mary Schwartz reported the following:

- No luck in securing a co-director
- Most of the scheduling is done for the fall training class
- Making tentative plans to hold intern presentations and graduation celebration on the evening of December 9 or 11; will include intern families and COT membership
- On-line registration for upcoming training class went live July 28, and six people have registered so far

- Name badges for the last class have finally been received; Board Members should let Mary know if they need a new name badge
- The COT Operating Handbook needs to be updated to reflect current State guidelines for new-member training [see Action Item].

**Volunteer Service Director**—Oron Atkins reported on and/or updated the following opportunities:

- **GCBO Nursery Garden Work Day**—Every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturday, August 28 in anticipation of Xtreme Hummingbird Extravaganza; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed
- **Beach Sweep Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—August 9, 8 a.m. at Quintana Fishing Jetty; contact Jimmy and Luanne Salinas
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead
- **Adopt-a-Loop for TMN**—self-directed; contact Deb Nance
- **Apple Snail Removal at Hudson Woods**—Contact David Heinicke
- **Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2021**—(training/testing required); self-directed; <https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/pollinator-citizen-science-project-opens-again-march-22-2021/#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20project,USA%2C%20namely%20Texas%20and%20Oklahoma>
- **Exploration Green Nursery, Volunteer Workdays**—August 12 & 18, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (must RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploration-green-phase-2-planting-event-tickets-156553115583>; screening form and face mask required); contact Christie Taylor.

**Advanced Training Director**—On behalf of Bob Whitmarsh, Kristine Rivers reported on preliminary plans for the October Field Day at Cannan Bend Recreation Area near Oyster Creek:

- October 13 from 8:30-9:00 a.m. (social)
- 9:00 a.m. to ~12:00 p.m. stations that (tentatively) include: a) History of the Unit, its acquisition and plans for the future and history of the area over time; b) nature walk through Hickner Woods (flora and fauna); c) prairie flora and fauna; d) kayaking
- We will need several canopies; John O'Connell offered two.

**Outreach Director**—Ruby Lewis reported the following events:

- **Brazos Mall Event**—August 14, time TBD
- **GCBO's Xtreme Hummingbird Extravaganza**—September 18 and 25; Ruby will send an email to membership with volunteer requirements for COT and Friends booths and also for GCBO
- **Brazoria County Bird Bash** (Northside Elementary School, Angleton)—October 9.

**Chapter Host**—Rose Wagner reported that plans for the COT 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event are proceeding. The venue is First Presbyterian Church in Angleton; lunch will be provided for members (cost for guests); cake to honor past milestones.

**Communications Director**—Larry Peterson reported:

- Facebook views/posts continue to slowly grow
- Google analytics is now working



- John O’Connell said that he and Crystal Andablo would like to help with COT promotion via social media. He said that they schedule posts in advance for future uploads. He also offered to edit short video clips via AgriLIFE’s video-editing program, and he recommended that we consider using Instagram as well as Facebook
- Larry added that he will “boost” the intern-training Facebook post.

**Chapter Advisor**—John O’Connell reported the following regarding AgriLIFE:

- Recommended to Ruby Lewis that COT arrange for outside printing of the “Your Guide to Becoming a Master Naturalist” brochure. Lisa Myers said that she had made edits requested by Mickey Dufilho and provided her with a quote from BayStar. Bill Ahlstrom indicated that he thought other changes were needed; suggested changes should be sent to Mickey.
- Starting “Water Wednesdays” in September on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (virtual) for interested persons to work towards Texas Water Specialist Certification.

**For the August General Meeting**—In addition to relevant items above, announce the table decoration contest for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
Review and update partners webpage (Aug 2019) (see below also)	Oron Atkins, Larry Peterson	ASAP	Ongoing	<p><b>Sept:</b> Oron has updated and will provide Neal with information to post on website</p> <p><b>Oct:</b> Oron working to finalize changes</p> <p><b>Nov:</b> 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</p> <p>Dave expressed concern that these relationships should be reciprocal</p> <p><b>Dec:</b> Agreements being worked on</p> <p><b>Feb2020:</b> Agreements being worked on</p> <p><b>Apr:</b> Agreements being worked on</p> <p><b>May:</b> No update; Bill said Angleton Parks &amp; Recreation Department wants to be a VPAR</p> <p><b>Apr/May/Jun/Jul 2021:</b> No update</p> <p><b>Aug:</b> Oron will provide current info to Larry and he will update webpage (including State’s definition of “partner”</p>
Update VPAR agreements (Aug 2019)	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	<p><b>Sept:</b> 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><b>Oct:</b> Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR</p> <p><b>Feb 2020:</b> 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><b>May:</b> Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is applying to be a new partner</p>



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				<p><b>Jun:</b> Bill said that APRD is requesting changes to its VPAR that Bill will send to the board; Oron will follow up</p> <p><b>Jul:</b> Bill said APRD will respond on/about August 1</p> <p><b>Aug:</b> 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><b>Sep:</b> Bill has been contacted by City of Angleton attorney; he is to meet with him about Angleton Parks and Recreation Dept</p> <p><b>Apr/May/June/Jul/Aug 2021:</b> No update</p>
Committee to draft wording for harassment and accommodations for disability policies (May 2020) and... Committee to form action plan on diversity/equality/inclusion per State (May 2021)	Kristine Rivers (chair), Mickey Dufilho, Bill Ahlstrom, Lou Golish		Ongoing	<p><b>Jul:</b> Kristine will recruit committee members; Mickey will help with recruitment</p> <p><b>Aug:</b> Kristine has information provided by Connie and Paul</p>
Hold a brief training session on entering hours in VMS via Smart Phone (Mch 2020)	?	TBD	Tabled	<p>To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours</p> <p><b>Apr2020:</b> Not discussed</p> <p><b>May:</b> No update</p> <p><b>Jun:</b> Tabled pending in-person general meetings</p> <p><b>Aug:</b> Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Annual Meeting</p>
COT 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee (Jan 2021)	Rose Wagner, Mickey Dufilho, Lisa Myers, Connie Stolte, John Boettiger	TBD	On-going	<p>Rose will also ask members of the host committee if they also wish to participate</p> <p><b>Feb:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Mch:</b> Meeting today</p> <p><b>Apr/May/June:</b> Ongoing; Rose will report at the June General Meeting</p> <p><b>Jul:</b> The budget was raised from \$2k to \$2.5K to cover food costs (but not alcohol)</p> <p><b>Aug:</b> Plans proceeding; venue is First Presbyterian Church, Angleton; caterers for lunch being examined (free for members, cost for guests); cake to celebrate milestones</p>
Recruit a co-director of training, determine if it should be a board position and if there is any constraint in the Operating Handbook (Apr 2021)	Board, Mary Schwartz, Connie Stolte	ASAP	Ongoing	<p>Mary is also considering moving the training day from Wednesday, and possibly at night, and field trips on Saturday. Mary has a couple of candidates in mind for the Co-Director</p> <p><b>May:</b> Connie says handbook says there is one chair and committee members; we can amend by vote of membership; we can also have a non-voting vice-chair. Tabled until June meeting</p> <p><b>Jun:</b> Connie suggests having a vice-chair who is welcome to attend board meetings as adding board members requires amending the Operating Handbook. Lisa added that less than two years ago, we trimmed the size of the board</p> <p><b>Jul:</b> No one has agreed to be co-director; Mary plans to continue virtual classes in the evenings and weekend field trips</p> <p><b>Aug:</b> Mary has not found a volunteer</p>





Coordinate logistics of changing meeting time of odd-numbered General Meeting months to 6:30 p.m. beginning with the <b>November 2021</b> meeting (July 2021)	Rise Wagner, Kathy Pittman, Mickey Dufilho, Bob Whitmarsh, Ruby Lewis, Kristine Rivers	Before Nov. 2021		Need to discuss refreshments, time, day, conflicts with other meetings, etc. <b>Aug:</b> Alternate-month evening meetings will be reevaluated after one year (Oct 2022); committee decided on 6:30-7p social time and meeting begins at 7p with speakers first. Announce at August General Meeting and newsletter
<b>NEW Action Item(s) Added at August Meeting</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due date?</b>	<b>Comments</b>	
Begin the process of changing the Chapter Operating Handbook to reflect current State guidelines for intern training	Connie Stolte	ASAP	Connie will draft wording for Board approval, then announce to membership 30 days in advance of vote to approve	
a) Invite Master Gardeners to attend September General Meeting presentation by Deborah January-Bevers of Houston Wilderness; b) ask Sue Heath if she would like to briefly promote this year's shrike study	Kathy Pittman	ASAP		

**President:** Kathy Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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



Attendance 2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Elected Board Members</b>													
Mickey Dufilho	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Kathy Pittman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Myers, Lisa	X		X	X	X	X		X					
<b>Advisors</b>													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Cason, Paul		X		X			X						
<b>Immediate Past President</b>													
Bill Ahlstrom	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					
<b>Appointed Board/Committee Members</b>													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Boettiger, John	X	X	X					X					
Edwards, Daveyon	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lewis, Ruby	X	X	X		X	X	X	X					
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Stolte, Connie	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					
Wagner, Rose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Whitmarsh, Bob			X	X		X	X						
Rivers, Kristine ( <i>non-voting</i> )	X		X				X	X					
<b>Guests</b>													
Crystal Andalbo				X				X					
Neal McLain				X			X						