



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, July, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 10:47 a.m.

In Person and via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting License

Mickey Dufilho, President, called the meeting to order.

Attendance— 30 members in person; approximately 23 virtually; and one guest.

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 and recertifications—**John Boettiger**, Membership Director, announced the following data for June, as provided by Dave Brandes. John reminded members to pick up their pins at either AgriLIFE in Angleton or Sea Center Texas and added that he hopes to have received back-ordered pins by the August General Meeting.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—June 30	2651	4978	7629

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—June 30	6101	1231

* June only: 595 VT and 103 AT Hours

2021 Recertifications
Bill Ahlstrom Sheree Muzny Kristine Rivers

Nature Note—None

FEATURED SPEAKER— **Morgan Ayers** (virtually), Natural Resources Specialist, Texas Sea Grant, Corpus Christi, on “Watershed Management and Conservation.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COT General Meetings Update—**Mickey Dufilho** announced that meetings, for the foreseeable future, will be held in person with the option to attend virtually.

Chapter Host—**Rose Wagner** asked for volunteers to bring snacks to the August General Meeting; Bob Whitmarsh, Cynthia Grandjean, Oron Atkins, and Mickey Dufilho volunteered. Regarding the COT 20th Anniversary Celebration, Rose informed members of plans so far:



- December 8 at around lunchtime at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Angleton
- Catered lunch (free) for members; charge for guests of members
- Adopt-a-Table contest to create centerpieces; prize for winner is a marsh buggy ride at SBNWR
- Commemorative t-shirt will be available for on-line purchase
- Registration will be online via Eventbrite
- We need photos for a slide show at the celebration—especially from the early years; send to Rose or other committee members: John Boettiger, Connie Stolte, Lisa Myers, Mickey Dufilho

Adopt-a-Loop—On behalf of **Debbie Nance**, Mickey Dufilho announced:

- The following sites have been removed from the Coastal Plains Loop due to lack of access to the public or lack of upkeep by the sponsor: Amoco (Chocolate Bayou Nature Trail), Amoco Wetlands Trail, and Solutia Prairie.
- Two sites have not yet been claimed by volunteers: Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and Oyster Creek Municipal Park.
- A request for suggestions for additional sites yielded the following:
 - Camp Mohawk
 - Cannan Bend
 - Resoft Park
 - Surfside Beach (Crab Road)
 - Hudson Woods
 - Harvest for the Hungry Bird Trail
- Larry Peterson stated that he will provide a link to the TPWD trail maps on the COT website.

Outreach Director—On behalf of **Ruby Lewis**, Mickey Dufilho reported the following, upcoming events:

- **Kids' Kollege @ Brazosport College**—July 12-16, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., 6-8-year-olds; July 19-23, 9-12-year-olds, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Pomona Learn to Fish, Manvel**—July 31, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Brazos Mall** event—August (date TBD)
- **GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**—September 18 and 25 (we will have two booths; need volunteers)
- **Brazoria County Bird Bash** (Northside Elementary School, Angleton)—October 9.

Contact Ruby Lewis for more information rubylewis77515@ymail.com or 979-583-7903.

VT Opportunities—**Oron Atkins** provided the following opportunities:

- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—July 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper; Note: see his “things to do” list at the site if Chris is not there; volunteers can go any time GCBO is open
- **GCBO Nursery Garden Workday**—Every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper; see “Note” above

- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed and as scheduled by Jimmy and Luanne Salinas
- **Beach Sweep Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—July 15, 8 a.m. at Quintana Fishing Pier; contact Jimmy and Luanne Salinas; fewer participants lately, possibly due to vacations and heat
- **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 is David Heinicke, but contact Oron first if interested; CANCELLED for July due to David's vacation but Oron may be able to coordinate trips in July
- **Sea Turtle Patrol**—(training required and has occurred) contact Roland Davis; slow year but Oron has not checked Padre or Mexico reports
- **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**—July 17, 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.

Be the Change Initiative by Texas Parks and Wildlife—Kristine Rivers, Committee Chair, explained this TPWD and TMN initiative to explore diversity, equity and inclusion opportunities in our natural resource and conservation community. She solicited volunteers to join her and Mickey on the committee. The July 20, online, Be the Change meeting will focus on chapter case studies; participants must register to attend.

President's Update—Mickey Dufilho presented the following:

- **2021 Annual Meeting:** October 21-24; hybrid event with both live and virtual formats; cost not yet set; held at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott; check the website often for updates; COT will be a \$300 sponsor; COT is offering scholarships for those who cannot afford to attend: up to \$350 in registration fees for one member to attend in person and up to \$100 in registration fees for one member to attend virtually; Mickey asked that interested members email her to be included in a drawing
- **#TMNTuesdays** presented by the State Office on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. Next meeting is August 10. You can count this as AT time if attending live or listening afterwards. Link to register to attend each month is on the State TMN website under #TMNTuesdays
- **Chapter Newsletter.** Mickey indicated that the Board had discussed changing newsletter publication frequency to quarterly. She then asked members to indicate by a show of hands whether they were reading the newsletter; most or all raised their hands. Kathy Pittman suggested bimonthly publication; Neal suggested every month; someone else mentioned that based on his experience with another volunteer organization, decreasing frequency of the newsletter also decreased organization participation. Mickey said the Board will revisit the issue this week.



Communications Director—Larry Peterson encouraged members to utilize the chapter website <https://txmn.org/tmncot> and state website <https://txmn.tamu.edu> to stay informed. Members can also access the “new” COT website via the “old” website.

Training Director—Mary Schwartz said that she needs a training coordinator to run the spring intern training class, which will hold classes virtually in the evening and field trips on weekends. She will train and work closely with the coordinator. The intent of the spring training class is to make COT more accessible to those who work weekdays. Mary also needs additional volunteers on the training team.

COT New-Member Promotion—Mickey Dufilho asked members to pick up some COT membership information brochures at the end of the meeting to distribute them to interested parties.

Possible Change in General Meeting Days/Times—Mickey Dufilho informed members that the Board has discussed the possibility of holding some meetings at another day or time to accommodate those who work. She asked for volunteers and the following responded: Melanie Hollenshead and Kathy Purvis. Anyone else who is interested should contact Mickey.

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the May financial statement.

1-30 June 2021, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 12,169.00
Revenue Summary	\$ 274.12
Expense Summary	\$ 0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 12,443.12

President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the General Meeting at 10:47 a.m. Time codes allocated were:

- Presentation Code “AT: I Received Training,” **0.75 hour**
- Chapter Business Meetings Code “CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin,” **1.0 hour** plus travel time not to exceed 1.0 hour.

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

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