



## TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

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

**Mickey Dufilho, President**, called the meeting to order.

**Attendance**— 29 members in person; approximately 34 virtually; and three guests.

**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.

Mickey also thanked John O’Connell, Larry Peterson, and Kathy Pittman for their help in running virtual and hybrid meetings over the past months.

- **Volunteer Hours and recertifications**—**John Boettiger**, Membership Director, announced the following data for July, as provided by Dave Brandes. John reminded members to pick up their pins at the front table. He noted that as of July 31, 45 members have recertified, and 12 milestones have been achieved. Dick Schaffhausen then took a photo of members present who had achieved milestones in 2021 as of July 31.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—July 31	2711	5067	7778

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—July 31	6647	1316

\* July only: 477 VT and 49 AT Hours

2021 Recertifications and Awards
none

**Nature Note**—None

**FEATURED SPEAKER**— **Kelly Drinnen**, NOAA, “Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary: The Coral Reefs of Texas and Louisiana.”

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chapter Host**—**Rose Wagner** asked for volunteers to bring snacks to the September General Meeting.

Regarding the COT 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Rose informed members of plans so far:

- December 8 at lunchtime at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Angleton



- Adopt-a-Table contest to create centerpieces; prize for winner is a marsh buggy ride for eight at SBNWR.

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

- **Brazos Mall Kids Day**—August 14, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Refuge Saturday at Hudson Woods**—September 11; 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 for GCBO (see sign-up sheets at the entrance table); Oron Atkins added that he needs volunteer help with parking at the event
- **Brazoria County Bird Bash** (Northside Elementary School, Angleton)—October 9
- **Surfside Nature Fest**—October 9
- **Brazoria County Fair**—October 15-23
- **Refuge Saturday and Grand Opening at Cannan Bend Recreation Area**—October 16
- **KBR Kids Day** (Houston)—October 23 at Tony Marron Park, 808 North York; many volunteers needed.
- **Spooktacular, Sea Center Texas**—October 24.

Contact Ruby Lewis [rubylewis77515@ymail.com](mailto:rubylewis77515@ymail.com) or 979-583-7903.

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

- **GCBO Nursery Garden Work Day**—Every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturday, August 28, for pre-event cleanup for 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
- **Brazoria County Parks cleanup at Hanson Riverside County Park**—September date TBD, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **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://txmq.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.

Oron added: Although Sea Turtle Patrols have ended for the season, please be on the lookout and report any stranded turtles you may see at area beaches.

Dick Schaffhausen said that anyone interested in apple-snail harvesting at Resoft County Park should contact him for more information. You must bring your own kayak.



**Intern Training—Mary Schwartz** provided the following update:

- On-line registration is now open for the fall class
- Class starts August 26 and ends on December 4
- Classes are held virtually on Thursday evenings from 6-9:00 p.m.
- Field trips will be held on Saturdays and conducted in-person
- Class size is limited to 25
- \$125.00 fee covers the Texas Master Naturalist curriculum book, a field journal, background check, current year chapter dues, polo shirt, tee shirt and name tag
- Please invite prospective members to come to the August 12 meet-and-greet.

Mary added that she is still looking for a co-director of training to run the spring classes. She also needs volunteers for the spring training team.

**Be the Change Initiative by Texas Parks and Wildlife—Kristine Rivers**, Chapter Committee Chair, invited members to join COT's committee (other members include Bill Ahlstrom, Mickey Dufilho, and Lou Golish); the next meeting is August 17

**AT Director**—On behalf of **Bob Whitmarsh**, Kristine Rivers provided an update on the October 13 field day at Cannan Bend from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Preliminary plans include nature walks through the woods on the Hickner Trail and around the prairie; an overview of Cannan Bend and the area's history; kayaking with Mike Mullenweg.

**President's Update—Mickey Dufilho** presented the following:

- **TMN Virtual Volunteer Fair**—August 31 and September 1 (mornings)
- **2021 Annual Meeting**—October 21-24; hybrid event with both live and virtual formats; held at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott; check the website often for updates; 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 now to be included in the drawing
- **Changes in General Meeting**—Mickey reported that as part of the Chapter's effort to diversify membership, the Board had voted to begin holding evening General Meetings on alternate months beginning with the November meeting (day TBD). Social time will be from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., with the meeting following at 7:00 p.m.
- **September General Meeting will be a hybrid**
- **Change Chapter Newsletter Publication**—Mickey indicated that the Board revisited newsletter publication and decided that a full newsletter will be published in even-numbered months and a "mini-newsletter," with time-sensitive information, will be published in odd-numbered months.
- **Save The Date**—
  - **September 15 and subsequent third Wednesdays of each month**—"Water Wednesdays" at 6:30 PM (virtually) to work toward TPWD's Texas Waters Specialist certification; free and open to all; see John O'Connell for more information or email [john.oconnell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:john.oconnell@ag.tamu.edu)



**Treasurer’s Report**—Don Sabathier presented the July financial statement, below.

**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

Don added that upcoming expenses include monies allocated for the scholarships to the TMN Annual Meeting and \$3,000 for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event.

**Chapter Host**—Rose Wagner thanked those who volunteered to bring today’s snacks: Don Sabathier, Mickey Dufilho, and Oron Atkins, and she indicated that she needs snack volunteers for September.

**President**—Mickey Dufilho Indicated that hybrid General Meetings will continue as long as needed. She adjourned the General Meeting at 11:10 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 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](mailto:Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu)