



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 12, 2021, 7:05 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

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

Mickey Dufilho, President, called the meeting to order.

Attendance—26 members in person; approximately 32 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.

FEATURED SPEAKER—**Tony Reisinger**, Cameron County Extension Agent, spoke on “Harmful Algal Blooms and the Work of the Red Tide Rangers.” **CANCELLED, TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES**

Nature Note—**Marty Cornell** spoke on “FOBWR’s Rebuild of the SBNWR Bobcat Woods Trail,” winner of the TMN 2021 Annual Meeting Project of the Year.

Volunteer Hours and Recertifications—**John Boettiger**, Membership Director, announced the following data for October, as provided by Dave Brandes. John reminded members to pick up their pins at the front table and afterwards, at AgriLIFE.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—October 31	3747	5473	9220

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—October 31	9468	1649

* October only: 792 VT and 147 AT Hours

2021 Recertifications	500 Hours Milestone	4000 Hours Milestone
Cynthia Grandjean Sandy Henderson	Kathy Pittman	Dick Schaffhausen

Mickey then recognized all milestones for 2020 and 2021. At the end of the meeting, cake was provided to honor recipients’ achievements. Milestone recipients not present can pick up pins at the AgriLIFE office or at the COT 20th Anniversary Celebration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapter Host—**Rose Wagner** reported the following regarding the COT 20th Anniversary Celebration:

- December 8, 12 p.m., with On the River catering at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton



- Adopt-a-table, table-decorating contest prize is a marsh buggy ride for eight people at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge; tables are still available
- Register now and order t-shirts via Eventbrite; lunch free for members.

Outreach—Ruby Lewis reported the following events:

- **FOBWR Refuge Saturday at Bobcat Woods Trail**—November 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Birds of Prey Program at 12 p.m.; contact Ed Barrios or Lisa Myers
- **FOBWR Winter Break Open House at BNWR Discovery Center**—December 26 to January 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ruby provided a recap of fall outreach that included eight major events in September and October, six of which were related to partners, and four minor events.

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

VT Opportunities—Oron Atkins highlighted a few of the following opportunities (refer to the Calendar):

- **Exploration Green Nursery, Volunteer Workdays**—November 3,4,10,11,17,18,24, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; see their website (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
- **Exploration Green Tree Planting**—November 13 and 20, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **Tree Planting at Resoft Park**—November 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **BCPD Trail Day at Hanson Park**—Every third Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **GCBO Nursery Garden Workday**—Every Thursday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturday; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed
- **Beach Sweep Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—November 11, 8 a.m. at Quintana Fishing Pier via 8th Street; contact Jimmy and Luanne Salinas (bring trash grabbers, 5-gallon bucket, gloves, mosquito repellent, comfortable clothing/hat, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, water/refreshments, sunglasses, face mask, Clean Swell app)
- **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>

Intern Training—On behalf of Mary Schwartz, Mickey Dufilho introduced the COT new class interns and announced the following:

- Intern graduation will be held on Saturday, December 11, at 1 p.m. at the AgriLIFE conference room; all are welcome; intern projects will be live and virtual



- Spring class begins February 3; training is online evenings with Saturday field days; **volunteers are needed**
- Spread the word about the upcoming class; four information sessions are planned, starting in January at: Lake Jackson, Angleton, Alvin, and Pearland; Mickey needs volunteers to help.

2022 Bonus AT Day—Kristine Rivers said that the board is exploring a 2022 Bonus AT Day to be held on January 22 (tentative). The focus is animal behavior.

2022 Eco Fund Grant Applications—Kristine Rivers announced the availability of applications for the 2022 grant and provided a brief overview of the grant. The total for one or more grant(s) is \$500 to “support...specific projects that will enhance the chapter’s mission to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within the Brazoria County community.” To qualify for a grant, submitters must have been a COT chapter member for at least two years. Application deadline is December 31; submit applications to rivers@tmn-cot.org. See <https://txmn.org/tmncot/organization/guidelines-and-forms/>.

2022 Officers Nominating Committee—Dick Schaffhausen noted the following nominations:

President	Kathy Pittman
Vice President	Kristine Rivers
Secretary	Kathy Purvis
Treasurer	Don Sabathier

Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to voting on December 8 at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

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

1-31 October 2021, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 12,059.23
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.00
Expense Summary	\$ 0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 12,083.23

President—Mickey Dufilho Indicated that hybrid General Meetings will continue as long as needed. She adjourned the General Meeting at 8:10 p.m. Time codes allocated were:

- Presentation Code “AT: I Received Training,” **0.50 hour**
- Chapter Business Meetings Code “CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin,” **0.50 hour** plus travel time (total 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