





any constraint in the Operating Handbook (Apr 2021)	Connie Stolte	
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	Sue will give a brief presentation at the beginning of September General Meeting; Master Gardeners will be invited to attend virtually

**BOARD REPORTS**

**President's Report**—Mickey Dufilho reported and/or led the discussion on the following:

- Storage of "Join COT" brochures—Some will be left at AgriLIFE; Ruby Lewis will take the rest
- Night meeting survey results—Mickey will announce survey results at the General Meeting
- Annual Meeting—
  - Still a hybrid at this point; tell members to direct questions to chapter boards as the State office is overwhelmed with calls
  - Do we want to submit additional contest entries? Mickey will announce the art and photo contests at the General Meeting
  - Awarding of Annual Meeting scholarships—the two applicants will be notified that their on-line registration fees will be reimbursed
- **2022 Officer Nominating Committee**—As Past President, Bill Ahlstrom will chair the committee; John Boettiger volunteered; Bill will ask Kristine Rivers (as diversity committee chair) and a couple of members
  - Need the slate of officers before the October General Meeting so that the slate can be announced; election to be held at the November General Meeting; officers and other Board Members to be introduced at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - Appointed positions—Let Bill know your intentions by the end of October.

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

- **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 virtually; Sue Heath will briefly 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).

Kathy added that she would like to invite Master Gardeners, when applicable, to COT meetings and hope they reciprocate.

**Treasurer's Report**—Don Sabathier presented the August 2021 financial information, below. Don noted that August revenue was primarily fees for new member training, and expense was primarily

the \$300 sponsorship of the State Meeting. Don added that the D&O coverage and COT brochure printing bills will be paid in September.

Later in the meeting, Don said that a funds transfer from COT's TDECU account to the FOBWR TDECU account (to reimburse FOBWR for COT brochure printing) failed. Later, he received a supposed email from Regina Tippet asking for the deposit to be made to the FOBWR brokerage account. Regina said she had not sent the email. Don warned board members to be careful.

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

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 12,341.88
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,023.72
Expense Summary	\$ 372.45
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 12,993.15

**Membership**—John Boettiger indicated that the Board would receive via email Data Manager Dave Brandes' August impact and recertification data for inclusion in the minutes.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
<b>YTD Totals—August 31</b>	3486	5417	8903

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
<b>YTD Totals—August 31</b>	7409	1395

\* August only: 646 VT and 41 AT Hours

2021 Recertifications
Anne Bettinger

John also reported the following:

- 25 recognition pins (for 21 members) have not been claimed; John will continue to send reminders; he will leave pins with Crystal Andablo at AgriLIFE for members to pick up
- Someone accidentally picked up Chris Kneupper's 4,000-hour milestone pin; John will reorder.

**State Representative**—Connie Stolte reported the following draft of new COMAP changes presented at the June 28, 2021, Chapter Presidents Meeting. They final draft will be effective as of January 2022.

**CMOP Update 2021**

**New Training / Initial Certification Timeline Changes**

To become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist, a member must be Active according to Article III, B (1) and complete the following:

- TMN State Committee approved curriculum with a minimum of 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction (Initial Training Course)
- A minimum of 8 hours of approved advanced training (AT)

- A minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service. (Volunteer service hours spent exclusively on projects approved by the local chapter).
  - **Members should complete the AT and volunteer service requirements within 12 months of the start date of initial training (Initial Training Course)**
- Members-in-Training may begin earning volunteer service hours and AT hours as soon as they begin the Texas Master Naturalist initial training course and have passed their required Criminal Background Check (CBC).

CMOP Status:

- May, June 2021 – CMOP Team reviews all edits/suggestions
- July 2021 – State Office & CMOP Team make final edits
- **October 2021** – Will share updated CMOP at TMN Annual Meeting
- Changes to Guidance Documents
  - Review period – March to May
  - Edits/Updates – June to August
  - Share Final Docs – October
  - **Documents go Live – December 2021/January 2022**
- Moving to a THREE-Year Review Period starting 2022
- CMOP Update 2021
  - New training/initial certification timeline changes
    - Should complete the AT and volunteer service requirements *“within 12 months of the start date of initial training.”* (New wording designed to be clearer and more standardized.)

Guiding documents: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>

Connie said that in light of these changes, the COT Chapter Operating Handbook (COH), Appendix 2, will need to be updated. To amend the COH, the following procedures must be followed:

Amendment.

- a. Changes and amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors at a regular Board meeting with a two-thirds vote of the Board Members in attendance. The general membership must be notified in written form of the proposed changes or amendments ten (10) days before the next Board meeting and be given an opportunity at that Board meeting to voice any concerns about the changes or amendments
- b. The general membership must then be notified in written form of the final proposed changes or amendments ten (10) days before the next general membership meeting at which time a membership vote will be held
- c. Written form may be via conventional mail, email or other equivalent means.

Mary Schwartz said that she will review changes related to intern training and provide input to Connie.

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

- Current intern class started August 26 with 14 interns; about 50/50 working versus retired
- Needs a trainer for the plants class; Connie recommended David Daniels; Mary has not heard back from Stephen Brueggerhoff
- Co-director—No one has volunteered; she will proceed with her four team members

- Future meet-and-greet events for prospective members—Mary recommended four events to be held at various libraries; Mary asked who will promote these events; Larry indicated that he will handle web postings and Dick will handle Facebook
- Mary asked that current-intern contact information be put on the COT distribution list so that they receive information such as outreach, meetings, events, etc.

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

- **GCBO Nursery Garden Work Day**—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**—September 13, 8 a.m. at Quintana Fishing Pier via 8<sup>th</sup> 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://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**—September date TBD, 9 a.m. to 12 p.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.

**Advanced Training Director**—In Bob Whitmarsh's absence, Oron said that he would add upcoming spider-project training to the Calendar; see Melanie Hollenshead's project-update report attached.

**Outreach Director**—On behalf of Ruby Lewis, Oron reported the following events:

- **Surfside Beach Nature Fest**—September 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis
- **Refuge Saturday at Hudson Woods Unit**—September 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis
- **GCBO's Xtreme Hummingbird Extravaganza**—September 18 and 25
- **Brazoria County Bird Bash** (Northside Elementary School, Angleton)—October 9
- **Refuge Saturday and Grand Opening, Cannan Bend Recreation Area**—October 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Phil Huxford
- **KBR Kids Day**—October 23, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis
- **Halloween Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas**—October 24, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis

**Chapter Host**—Rose Wagner asked for volunteers to bring refreshments to the General Meeting. She reported that plans for the COT 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event are proceeding. The caterer will be On the River.

**Communications Director**—Larry Peterson reported continued growth for COT posts on social media. For August, there were 465 separate website sessions and about 1000 page views (mostly to the home page and the training page).

**Chapter Advisor**—Paul Cason reported the following regarding Sea Center Texas:

- Fish production has been good this summer for red drum and spotted sea trout
- Visitor Center has been fairly busy but slower not that school has started
- There are no COVID restriction from upper management
- Public youth fishing day on September 4 (bring own bait and tackle)
- Angler education instructor class on September 18 (see website)
- Spooktacular still scheduled for October 24 but depends on COVID status
- Monthly boater education and angler education classes (see website)
- Oron will add the education classes to the COT Calendar

**For the September General Meeting—**

- Announce State Meeting photo and art contests
- Promote spring new member training class
- Announce scholarship recipients for the State Meeting
- Reminder about October 13 field day
- Announce alternate-month night meeting survey results, if available
- Introduce fall interns via PowerPoint.

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	<b>Apr/May/June/Jul 2021:</b> No update <b>Aug:</b> Oron will provide current info to Larry and he will update webpage (including State's definition of "partner") <b>Sep:</b> Oron submitted page updates to Larry including deleting Phillips 66, the combined arts organizations at Center for the Arts, and will add Texas Watershed
Update VPAR agreements (Aug 2019)	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	<b>Apr/May/June/Jul/Aug 2021:</b> No update <b>Sep:</b> Oron has created a revised Partnership Agreement template and is reviewing existing VPARs
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	<b>Jul:</b> Kristine will recruit committee members; Mickey will help with recruitment <b>Aug:</b> Kristine has information provided by Connie and Paul
Hold a brief training session on entering	?	TBD	<b>Tabled</b>	To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours <b>Apr 2020:</b> Not discussed



hours in VMS via Smart Phone (Mch 2020)				<p><b>May:</b> No update  <b>Jun:</b> Tabled pending in-person general meetings  <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  <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  <b>Mch:</b> Meeting today  <b>Apr/May/June:</b> Ongoing; Rose will report at the June General Meeting  <b>Jul:</b> The budget was raised from \$2k to \$2.5K to cover food costs (but not alcohol)  <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  <b>Sep:</b> On the River selected at caterer; guidelines for table decorations have been sent to membership</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		<p>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>Sep:</b> Mickey will share results, if available, at the General Meeting</p>
Begin the process of changing the Chapter Operating Handbook to reflect current State guidelines for intern training (Aug 2021)	Connie Stolte		ASAP	<p>Connie will draft wording for Board approval, then announce to membership 30 days in advance of vote to approve  <b>Sep:</b> Final wording to be announced at State Meeting; Connie will work with Mary to ensure wording in training documents; Connie will initiate COH revision adoption procedures</p>
<b>NEW Action Item(s) Added at September Meeting</b>		<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due date?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Need a volunteer to attend the virtual State Representative meeting for Connie		Mickey Dufilho	ASAP	Mickey will find out date and time of the meeting; Lisa is available but not on Saturday
Investigate less expensive option to orange, waterproof journals given to interns		Mary Schwartz; Don Sabathier	ASAP	

**President:** Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:49 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)



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**

AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.  
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<https://txmn.org/tmncot/>

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		X				
Kathy Pittman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Myers, Lisa	X		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		X				
<b>Immediate Past President</b>													
Bill Ahlstrom	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
<b>Appointed Board/Committee Members</b>													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Boettiger, John	X	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	X				
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				
Stolte, Connie	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Wagner, Rose	X	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						



**ATTACHMENT—Comprehensive Survey of the Spiders of Brazoria County – Project Update**

**2021 Eco Award Grant Update:**

Purchases to date:

Qty	Item Description	Purchase (\$)	Vendor
3	Nets with Handles		
24	Glass Sample Storage Vials – 4 Dram		
24	Glass Sample Storage Vials – 11 Dram		
40	Petri Dishes		
5	6 oz. Bulb Syringes		
		262.97	BioQuip
1	Beating Sheet	38.30	BioQuip
1	Carbon Dioxide Duster		
6	CO2 cartridges		
		52.10	American Recorder Tech.
2	Carbon Dioxide Dusters <sup>1</sup>	57.04	American Recorder Tech.
2	“Common Spiders of North America” by Richard Bradley <sup>2</sup>	75.66	Amazon.com
	<b>Total Spent:</b>	<b>486.07</b>	

Funds still available: \$500 - \$486.07 = \$13.93. I will submit receipts for reimbursement when the last items are received.

**Training:**

Two virtual training classes are being scheduled with assistance from John O’Connell. They have been approved for Advanced Credit.

Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7-8:30 pm, “**On a Silken Thread**” by Dr. Paula Cushing, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The video is an hour with a 30-minute Q&A session that I will conduct.

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7-8:00 pm, “**Living with a Murderer**” by Dr. Paula Cushing, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This video is 28 minutes, and I will conduct a Q&A session afterwards.

Dr. Paula Cushing is the Curator of Invertebrate Zoology and an Arachnologist. She coordinated a Comprehensive Survey of the Spiders of Colorado. I based my project on her survey.

I have been corresponding with Paula for the last six months or so. We are both members of the American Arachnological Society. Paula has offered her assistance as needed with my project.

<sup>1</sup> On Order. No shipping date available yet.

<sup>2</sup> On Order. Delivery estimated 9/1/2021.

Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7-8:30 pm, “**Advanced Spider Training – Capture Techniques, Sedation with Carbon Dioxide and Photography.**” I will utilize short videos available from the American Arachnological Society as well as live instruction. I have not yet requested Advanced Training credit for this class.

**Research:**

Extracts of data from the i-Naturalist database have been reviewed and compiled.

**Conclusions:**

1. I-Naturalist is a very convenient way to record and collect data.
2. Identifications of spiders tends to be fairly good to the Family and sometimes to the Genus level. However, identification to the Specie level is not possible in many cases without better photographs of dorsal and ventral views. If the spider is mature, microscopic views of genitalia (males – pedipalps, females – epigynum) are required for many identifications. Immature spiders may not be identifiable.
3. Most spider observations are of very common spiders that are easy to see. Golden Silk Spiders, Yellow Garden Spiders and Spiny backed Orb Weavers were the most commonly observed spiders.
4. People are horrible photographers! I rejected all observations that had fuzzy balls with possible legs. No identification was possible.
5. People do not use the Comments section to provide useful information on the approximate size of the spider, where it was found (habitat), did it have a web, was prey identifiable, etc.
6. People are using the option to obscure their location. This makes it much more difficult to determine the general habitat where the spider was observed. (The obscured location option was added to avoid giving directions to endangered wildlife or flora.)

Information from i-Naturalist observations, 1960-2020 was added to the list of spiders identified from historical literature in the “Catalog of Texas Spiders” by David Allen Dean. The information was broken down into habitats and to our Partner’s locations. The final report is being written. However, all of this information is available.

The habitat and Partner Spider lists show what spiders may be expected to be found. I anticipate that we will find many more species when targeted spider surveys commence. This part of the project has been delayed by my health. I will try to train a core group that can provide leadership in the field when I cannot.

This field training will be conducted at my ranch in Brazoria, Texas. The ranch is a little over 5 acres with large Live Oak trees, a barn and a stall shed. The land was once used for a large pig raising operation. We used it to run horses, cattle, emus, rheas, turkeys and other fowl. It was also used to acclimate small mammals to the wild before release. No animals have been on the property other than an occasional neighbor’s horse and wildlife.

I did a preliminary survey and found a wide variety of spiders in an hour. I think this will be very useful and there are no permits required for the survey or capture of specimens for microscopic identification.

I will set up field training in September.

**Permit Applications:**

I have started the permit application for the Brazoria Wildlife Refuge complex. It required information that needed the i-Naturalist observations and Historical data to be combined. Now that this information has been combined and separated into habitats and Partner locations, my work on the permits can proceed. I expect to have the applications complete by January 2022.