

**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:14 a.m.  
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

President Mickey Dufilho called the meeting to order, presented the agenda and asked for additions or corrections.

**Attendance—**

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees	Present
Mickey Dufilho (President)	✓	Bill Ahlstrom (Immediate Past President)	✓
Kathy Pittman (Vice-President/Programs)	✓	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	✓
Lisa Myers (Secretary)	✓	Mary Schwartz (New Class Dir.)	✓
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	✓	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)	✓
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	✓
<b>Chapter Advisor(s)</b>		Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)	
John O’Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	✓	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	✓
Paul Cason (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	✓	Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	✓
<b>Guests/Other</b>		Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	✓
Kristine Rivers (non-board positions)	✓	Class of 2020 Rep. (none)	
Neal McLain (member)	✓	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Approve Previous Board Minutes—**The November Board and General Meeting minutes were sent to the Board for review, and the corrections suggested by Board Members were made. The minutes were approved.

**Minutes Approval—**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the November Board and General Meeting minutes	Rose Wagner	Kathy Pittman	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

**Motions—**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Due to increased costs, increase the new member training class tuition to \$150.	Rose Wagner	Connie Stolte	Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

**Action Register Review—**Other than items related to Board Reports, the register was not reviewed as the meeting ran long. [See COT Board Action Register at end of minutes.]

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
none		

**BOARD REPORTS**

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



- **Visibility low at AgriLIFE entrances for evening meetings**—Several solutions were discussed including posting volunteers at the entrances (with flashlights and vests); reflectors; solar lights; lit signage. John O’Connell said he would discuss with the commissioner’s office
- **Change in evening meeting day?** Mickey asked whether a change was needed; the board discussed and ultimately determined that a change would be confusing
- **Sound/microphone issues at General Meetings**—John O’Connell said that the mics are functional; issues are likely sound-adjustment related not the mics or batteries
- **State Meeting 2022**—October 20-23 at Omni Houston; COT will be involved
- **January Board “Retreat”**—It was suggested to hold some version of a retreat in February and perhaps include lunch.

**Election of 2022 Officers**—Mickey Dufilho indicated that election of officers will be held during a brief, official meeting during the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The board discussed whether to also have a virtual vote for those members not attending the event; however, it was decided that this would cause confusion and was not necessary.

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

- **December**—COT 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (no intern presentations)
- **January 2022**—Deborah Moran, International Dark-Sky Association, on the effects of lighting on animals and what we can do; Nature Note, Melanie Hollenshead with a status report on the spider survey (tentative).

**Treasurer’s Report**—On December 2, Don Sabathier provided the November 2021 financial information, below, for inclusion in the minutes.

**1-30 November 2021, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 12,083.23
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,330.80
Expense Summary	\$ 96.11
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 13,317.92

Mary stated that training costs have increased (e.g., Varner Hogg charges entrance fee per person), and the current \$125 tuition per person will not cover costs of the next class. The board discussed and decided to increase tuition to \$150 beginning with the spring 2022 class [see *Motions*]. Mary noted that information on the webpage needs to reflect this change.

**Review of 2021 COT Financial Records**—The financial records will be made available by Don Sabathier and reviewed following the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event by: Vice President Kathy Pittman; 2020 New Class Representative (none); Secretary Lisa Myers; and Class Advisors Paul Cason and John O’Connell.

**Budget for 2022**—The Board discussed Don’s draft budget for 2022. Later in the day, Don sent a revised draft (see below) reflecting the following changes requested. The Board will vote virtually on the budget.

- Delete line items for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event
- Revise New Intern Class Receipts to reflect tuition of \$150 versus \$125
- Budget \$2,000 for Special Annual AT Event
- Budget \$200 for Education Outreach Support Materials

<b>COT Draft Budget (12/1/21)</b>	2022 Budget		
<b>Opening Balance</b>		State Annual Conference Registration & Expenses	1,500.00
<b>INCOME ITEMS</b>		State Meeting Sponsorship & Scholarships	750.00
Membership Dues	2,650	Education Outreach Support Materials	100
Interest Income	2.00	EcoFund Projects	500
Member Donations	287.64	Chapter Host-Meeting/Party Supplies	500
Sponsor/Non-member Donations ??	1,000	Chapter Host- Recognition Party/Cakes	200
Member Payments for New Shirts		<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>7195</b>
Special AT event- Non-Member fees	100	TMN Text Book Order	588
Sale of extra TMN Books/Food		Field Books	50
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,040</b>	Ann's Monogramming -New Intern Polo Shirts	255
New Intern Class Receipts	2,700	Ann's Monogramming -Intern T-Shirts	250
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>6,740</b>	Intern Name Tags	150
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>		Intern Class Marketing	200
Donations to Approved Partners	25	Intern Class – Zoom Annual fees	160
Speakers Bureau		Intern Class Supplies	300
Speaker Travel Mileage/Motel/Tolls	500	Intern Class Additional Fees/Expenses	120
Membership Director Expenses	200	Intern Registration Reimbursement	
Office Supplies, Postage Etc.	30	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2073</b>
Special Annual AT Event	2,000	<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>9,268.00</b>
Fall AT Event	100	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(2,528)</b>
Member Shirt Purchases	40	COT Lifetime membership Dues \$400	
Outgoing President/Board Gift	60	COT 2022 Annual Dues \$25.00	
Annual Travelers D&O Insurance Premium	475.00	2022 Intern Class fee: \$150.00	
Godaddy Website maintenance	175.00	Members attaining 4, 5, or 10k VT hours exempt from dues next calendar year	
New Officer Name Tags	40	Travel reimbursement: ¢ 57.5/mile	

**Membership Director**—On December 2, Data Manager Dave Brandes provided for inclusion in the minutes impact and recertification data as of the end of November.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
<b>YTD Totals—November 30</b>	3,914	5,534	9,448

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
<b>YTD Totals—November 30</b>	10,391	1,736

\* November only: 603 VT and 32 AT Hours



2021 Recertifications		1000 Hours Milestone
Ed Barrios	John O'Connell	Jimmy Salinas
Carolyn May-Monie	Connie Stolte	
Mike Mullins	Sherry Summers	
Jo Myers	Cindy Vincent	

**Membership Director**—John Boettiger indicated that some members continue to feel that they do not receive value for their annual, \$25 dues. John suggested that a second Bonus AT day be offered later in the year featuring (only) a paid expert (up to \$500) as presenter.

**State Representative**—Connie Stolte indicated that she had received the new State CMOP documents and will be reviewing them prior to presentation to the Board.

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

- **Graduation for the current class** is Saturday, December 11, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at AgriLIFE; COT members should be invited via email, the webpage and the newsletter
- **Virtual classes**—Mary noted that virtual classes run longer than in-person; therefore, interns are receiving more than the 40 hours of total training time. Mary asked whether this should impact make-up classes and the board decided to leave such decisions to Mary's discretion
- **Spring class** starting February 3—schedule is almost complete; Mary would like on-line registration to open as soon as possible; Mary would like volunteer hosts for Saturday field trips so that she does not have to attend every one; she also needs volunteer/s to edit videos of training classes; we are holding a joint field trip with the Coastal Prairie and Katy Prairie chapters
- **Meet and Greets**—Mickey is organizing and has scheduled three for January; she will email the details; we need to advertise and promote.

**Volunteer Service Director**—Oron Atkins reported on and/or updated the following opportunities (refer to the Calendar):

- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead
- **Adopt-a-Loop for TMN**—self-directed; contact Deb Nance
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- **Beach Sweep Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—December 7, 8 a.m. at Quintana Jetties; 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)
- **Exploration Green Tree Planting**—December 9, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **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 Workday**—December 16, 22, 23, 29, and 30, 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
- **Water Wednesdays Virtual Meeting**—December 15, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **BCPD Trail Day at Hanson Riverside County Park**—December 16, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **GCBO Native Plant Nursery Workday**—December 16, 23, and 30 (and every Thursday), 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Saturday; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Discovery Center at BNWR Winter Break Open House**—December 26 through January 2; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis
- **Audubon Christmas Bird Counts** (see Calendar for registration details):
  - Galveston (TXGA), 12/14
  - Bolivar Peninsula, 12/16
  - San Bernard NWR, 12/17
  - Brazos Bend, 12/18
  - Freeport, 12/19
  - Matagorda County, 12/20
  - Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, 12/23
  - Brazoria-Columbia Bottomlands, 1/1/22

**Advanced Training Director**—Bill Ahlstrom indicated that he could provide help until Bob Whitmarsh returns.

**2022 Bonus AT Day Committee**—Kristine Rivers indicated the following plans so far:

- Date: Saturday, January 22 at First Presbyterian Church in Angleton
- Theme: Animal Behavior
- Potential topics: Portuguese man o' wars and other colonial organisms, kleptoparasitism in birds, behavioral adaptations of spiders, social behavior of bees, blue crab migration.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair**—Kristine Rivers has been in touch with two organizations:

- Outdoor Afro Houston (Dr. James P. Stancil II, <https://outdoorafro.com/>)—Kristine is setting up a meeting to discuss how we can work together
- Birdability (an initiative for inclusivity in birding, <https://www.birdability.org/>) –Potential meeting speaker in 2022.

**Eco Fund Grant 2022**—Kristine said that no applications have yet been received, but Mickey Dufilho intends to submit and perhaps Brenda Stitt as well.

**Chapter Host**—Rose Wagner reported the following on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

- Approximately 90 attendees; she needs the final head count
- Rather than attempting a live video link with the State office, she or Mickey will ask them to provide a short video to play at the event.

**Communications Director**—Larry Peterson reported:

- Hits on Facebook and our webpage are down slightly (15%) for the first time, likely due to the holiday
- Engagement is up 10%

- He wants to capture more images for the webpage photo gallery; alternately, use a blog, where others could post images; this would require a moderator.

**Chapter Advisor**—Paul Cason reported the following Sea Center news/information:

- There is no minimum age requirement for angler education classes
- Minimum age for boater education classes is 13
- A new volunteer coordinator has been hired; she will briefly present at a future board/general meeting
- Christmas with the Fishes event is December 4
- There have been challenges with the flounder breeding program this year
- They are moving towards increased trout stocking
- Paul will make a general-meeting presentation on fish propagation in 2022.

**Chapter Advisor**—John O’Connell indicated that he needs photos of volunteers “in action.”

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

- **FOBWR Winter Break Open House at BNWR Discovery Center**—December 26 to January 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; volunteers are needed, especially birders, part or full days; contact Ruby Lewis.

**For the December General Meeting (held during 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event)**—

- Hold elections for COT 2022 officers
- Urge members to attend Class of 2021 Intern Graduation on December 11
- Solicit volunteers for FOBWR Winter Break Open House at BNWR Discovery Center.

<b>Cradle of Texas Board Action Register (not reviewed at Dec. meeting other than board-member reports)</b>				
<b>Open Action Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due Date?</b>	<b>Complete/Ongoing</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 <b>Oct/Nov:</b> No update
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 <b>Oct/Nov:</b> No update
Committee to draft wording for harassment and disability accommodation policies (May 2020) and... Committee to form action plan on diversity/equality/	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 <b>Oct/Nov:</b> No update



inclusion per State (May 2021)				
Hold a brief training session on entering VMS hours via Smart Phone (Mch 2020)	?	TBD	Tabled	To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours <b>Apr 2020:</b> Not discussed <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 Meeting
COT 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee (Jan 2021)	Rose Wagner, Mickey Dufilho, Lisa Myers, Connie Stolte	TBD	On-going	Rose will also ask members of the host committee if they also wish to participate <b>Feb:</b> Committee met 2/1; 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/Apr/May/June:</b> Ongoing; Rose will report at the June General Meeting <b>Jul:</b> 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 as caterer; guidelines for table decorations have been sent to membership <b>Oct:</b> Rose working with Crystal on invite/registration; committee to decide on sales tax issue <b>Nov:</b> Only 26 members/guests have registered so far and 12 commemorative t-shirts ordered; several special guests from the county and our partners are attending; Mary Pearl and Michelle from the State office have been invited; Rose would like the invitation link sent again; Oron asked whether setup help was needed, and Rose said yes, at about 10 a.m.; We have only six volunteers for table decorations; Mickey said she has lots of materials and can decorate "unclaimed" tables; milestones for 2020 and 2021 will be recognized; Kristine asked how we could do to make the celebration feel "more special, exciting," for example, a flyer. Rose indicated that anyone is free to put something together; she can resend the current invitation
Begin the process of changing Chapter Operating Handbook to reflect current State guidelines for intern training (Aug 2021)	Connie Stolte		ASAP	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 <b>Oct/Nov:</b> Being worked on
Investigate less expensive option to orange, waterproof journals for interns (Sep 2021)	Mary Schwartz; Don Sabathier	Before spring class		<b>Oct:</b> No update <b>Nov:</b> Mary is considering a couple of options
New Training Class Meet-and-Greets (Nov 2021)	Mickey Dufilho		Jan 2022	Schedule for January; date, place and time TBD; other dates? <b>Dec:</b> Mickey has scheduled three for January; she will email details to the board
2022 Bonus AT DAY (Nov 2021)	Mickey Dufilho, Rose Wagner		TBD	Committee will need to be formed to hold the event in January or February <b>Dec:</b> To be held on January 22; focus is animal behavior



NEW Action Item(s) Added at December Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments
Hold a virtual vote to accept the 2022 budget after edits discussed at the December meeting are incorporated	Mickey Dufilho	ASAP	
Determine how to have better visibility at AgriLIFE entrances for night meetings	John O'Connell	Before Jan. 12	

**President:** Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:14 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	X	X	X	11
Kathy Pittman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12
Myers, Lisa	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	10
<b>Advisors</b>													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	11
Cason, Paul		X		X			X		X		X	X	6
<b>Immediate Past President</b>													
Bill Ahlstrom	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11
<b>Appointed Board/Committee Members</b>													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	11
Boettiger, John	X	X	X					X	X			X	6
Edwards, Daveyon	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Lewis, Ruby	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	10
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	11
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	10
Stolte, Connie	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11
Wagner, Rose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12
Whitmarsh, Bob			X	X		X	X						4
Rivers, Kristine ( <i>non-voting</i> )	X		X				X	X			X	X	6
<b>Guests</b>													
Crystal Andalbo				X				X					2
Neal McLain				X			X					X	3