



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:00 a.m. – 9:25 p.m.

Via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service's Microsoft Teams Meeting License

Kathy Pittman, President, called the meeting to order.

Attendance—Approximately 50 members virtually; and 1 guest

Format of the Meeting—**Kathy Pittman** reviewed the following reminders to attendees:

Online - When you enter the meeting:

- Please place your microphones on mute
- Please turn off your video to save on bandwidth
- For questions use chat box.
- Chat room will be monitored, and questions will be answered at end of the presentation
- If you want closed captions, turn it on – click on ... at top of screen – click on enable closed caption
- This presentation will be recorded

Agenda

- Welcome – Kathy Pittman
- Recognize visitors
- Volunteer hours, Certifications and Milestones – John Boettiger
- AT Presentation - Deborah Moran, Houston Astronomical Society and International Dark-Sky Association, "Light Right to Bring Back the Night."
- Break
- 2021 EcoFund Project Update– Spider Study of Brazoria County – Melanie Hollenshead and 2022 EcoFund Announcement – Kristine Rivers
- Announcements
- 2021 Review- Kathy Pittman
- 20th Anniversary, Refreshments Committee– Rose Wagner
- Outreach Update – Ruby Lewis
- Volunteer Opportunities – Oron Atkins
- Spring Intern Class Update– Mary Schwartz
- Financial Report – Don Sabathier
- Meeting AT and VT hours – Bob Whitmarsh
- Adjourn



Volunteer Hours and Recertifications—John Boettiger, Membership Director, announced the following data for December, as provided by Dave Brandes. John recognized initial certifications, certifications, and milestones. Pins will be picked up at in person meetings. John and Kathy encouraged members to enter their hours for 2021 ASAP.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—December 31	4096	5785	9881

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—December 31	12,201.88	1,804.57

* August only: 1,217.1 VT and AT 45.5Hours

Initial Certifications	Recertifications
Pat Jeffreys	Patty Brinkmeyer
Lisa Martinez	Cindy Goodrum
	Mike Hampy
	Carol Jones
	Ruby Lewis
	Pam Peltier
	Lawrence Ruhr
	Robert Salzer
	Kenneth Sluis
	Linda Sluis

250 Milestone Hours	5000 Hours
Angela Griffin	Oron Atkins
Mike Mullenweg	

FEATURED SPEAKER— Deborah Moran, Houston Astronomical Society and International Dark-Sky Association, “Light Right to Bring Back the Night.”

Nature Note—2021 EcoFund Project Update– Spider Study of Brazoria County – Melanie Hollenshead

2022 EcoFund Announcement – Kristine Rivers – To Mickey Dufilho, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuge to building a shelter for the DEEP Program. This project is to erect a 10ft by 16ft shelter at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge to provide protection from sun and wind for the school children that participate in the Discovery Environmental Education Program. One of the DEEP shelters has succumbed to the elements and needs to be taken down



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 Highlights

- Adapting the January AT day to an online event and offering to other chapters
- Fall AT Day at Cannan Bend
- Adopting a monthly Beach Sweep (thank you Luanne and Jimmy!)
- Online Library programs for a second year
- Congrats – Phil Huxford 15,000 Hrs. VT time!!
- Staffing various events - Spring Fling, Summer Camps, Fall Festivals, GCBO XHX, BNWR Christmas Open House
- State Project winner at Annual conference – Bobcat Woods
- Intern training online and in person
- And of course, a WONDERFUL 20th Anniversary Celebration!!!

Chapter Host—Rose Wagner gave a wrap up on the COT 20th Anniversary Celebration and asked for volunteers for snacks for the February meeting.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis reported on the Discovery Center Open House

VT Opportunities—Oron Atkins highlighted a few of the following opportunities:

- Upcoming VT Opportunities – Jan/Feb 2022
- Exploration Green Work Day – every Wed/Thur, 8 AM to 11 AM – contact Christie Taylor
- GCBO Nursery Garden Work Day – every Thursday, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Chris Kneupper
- Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self directed
- Resoft Park Rookery Spring Cleaning – 1/24 (kayaks required) Contact Debbie Repasz
- Beach Sweep – 2/7, 8 AM Quintana Jetties– contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- USF&W Refuge Trail Maintenance – 2/14 Cedar Lake Plantation, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Lisa Myers
- Dunes Day Surfside Beach – 1/16, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- BCPD Trail Work Day Hanson Park – 1/20, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- Nurdle Beach Patrol – Jace Turnell - self directed
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – Melanie Hollinshead - self directed
- Adopt a Loop for TMN – contact Debbie Nance - self directed
- Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2022 (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—Mary Schwartz announced Spring Intern Class will begin Feb. 3. The training will be virtual, and the field trips will be on Saturdays. Mary needs Volunteers to host Saturday Field Trips. Need 2 people for field trip and they will record attendance, duration and pass out 2-way radios as needed.

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

1 – 31 December 2021, COT Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$13,317.92
Revenue Summary	439.18
Expense Summary	3,820.76
Ending Balance	\$ 9,936.34

Don announced Annual Dues of \$25 are now payable.

Odds and Ends – Kathy Pittman

- January AT Day has been Postponed and will be rescheduled as soon as possible.
- Rain Barrel workshop – who’s interested? email me at pittman@tmn-cot.org
- Send your pictures and news items for our newsletter to Lisa Myers - news@tmn-cot.org
Submission deadline is 5:00 PM on Thursday before the General Meeting. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.
- Special Recognitions
 - Mickey Dufilho- Past President, Vice President and resident Mushroom Expert!
 - Lisa Myers – Five Years as Secretary, and Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire!

Meeting was 1.5 hours AT and 1 hour VT

Respectfully submitted,
Mickey Dufilho, Past President, TMN-COT

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