



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday May 4, 2022 9:04 – 11:20
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
Kathy Pittman (President)	✓	Mickey Dufilho (Past president)	✓
Kristine Rivers (Vice-President/Programs)	✓	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)	
Pat Jeffreys (Interim Secretary)	✓	Mary Schwartz (New Class Dir.)	✓
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	✓	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)	✓
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)	✓
		Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)	✓
		Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	✓
		Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	✓
		Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	✓
		Roxanne Walkowiak (Class of 2021 Rep. (none))	✓
		Quorum	Yes

Approve Previous Board Minutes—The April Board 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 April Board and General Meeting minutes	Mickey Dufilho	Don Sabathier	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
To approve Pat Jeffreys as Interim Secretary	Connie Stolte	Oron Atkins	Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

Master.naturalist.pat@gmail.com Pat Jeffreys asked everyone to use this email address

President’s Report—

- State Presidents meeting
 - The next TMN Tuesday will be May 10th. Richard Heilbrun from TPWD will present **“Crossing the Finish Line – Recovering America’s Wildlife Act”**.

- June's TMN Tuesday, date TBD, will be with Kjell (pronounced "Chehl") Lindgren, our TMN in space. The State office will review questions sent in from members and forward to Kjell via the Nasa Astronaut office. There will also be a survey link on the website where members can submit questions.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMNinSpace>
 - Be the Change Virtual Workshop – was well attended. There is a shared Google Folder available with resources for use by the chapters. There will be a survey coming out. The participants helped develop strategic actions and measures for the 3 pillars - Recruitment, Retention and Outreach. The recording will be available on the website.
 - 1st week of April.
 - Virtual Volunteer Fair will be Thursday May 5th, 9 am to 11:45 am. First 3 sessions will involve projects in Gulf Coast chapter area (ie, Houston) Project List is on the website.
<https://txmn.tamu.edu?virtual-volunteer-fair-2022/>
 - new merchandise is available at TMN@AgrilifeLearn
 - Monthly WORDPress training will be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. A survey will be sent to gather topics.
- Annual meeting - Houston Omni.
 - Dates Oct 20-23rd, 2022
 - Our Chapter will team up with the Lower Trinity Basin Chapter to cover registration on Thursday and Friday, then cover Information Desk as needed rest of conference
 - Call for proposals is live now, with a deadline of May 31st. Information about Sponsorships, field trips and contests will be coming out shortly.
 - Countdown to the Annual Meeting: May 31 – deadline for proposals
 - July 22 – Agenda launches
 - August – registration will open
 - September 28th – registration will close
 - October 11 – TMN Tuesday – Chapter Project Fair presentations
 - Contest deadlines - TBD
 - Meeting "Short Agenda"

- Thursday October 20th - Presidents/Advisors Luncheon & Attendee Welcome Dinner
 - Friday October 21st - Keynote Luncheon, Social Dinner
 - Saturday October 22nd - Conservation Science Fair Luncheon, Award Ceremony Dinner
 - Sunday October 23rd - Contest Awards and Pin Announcement Breakfast
- Plan is for the meeting to be in person. They are looking at hosting SOME events online, but not all sessions will be online.
 - Breakout sessions for various Board positions can be planned – contact Mary Pearl. There is a session being planned for Training Directors.
- Harvest for the Hungry – no one attended
 - Board Retreat – what/how do we need to communicate?
 (Kathy needs to get voice record from John and complete notes)
- Melanie Hollenshead will attend board meetings as a non-voting guest as she works with Mary in the Fall to train to take over Training Coordinator in January.

BOARD REPORTS

Past President – Mickey – nothing to report

Vice President Programs—Kristine Rivers

- **May** – Susan Conaty, Nash Prairie Field Trip. – time?
- **June** – Sue Heath, GCBO, American oyster catcher
- **Future** – Mike Lange acquisitions for Nature Conservancy, Jim Nance on Geology

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier

April 1 – 30, 2022 , COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 12,091.12
Revenue Summary	\$ 380.36
Expense Summary	\$ 19.98
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 12,451.50



25 people have not paid dues. There was discussion about the concern of some members that we have >\$12,000 in our bank account. Suggestions to use excess for projects at GCBO, Sea Center and John O. water trailer.

Suggest was to show budget at general meetings and how we are spending against budget.

Membership Director – John Boettiger

Initial Certifications	Recertifications	Milestones
Martinez, Hugo	Calvert, James	Martin, Brenda (250)
Walkowiak, Roxanne	Dufilho, Mickey	Nance, Jim (500)
	Hicks, Jackie	Schwartz, Mary (1000)
	Johnson, Lorraine (Rainbo)	
	Kneupper, Chris	
	Sabathier, Donald	
	Smith, Warren (Andy)	
	Whitmarsh, Robert (Bob)	

VMS Hours

	April	Year to Date
Hours	VT – 940.15	3,815.75
	AT – 94.50	881.50

Impact data	Adults - 1,008	2,581
	Youth - 4,720	11,771
	Total - 5,728	14,352

State Representative – Connie Stolte

Mary and Connie will meet to finish the proposed training changes in the COH

Training Director – Mary Schwartz

Mary announced that Melanie Hollenshead will be shadowing her for the fall Intern Training in preparation for taking over as Training Director.

Volunteer Service Director – Oron Atkins

Upcoming VT Opportunities – May/June 2022

- **Exploration Green Work Day** – every Wed/Thur, 8 AM to 11 AM – contact Christie Taylor
- **GCBO Nursery Garden Work Day** – every Thursday, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
- **Beach Sweep** – 5/2 & 6/6, 8 AM Quintana Jetties– contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **USF&W Refuge Cedar Lake Plantation Trail Maintenance** – 5/9, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Lisa Myers
- **BCPD Trail Work Day Hanson Park** – 5/19, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Pearland Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Workday** – 5/5 Shadow Creek Park. 6/2, location ????????, 8 AM to 11 AM
- **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.>

Advanced Training Director – Bob Whitmarsh – no report

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis reported the following

- **Library programs** – see attachment A
- **Refuge Saturday at Cedar Lake Plantation Trail** – 5/14, 11 AM to 4 PM – contact Lisa Myers
- **Camp Mohawk Nature Camp** – 6/13 thru 6/16, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Family Fishing Fun San Luis Pass County Park** – 5/14, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- **June 16th at Matagorda** – will need a few volunteers
- **Suggestion to have the ability for volunteers to sign up online.**

Chapter Host—Rose Wagner will provide some water for AT day at Nash Prairie

Communications Director—Larry Peterson reported:

WEBSITE

The url is <https://txmn.org/tmncot/>.

April activity: 342 sessions, 685 pageviews, Top pages: Homepage 304, Upcoming Events 59, Intern Training 43, Organization 18, Newsletters 16, Contact Us 11, Camp Mohawk 10, Refuge Saturday at Dow Woods Trail 17 (9) (8 Rescheduled), April Events Monthly View 8, Email Lists 8, BC Library System 8, Monthly General Mtg 7. Devices breakdown: Desktop 61%, Mobile 36%, Tablet 3%

March activity: 472 sessions, 935 page views. Top pages: Homepage 439, Intern Training 78, Upcoming Events 71, Advanced Training 28, Presentations 17.

NEWSLETTER

Latest copy is posted on the website homepage and through the Archive menu.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook TMN-COT - Page Likes (Followers) 1137, 9 new Page Likes in past 28 days, 50+ posts published, Post Reach 5,658 (up 99%), Post Engagements 1,497 (up 146%) Link Clicks 201 Most Engaging: Wildflowers at Quintana Neotro... Apr.5 Reach 336 Engage 145 This Morning at Resoft Co. Park... Apr. 10 Reach 823 Engage 126 Banner Day for Birding... Apr.26 Reach 439 Engage 85 <https://texasmonthly.com/travel> image Reach 263 Engage 74 Tidbits: Gender breakdown of followers: Women 834 (74%) Men 285 (25%)

Twitter @tmncot 74 followers – Following 106. April Tweets/Re-Tweets 18

Be The Change - Kristine - no report

Class 2021 Rep.- Roxanne

Chapter Advisors - John O and Paul

- Advanced Training Opportunity – Plant Party on 6/15 from 10:00 – 11:30 – Edible Range Plants
- Water Wednesday's are still going on. :May 18th was rescheduled

Other Items

- “pop up outreach” – path forward
- Livestream options?
- Time to form Nominating committee – June? July? – slate must be presented no later than mid-November- Mickey will begin the process



- Invite Tom Schneider to the August meeting for a special recognition
- The annual budget for the upcoming year should be presented to the general membership at the December meeting.

Items for General Meeting - None

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		

New Action Items	Who	Comments
Find presentations on State Website that could be modified and used by our speakers	Mickey	By June
Set up nominating committee and begin to solicit for new board members	Mickey	By July
Send names and pictures of Intern class and pictures of current members of each class to Larry to post on website	Mickey	By July
Purchase gift cards for special recognition at each meeting		
Order name tags, check with general membership to see if others need new nametags	Mary	
Invite Tom Schneider to August membership meeting for special recognition		

President: President adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:20 AM

Respectfully submitted,
 Pat Jeffreys, Interim Secretary

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

Attachment A Summer Library Program

Summer Reading Club 2022 TMN-COT programs at BCLS

Camp Mohawk June 13-17

Texas Reptiles
Sea and Shore

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		June 1 Morning not available	2 WES 11am	3
6 not available all day	7 ANG 10, 12, 2, & 4	8 Morning not available	9 SWE 2	10 CLU 12 & 2
13 Morning not available	14 Morning not available	15 Morning not available	16 Morning not available	17 Morning not available
20 DAN 10:30	20 MAN 2 & 4	22 ALV 12 & 2	23 FRE 2	24 PEA 10, 12, 2 & 4
27	28 BRA 12 & 2	29 PWS 12 & 2	30 LAK 12, 2 & 4	July 1
4	5 ANG 2 pm	6 Morning not available	7 SWE 2	8 CLU 2
11	12	13 Morning not available	14 FRE 2	15
18	19 BRA 2	20 LAK 2	21 WES 2pm	22 PEA 2
25	26 MAN 2	27 ALV 2	28	29

Alvin Library
105 South Gordon
Alvin, TX 77511
(281) 388-4300

Clute Library
215 North Shanks
Clute, TX 77531
(979) 265-4582

Lake Jackson Library
250 Circle Way
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
(979) 415-2590

West Pearland
11801 Shadow Creek PWY
Pearland, TX 77584
(713) 436-0995

Angleton Library
401 E Cedar
Angleton, TX 77515
(979) 864-1519

Danbury Library
1702 North Main
Danbury, TX 77534
(979) 922-1905

Manvel Library
20514B Hwy 6
Manvel, TX 77578
(281) 489-7596

Sweeny Library
205 W. Ashley Wilson
Sweeny, TX 77480
(979) 548-2567

Brazoria Library
620 S. Brooks
Brazoria, TX 77422
(979) 798-2372

Freeport Library
410 Brazosport Blvd.
Freeport, TX 77541
(979) 233-3622

Pearland Library
3522 Liberty Drive
Pearland, TX 77581
(281) 652-1677

West Columbia Library
518 E Brazos
West Columbia, TX 77486
(979) 345-3394

Attachment B Action Register

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	Apr/May/June/July 2021: No update Aug: Oron will provide current info to Larry and he will update webpage (including State's definition of "partner") Sep: Oron submitted page updates to Larry including deleting Phillips 66, the combined arts organizations at Center for the Arts, and will add Texas Watershed Oct/Nov: No update Jan. No update
Update VPAR agreements (Aug 2019)	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	Apr/May/June/July/Aug 2021: No update Sep: Oron has created a revised Partnership Agreement template and is reviewing existing VPARs Oct/Nov: No update Jan. No update
Committee to draft wording for harassment and disability accommodation policies (May 2020) and... Committee to form action plan on diversity/equality/ inclusion per State (May 2021)	Kristine Rivers (chair), Mickey Duffilho, Bill Ahlstrom, Lou Golish		Ongoing	Jul: Kristine will recruit committee members; Mickey will help with recruitment Aug: Kristine has information provided by Connie and Paul Oct/Nov: No update Jan. No Update
Hold a brief training session on entering VMS hours via Smart Phone (Mch 2020)	?	TBD	Tabled	To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours Apr 2020: Not discussed May: No update Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings Aug: Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Meeting Jan. no update
Begin the process of changing Chapter Operating Handbook to reflect current State guidelines for	Connie Stolte		ASAP	Connie will draft wording for Board approval, then announce



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

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

intern training (Aug 2021)				to membership 30 days in advance of vote to approve Sep: 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 Oct/Nov: Being worked on Jan. No update
2022 Bonus AT DAY (Nov 2021)	Bob Whitmarsh, Kristine Rivers, Mickey Dufilho, Rose Wagner		completed	Committee will need to be formed to hold the event in January or February Dec: To be held on January 22; focus is animal behavior Jan. Voted to postpone AT until a later date due to Covid concerns
Determine how to have better visibility at AgriLIFE entrances for night meetings	John O'Connell	Before Jan. 12	completed	Jan – Oron will bring green light to put at entrance – we will have parking lot attendants in lot with vests and flashlights. Mickey has reflectors. Notify members to turn at green light. Review how this works at next board meeting
Communicate Green light at Entrance for night meeting	Mickey		Completed	
Need to fill vacant Secretary Position	Kathy	1/12/22	ongoing	
Investigate the use of SLACK for chapter	Kathy	1/112/2022	Ongoing	May – State postponed training and will reschedule
Planning for Board Retreat	Kathy	1/22/2022	Completed	May -Kathy to compile notes
NEW Action Item(s) Added at April		Who?	Due date?	Comments
Pop up Outreach – develop plan for more small outreach opportunities		Kristine, Oron, May	Completed	

Attachment C

Outreach Ideas by Melanie Hollenshead

1. We need to make our activities **VERY VISIBLE** to the public.
 - Use a sign that shows that Master Naturalists are working at the site
 - Always have pamphlets available
 - Add a contact name so they can ask a real person questions
 - Welcome questions and include public in activities, where possible. (Example Dipping nets to collect aquatic invertebrates in the Big Slough Lake at BNWR)
 - Wear Texas Master Naturalist Shirts and Badges where possible.

2. Expand and Support our Social Media Presence
 - What we have in the local Newspapers and on Facebook is excellent.
 - We need to get more people involved and posting.
 - Post even more photographs showing people having **FUN!**
 - Post more information on what we are doing and where the public can join us
 - Are there other platforms that we should investigate?

3. Our monthly General Meetings
 - Should we invite the public to attend in person or virtually?
 - Could older, nature-oriented children attend with a parent?
 - We should continue to make the virtual option available when possible.
 - Invite other chapters to Advanced Training
 - Encourage our members to attend Advanced Training from other chapters virtually
 - Should we / Could we Live Stream our Advanced Training on Facebook?
 - Should we maintain a video library of past training?

4. BioBlitz
 - Historical Example:
 - i. August 7-9, 2020 **Texas Mid-Coast BioBlitz**

- ii. 1585 Observations
 - iii. 541 Species
 - iv. 27 Observers
 - v. 284 Identifiers
 - vi. Nearly doubled observation counts at SBNWR in a single weekend.
 - vii. Added >200 new species to SBNWR i-Naturalist page
 - Projects can be set up in i-Naturalist very easily. Results can be quantified.
 - A Sign-in sheet would be useful to quantify how many attended and develop a mailing list for meetings and activities that are open to the public.
5. City Nature BioBlitz (Over)
- Usually for larger cities
6. Walks with a Naturalist
- Could be done many different places (City Parks, County Parks, Brazos Bend State Park, Wildlife Refuges)
 - Could target specific types of life
 - i. Trees
 - ii. Flowers / Pollinators
 - iii. Insects/ Spiders
 - iv. Birds
 - v. Reptiles
7. School Visits
- Some schools have resumed limited field trips
 - Teachers would probably welcome enrichment activities before the end of the school year
 - Could start planning for next year
8. Homeschool Visits
- Usually interested in enrichment activities
 - Many home schoolers belong to groups that get together for certain activities and social interactions

- Would probably meet us at a park or refuge.
9. Nursing Home / Retirement Home Visits
- Visitation controlled according to COVID rules.
 - Might be able to do something outside
 - People are very lonely, and any visit is a treat
 - Would probably do best with “Touchy – Feely” talks or activities
 - Start a pollinator garden
10. Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts
- We could be an excellent resource for these clubs.
 - Excellent way to reach children
 - Leaders and involved parents may also be reached.
11. General Master Naturalist Package to Present to Area Clubs
- Many organizations are very interested in speakers.
 - Could be a way to introduce active citizens to TMN-COT and our activities
 - May also be asked to present talks on other specific topics
 - May get a more diverse population
 - Perhaps we should have a “Speakers Bureau” of volunteers that are willing to give an overview talk.



Attendance 2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Kathy Pittman	X	x	x	x	x								
Kristine Rivers	X	x	x	x	x								
Sabathier, Don	X	x	x	x	x								
Pat Jeffreys					x								
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X	x	x	x	x								
Cason, Paul	X	x		x									
Immediate Past President													
Mickey Dufilho	X	x	x	x	x								
Appointed Board/Committee Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	x	x	x	x								
Boettiger, John	X	x	x	x									
Lewis, Ruby		x	x		x								
Peterson, Larry	X	x	x	x	x								
Schwartz, Mary	X	x	x	x	x								
Stolte, Connie		x			x								
Wagner, Rose	X	x	x		x								
Whitmarsh, Bob	X	x	x		x								
Walkowiak, Rocky	X	x			x								
Guests													
Melanie Hollenshead					x								