



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

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

**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
JULY 6, 2022 9:00 AM
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX**

President Kathy Pittman called the meeting to order at 9:00am, 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.)	✓
Chapter Advisor(s)		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.)	✓
Guests/Other		Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	✓
Melanie Hollenshead	✓	Roxanne Walkowiak	✓
		Quorum	Yes

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

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Board voted to proceed with the process to change COH in Appendix A – Additional New Member Training Guidelines	Mickey Dufilho	Ron	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.]

New Action Items	Who	Comments
Put chapter on list for OWLS loaner	Kathy	The Loaner is on the way to our Chapter
Send check for \$300.00 for State Meeting Sponsor	Don	Completed
Ask membership to volunteer for State Meeting	Kathy	June: Put on Agenda for July General Meeting. July: Need to formalize so all know exactly what is covered by whom, and a sign-up presented at August General Membership Meeting.
Ask membership to volunteer to select field sessions	Kathy/Connie	Put on Agenda for June General Meeting June: completed
Submit Brazoria County Spider Project to State for consideration for Project Fair	Melanie Hollenshead	July: Sherri Mathison is the resource for video. I did not realize that I needed to submit the project. Sherri Mathison has contacted me and offered her assistance. We have not scheduled a meeting yet. (Melanie)



Kathy will present small components of the board retreat and encourage membership to get involved.	Kathy	ongoing
Ask for members to serve on the nominating committee at General membership meeting	Mickey	
Put together a proposal to fund CO2 for the Spider Project	Melanie	No action yet. (Melanie)
Put together a proposal to fund a Spider Exhibit	Melanie	No action yet. (Melanie)
Update the display plaques in the display case with current milestones	Mickey	John will get the information from Dave for the updates
Mickey will check with Brazosport College about having a table at orientation.	Mickey	BC no longer does face-to-face Orientation; it is all online. completed
Check with Alvin Community College about how to recruit members	Rocky W.	

BOARD REPORTS

President’s Report—

- No State Presidents meeting – Slack training
 - No State Presidents meeting – Slack Training
 - The next TMN Tuesday will be July 12th
 - OWLS loaner program – Loaner is on the way to our Chapter
 - Memorial Donations – Ellis, Wenny, Dent - discussion – we will forward any donation info from families to the Chapter. Secretary will send sympathy card to families on behalf of Chapter. Look for dragonfly cards at state meeting.
 - Connie asked if we could use Signup Genius for volunteers for registration desk. John O will need email addresses of Lower Trinity Bay members (they are a very small chapter)

- 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 • Sponsorship can be paid at any time.
 - Annual Meeting Timeline:
- May 31 – deadline for proposals
 - Kathy sent in Sea Center for a field trip
 - July 22 – Agenda launches, fee schedule
 - August 1st – registration will open
 - September 28th – registration will close
 - September 1 – 30th – all contests/entries accepted (Photo/Art/Media, Video, Chapter advisors, Newsletter, Projects)
 - October 11 – TMN Tuesday – Chapter Project Fair presentations
 - Melanie will submit the Brazoria County Spider Project - I did not realize that I needed to submit the project. Sherri Mathison has contacted me and offered her assistance. We have not scheduled a meeting yet. (Melanie)
- 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
- Breakout sessions for various Board positions can be planned – contact Mary Pearl. There is a session being planned for Training Directors.
- Connie /Rose – anything to share on Field session selection?

•
Past President – Mickey Dufilho Discuss opportunities for get-togethers

- I think it might be time to plan something like a family day picnic for the fall or some other day just for fun. We might consider doing something like this at the reopened Levi Jordan Plantation and then get a history tour.
- Also, I would like to see us resume taking the boat trip to see the Whooping Cranes.
- I would like to see us include something fun at our meetings like a chili cookoff or chicken soup competition or something like that. In the past we did do some of these things.
- In addition, we might plan something like a workday at Big Bend National Park (or some other National Park or Refuge) on National Public Lands Day on 9/24/22.
- Or plan an overnight trip to some historic place and get a tour.
- How about having a wine and Cheese get together at my house.

Nominating committee – Mickey will call members to serve

VP/Programs—Kristine Rivers

- July: “The Ghost Crab” – Mike Mullenweg, Parks Lead Interpreter, Brazoria County Parks Department
- August: “Parks & Recreation Projects” – Megan Mainer, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Angleton
- September: Upcoming Projects (Title TBD) – Shannon Smith, Assistant Site Manager, Levi Jordan Plantation, Sabine Pass Battleground, Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Sites, Texas Historical Commission
- October: Fall Field Day – need to start planning ASAP, I support Mickey’s idea of inviting families; needs discussion
- I have been trying to persuade Jim Nance to give a Geology presentation; he and Deb are traveling through June, and he will consider doing so after they return.
- I have also attempted to contact Mike Lange to see if he would be willing to present on the recent land acquisitions in Brazoria County but have not heard back yet.



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- No Nature Notes presentations are scheduled at this time. Our meetings have been going quite long, so I haven't been seeking anyone out. We need to resolve that issue before we add more items to the agenda, in my opinion.

Treasurer's Report—Don Sabathier – June 1-30, 2022

BEGINNING BALANCE \$12,639.27

Revenue Summary 163.80

Expense Summary 345.95

ENDING BALANCE \$12,488.12

Membership Director – John Boettiger

- VMS data was not received by time agenda was drafted.
- Member numbers – 3 deceased, 13 moved/dropped = 114 potential members on our lists. Membership in VMS doesn't match Don's excel list.
- We need to mark as deceased in VMS.

Initial Certifications	Recertifications	Milestones
	Ed Barrios	Janet Townsend (250)
	Denis James	
	Carol Jones	
	Georgia Monnerat	
	Sheree Muzny	
	Elizabeth (Jo) Myers	
	Pam Peltier	
	George Valadez	
	Rose Wagner	
	Pam West	



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VMS Hours

Hours through June 2022

	Month	YTD
VT -	1,080	6,386
AT -	42	1,005

Impact data through June 2022

Adults	406	4,350
Youth	361	17,803
Total	767	22,153

Discussion on Awards & Recognitions

- where we are & what we have
- what we “need” to do
- questions & Board Vote on FUNDING to “Make things Right”

Going forward, three plaques are proposed (we now have four):

- 1) Updated_COT.....5,000 & 10,000 & 15,000 volunteer hours... TxMN Only
- 2) NEW_COT.....2,500 volunteer hours... TxMN_Only
- 3) Updated_National_PVSA..... 4,000 volunteer hours... TxMN and/or SCTx

Note: PVSA (Presidential Volunteer Service Award) is a prestigious award... BUT is not “Recognized” by TxMN (see below). We have three COTs That have received this National Volunteer Service Award.

4000/PVSA

The 3 no's were awarded by Sea Center Texas.
Peggy refused the PVSA award.

PVSA	Year	4000 TMN Hours	Current Hours
Phil Huxford	2008	Yes	16131
Mary Helen Israel	2009	No	1723
Jim Renfro	2010	Yes	unknown
Roy Morgan	2013	Yes	5021
Tom Morris	2013	Yes	5206
Marty Cornell	2013	Yes	8417
Ed Barrios	2014	Yes	6127
Sandy Henderson	2014	Yes	5859
David Brandes	2014	Yes	6035
Barbara Burkhardt	2014	Yes	4717
Neal McLain	2014	Yes	6513
Jerry Eppner	2014	No	3036
Justina Dent	2014	Yes	5056
James Calvert	2016	Yes	6181
Ruby Lewis	2018	Yes	5116
Pete Romfh	2018	Yes	4922
Caroline May-Monie	2018	Yes	4501
Chris Kneupper	2020	Yes	4800
John Boettiger		No	2736
Richard Schaffhausen	2022	Yes	4261
Oron Atkins	2021	Yes	5337

4000 but no PVSA
Peggy Romfh 2017 6047

State Representative – Connie Stolte

Training Director – Mary

- Fall class is an in person daytime class. Graduation date is Nov 12.
- Mary has 15 names of interested recruits –it was asked if interested recruits can be invited to the August General Membership Meeting?

- Registration and payment link are now up on website for fall classes.
- Corrected Nametags should be ready for distribution at August General Meeting
- Links for registration need to be created by Crystal and then Larry will put on website

Volunteer Service Director – Oron Atkins

Upcoming VT Opportunities – JULY/AUG

- **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** – 7/7 (Thursday) & 8/1 (Monday), 8 AM Quintana Jetties– contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **BCPD Trail Work Day Hanson Park** – 7/21, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Pearland Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Workday** – 7/7 & 8/4, Locations TBA (check Pearland website) 8 AM to 11 AM
- **Apple Snail Harvesting at Hudson Woods** – dates/times TBA – contact David Heinicke
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol** – Jace Turnell – self-directed
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey** – Melanie Hollinshead - self directed
 - **Spider Hunt** – 8/6th, 7 pm Alvin Boat Ramp directly across from Camp Mohawk
 - **Spider Hunt** – 8/20th, 7 pm Brazoria Historical Marker Roadside Park
- **Adopt a Loop for TMN** – contact Debbie Nance - self directed
- **Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2022** (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>

Advanced Training Director – Bob Whitmarsh

Outreach Director – Ruby Lewis

- BCLS Summer Reading Club/Library programs – see attachment B
Ruby needs many more volunteers for the Sea and Shore programs
- DEEP – Boys and Girls Club – 7/12 & 7/15, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact
Ed Barrios THESE SESSIONS WERE CANCELLED

Chapter Host – Rose Wagner

Communications Director—Larry Peterson

- Discuss coverage at meetings, - we will make assignments prior to
meeting
- OWL loaner – is on the way to Kathy – she will bring to Larry or to general
meeting
- SLACK for Board communications, or can we make better use of Google
Group We decided to not move to Slack at this time.

Be The Change

Kristine

Class 2021 Rep.

Roxanne

Chapter Advisor—John O’Connell –Discussed Water Wednesdays. This month is
Rainwater harvesting. Kathy will send note to Chapter, and we should share to our social
media contacts. Future topics – HAB and ?

Paul Cason – Sea Center hosting Shark Celebration and they will need volunteers. We will
send email to Chapter and ask for volunteers at General meeting

Items for General Meeting

- Discuss Vote for COH change at August meeting
- Ellis Obit and picture, Wenny obit and picture
- Put Ruby ahead of AT session, so that we can get members signing up for
Shark Celebration and Sea and Shore

Action Register – Did not review

President: President adjourned the Board Meeting at approximately 11 am

T E X A S



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Respectfully submitted,
Pat Jeffreys

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



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Attendance 2022	Ja n	Fe b	Ma r	Ap r	Ma y	Ju n	Ju l	Au g	Se p	Oc t	No v	De c	Total
Elected Board Members													
Kathy Pittman					X	X	x						
Kristine Rivers					X	X	x						
Sabathier, Don					X	X	x						
Pat Jeffreys					X		x						
O'Connell, John					X	X	x						
Cason, Paul							x						
Atkins, Oron					X	X	x						
Boettiger, John						X	x						
Dufilho, Mickey					X	X	x						
Lewis, Ruby					X-	X	x						
Peterson, Larry					X		x						
Schwartz, Mary					X	X	x						
Stolte, Connie					X	X	x						
Wagner, Rose					X	X	x						
Whitmarsh, Bob					X	X	x						
Roxanne Walkowiak							x						
Crystal Andablo													

Appendix 2

Additional New Member Training Guidelines

The Texas Master Naturalist-Cradle of Texas Chapter (TMN-COT) offers new member training at least annually. The requirements for graduation for the new member (intern) training class are outlined in the *Chapter Management and Operations Protocols*, Article IV Requirements Section. Some additional guidelines are outlined below for TMN-COT. The list may not be all-inclusive. All questions should be directed to the TMN-COT New Class Director or Board of Directors.

1. Interns must attend a minimum of 10 combined classroom and field trip curriculum unit sessions of the Cradle of Texas intern training program. The combined classroom and field experience must total a minimum of 40 hours. Make-up sessions are required for classroom and field trip curriculum units missed.
2. If only eight or nine of the required 10 sessions are attended, make-up of as many as two missed classroom curriculum unit sessions and two field trip curriculum unit sessions is permitted. Subject to the approval by the New Class Director and/or approval by the Board, make up is limited to:
 - a. Attendance at an intern training session(s) at another TMN chapter. These make up training sessions must not have the same content as an intern training session attended for the Cradle of Texas chapter.
 - b. Attendance at the missed session in a future intern course given by Cradle of Texas chapter.
 - c. Equivalent training hours at a pre-approved Advanced Training session covering the missed topics. Pre-approval by New Class Director is required.
 - d. Extra curriculum unit session topics may be offered in each intern training class. The extra session(s) can be used as a make-up.
 - e. If there are videos available, watching videos of the missed chapter training session(s) can be used as make-up if the following conditions are met. First, a training team member must be in attendance, and second, the instructor must be available to answer questions after the intern views the video.
3. Interns have a maximum of 12 months from the start of their intern training classes to complete the above requirements. For example, if they began their classes September 1, 2019, then certification must be completed by August 31, 2020.
4. Exceptions to these guidelines will be handled by the Board of Directors on a case by case basis.



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5. If an intern is unable to continue with the training classes, the intern will be given the opportunity to return next year to complete the training at no extra charge and the trainee will keep the training material.
6. The first priority of training classes shall be the certification of new members. Maximum class size and guest attendance shall be determined by the New Class Director with Board of Director approval.

Appendix B



**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

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 Dufilho, 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



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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 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 June 2022 – Proposed Changes to be reviewed July : Changes made and Board approved. Will present at Aug Gen, meeting
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	
Investigate the use of SLACK for chapter	Kathy	1/12/2022	Ongoing	May – State postponed training and will reschedule
Planning for Board Retreat	Kathy	1/12/2022	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, Mary, Melanie, Ruby	ongoing	May – Melanie to lead, with Ruby as “inform” Aug '22 – Team met to determine 3 pop-up activities.



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/13 Kid's Day @ Brazos Mall – Effects of Litter on Wildlife. 9/10-11 Sweeping for Aquatic & Terrestrial Invertebrates @ BNWR Reptiles as Scheduled by Ruby
Special Recognition program			
New Action Items added in May	Who	Due date?	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		July : Nametags arrived, will give out at August General Meeting
Invite Tom Schneider to August membership meeting for special recognition			July : Rose has arranged for Tom to be at the August Meeting. Completed.

New Action Items added in June	Who	Due date?	Comments
Put chapter on list for OWLS loaner	Kathy		July : Kathy wants to wait till she has used it at Training
Send check for \$300.00 for State Meeting Sponsor	Don		
Ask membership to volunteer for State Meeting	Kathy		Put on Agenda for June General Meeting July : Need formal sign-up list to present at August General Meeting



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Ask membership to volunteer to select field sessions	Kathy/Connie		Put on Agenda for June General Meeting
Submit Brazoria County Spider Project to State for consideration for Project Fair	Melanie Hollenshead		Sherry Mathison will do video. Spider Project has been accepted by State for Project Fair.
Kathy will present small components of the board retreat and encourage membership to get involved.	Kathy		
Ask for members to serve on the nominating committee at General membership meeting	Mickey		
Put together a proposal to fund CO2 for the Spider Project	Melanie		No action yet. (Melanie)
Put together a proposal to fund a Spider Exhibit	Melanie		No action yet. (Melanie)