



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 10:48 a.m.
AgriLife Extension Building—Angleton, Texas

President: Kristine Rivers called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 9:00 a.m., and requested additions or corrections.

Attendance—

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board	Present
Kristine Rivers (President)	X	Peggy Romfh (Membership)	
Bill Ahlstrom (Vice-President/Programs)	X	Pete Romfh (Membership)	
Lisa Myers (Secretary)	X	Neal McLain (Publications)	X
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Services)	X
		Larry Ruhr (Advanced Training)	X
Board Advisors		Carolyn May-Monie (Training)	X
John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension)	X	Pam West (Chapter Host)	X
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach)	X
Guests		Jimmy Salinas (Speakers Bureau)	X
		Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)	X
		NOT FILLED (Intern Representative)	
		Ed Barrios (State Representative)	
		Dave Brandes (Past-President)	
		Quorum	Yes

Secretary—Lisa Myers stated that the minutes had been 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 by	Vote
Approve the December General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Don Sabathier	Pam West	Minutes approved by voice vote of Board members present

Action Register Review was led by Kristine Rivers [see *COT Board Action Register items at end of minutes*].

Treasurer's Report—Don Sabathier presented the December 2017, financial information, below. He noted that COT received a \$25 donation and that approximately 25% of members had already paid their 2018 dues.



1 December – 31 December 2017, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 5,964.77
Revenue Summary	\$ 500.00
Interest	\$ 0.63
Expense Summary	(\$ 152.51)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 6,312.89

Board Positions—Kristine indicated that the 2017 Intern Class position is open due to Bill Ahlstrom’s election to the Board as Vice President. Bill said that Bob Whitmarsh may be interested in the open position; he will ask Bob. Kristine also stated that Ed Barrios intends to leave the Board; a State Representative replacement should have knowledge of the state organization—perhaps Mike Mullins would be interested. Dick intends to ask Ed for a job description. Kristine added that she would like to recognize Ed at the January or February General Meeting for his 12 years of service on the Board; Pam will research a gift of appreciation.

New VPAL Forms—Due to the holidays, Oron Atkins has not yet completed the forms but will work on them.

BOARD REPORTS

Programs—Bill Ahlstrom announced the following General Meeting and Nature Notes speakers:

- **January**—Martin Hagne, “Pelagic Birds”; Nature Notes: Larry Ruhr, “Parasitic Plants”
- **February**—Stephen Curtis, “The American Eel”; Nature Notes: Candace Novak, “Frog Calls”
- **March**—Open.

Don Sabathier suggested reaching out to the Galveston TMN Chapter for future speaker(s); we can perhaps “exchange” speakers.

Membership—On behalf of Pete and Peggy Romfh, Kristine presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients for the January General Meeting. She also reviewed graphs provided by Pete and Peggy that will be shared at the General Meeting next week; they include: Total Volunteer Time in Hours, COT Active Volunteers Each Month 2017, Total Volunteer Service Hours in 2017.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 December 2017	15,570	35,281	50,851

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 31 December 2017	16,879*	1,665	115



Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	2500-Hour Milestone (Polished Silver Dragonfly Pin)**	4000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold Dragonfly Pin with Ruby)
Phyllis Gerdes Caylie Harris Denise Kaplan	Cindy Goodrum Sheree Muzny	Chris Kneupper	Ruby Lewis

*Adjusted January 7
 **Added January 7.

Volunteer Project, Public Outreach, and Activity Request Review—Oron Atkins shared the following upcoming projects, outreach and/or status updates:

- **Exploration Green Nursery/Wetland Workday**—January 11 and 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Work Day**—January 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazoniainet.com
- **GCBO Harvey Flood Recovery Work Days**—Every Wednesday and Saturday until further notice, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Martin Hagne mhagne@gcbo.org
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Day**—Every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazoniainet.com
- **Bobcat Woods Trail**—Installation of new boardwalk. See calendar for scheduled work days
- **Dunes Day 2018**—January 20, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 - Surfside beach at Stahlman Park: Register with Mike Mullenweg mikem@brazoria-county.com, 979-864-1152, 979-388-1152, or 281-756-1152
 - Quintana beach at Park Headquarters: Register with Patty Brinkmeyer pattybrinkmeyer@aol.com) 979-233-1461
- **DEEP at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge**—January 23 and 25, contact Karis Watson.

Outreach—Ruby Lewis noted upcoming volunteer opportunities. She said that approximately 100 people (mostly adults) attended the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Open House; however, volunteer turnout was strong. Unfortunately, announcements promoting the event were delayed.

- **DEEP at BNWR**—January 16, 18, 23, and 25
- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day**—February 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Brazoria Heritage Day**—March 3
- **Brazoria County Library System Summer Library Program**—Dates have been set for this summer
- **Galveston Day Camp**—June 4
- **Camp Mohawk Nature Camp***—June 11-14
- **Quintana Beach Nature Camp***—June 18-21

*Registration for both camps is now open at:

<http://brazoriacountytx.gov/department/parks-department/special-events/nature-camp-2017>

Hosting—Pam West requested a check to pay-in-advance the caterer for the January 20 Bonus Advanced Training Event. She is also arranging morning and afternoon snacks for the event.

Advanced Training—Larry Ruhr said that a new Stream Team training class will start on January 16 at Sea Center Texas. He will verify that Phil Huxford is able to present at the January 20 Bonus AT Day. Larry plans to send today an email to COT membership that details current AT opportunities and reminds members that today is the member deadline to register for the January 20 event.

Kristine said that the TMN Galveston Bay Area Chapter offers winter training to snowbirds and Larry offered to contact his counterpart at the Galveston chapter to determine if the training is open to others.

Kristine said that Christmas Bird Counts revealed a drop in native bird numbers, e.g., red winged blackbird—likely the result of Harvey flooding—and she intends to write an article on the topic for an upcoming Chapter newsletter issue.

Ruby noted upcoming Seaside Chats at Angleton Library and via login on February 14 and 21 (not confirmed), from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Publications—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

WEBSITE

- Added photos of Fourteenth Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast
<http://hogwild2017.blogspot.com/2017/12/schaffhausen.html>
- Updated Advanced Training Page for 2018
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>
- AT Page for 2017 remains on website until February 15 for AT hours for VMS
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/2017/index.html>
- Added a page for January 20 Bonus AT
http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/AT_2018-01-20/index.html

FOBWR WEBSITES

- I'm still "temporarily" running the FOBWR, MC-2018, BOP, and RJN websites pending further action by the FOBWR board; they are:
<http://refugefriends.org/> <http://birdsofpreytexas.org/>
<http://migrationcelebration.org/> <http://www.juniornaturalist.org/>

NEWSLETTER

- December Issue posted on schedule
- January issue publication schedule:

Wednesday, January 3	Board Meeting
Friday, January 5	Submission deadline
Sunday, January 7	Review draft posted for Board Review
Monday, January 8	Publication

Publicity—Dick Schaffhausen indicated that due to the high price, he will not be subscribing to *The Facts*; however, Ruby Lewis and Barbara Burkhardt have offered to provide Dick with articles concerning COT. He added that he will be getting started on promotion planning for the 2018 Intern Class; Dick noted that letters to the editor from graduates regarding the benefits of the training have been printed in the past.

Ruby Lewis said that *The Facts* may be printing an article on COT; she was recently interviewed.

Board Advisor—John O’Connell reminded the Board that he will present the Citizen Science project to monitor Zika-carrying mosquitoes to COT at the January Member Meeting and will hold training after the February General Meeting.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
Organize a multi-hour member event consisting of several AT-eligible sessions	Larry Ruhr Pam West Presentation Committee	20 Jan. 2018	Pending	COT has had similar events in the past for general education and to provide an opportunity for AT hours; event will be on 20 Jan. 2018 with attendance limited to 80; lunch included; AgriLife room and conference rooms have been reserved for sessions and food service; a detailed description, including a link to the evite, has been posted on the chapter website at http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/AT_2018-01-20/index.html ; Jill posted Evite (51 COT members registered to date); Bill now overseeing the registration list; Larry to remind members at the General Meeting to register; presenters also need to register; Kristine will now invite other chapters—possibly allow State to post; Mike Mullenweg will not present; therefore, reptile presentation will be extended and Ruby Lewis will provide an overview of safe handling and presentation of animals.
Explore what general liability coverage volunteers do and do not have; ask Michelle Haggerty for clarification	John O’Connell	Feb.	Pending	To explore whether volunteers need general liability coverage and in what amount; Ed Barrios forwarded to Board his 2009 presentation to COT membership on the topic and will ask Michelle Haggerty if there have been changes since 2009; Jennifer Fielding secured and summarized some information from AgriLife but Board has questions about ambiguous language. Jimmy Salinas suggested posting a sign at events that indicates participants assume responsibility for accidents; he will obtain wording



Promote Fall Intern Training Class; plan dates for 2019 class (to secure conference room)	Neal McLain, Kristine Rivers, Dick Schaffhausen Jimmy Salinas	Ongoing	Pending	Outreach to area community colleges and other groups not previously contacted; explore whether colleges would give credit for attendance; explore whether teachers would give extra credit for class or individual sessions (if there is space) Determine if change to fall class is permanent or whether to revert to spring in the future
Prepare a VPAL for Cradle of Texas Conservancy	Oron Atkins	Feb.	Pending	Per presentation made by Chris Kneupper at November Board Meeting and Board Members' approval to proceed

New Action Item(s) Added at January Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Complete/Pending	Comments
Follow-up with Kari Howard to set up TERN training for mercury monitoring	Larry Ruhr	Feb.	Pending	After Kari's presentation at a General Meeting last year, she offered to provide a training class

President: Kristine asked members how much time they need to present at the General Meeting and adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary



Attendance Date 2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Rivers, Kristine	X												
Ahlstrom, Bill	X												
Sabathier, Don	X												
Myers, Lisa	X												
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X												
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X												
Barrios, Ed													
Brandes, Dave													
Lewis, Ruby	X												
May-Monie, Carolyn	X												
McLain, Neal	X												
Romfh, Peggy													
Romfh, Pete													
Ruhr, Larry	X												
Salinas, Jimmy	X												
Schaffhausen, Dick	X												
West, Pam	X												
Training Class Representative(s)													
OPEN (2017)													
Guest(s)													