



**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.**  
**AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton, Texas**

**President:** Kristine Rivers called the meeting to order, presented the agenda and asked for additions or corrections. She asked whether anyone must leave early so that he/she can present prior to leaving.

**Attendance—**

Elected Members of Board		Present	Appointed/Other Members of Board		Present
Kristine Rivers (President)		X	Dave Brandes (Immediate Past President)		X
Bill Ahlstrom (Vice-President/Programs)			John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)		X
Lisa Myers (Secretary)		X	John O'Connell (Interim New Class Dir.)		N/A
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)		X	Neal McLain (Communications Dir.)		X
			Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)		X
<b>Chapter Advisor(s)</b>			Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)		X
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)		X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)		X
			Pam West (Chapter Host)		
<b>Guests</b>			Rose Wagner (Class of 2018 Rep.)		X
			Connie Stolte (State Rep.)		X
			Ed Peebles (Speakers Bureau Coord.)		X
			Larry Peterson (Publicity Coord.)		X
<b>Quorum</b>		<b>Yes</b>			

**Approve Previous Board Minutes—**Secretary Lisa Myers stated that the January 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	Vote
Approve the January General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Dave Brandes	Don Sabathier	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

**Motions—**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
None			

**Action Register Review** was led by Kristine Rivers [see *COT Board Action Register items at end of minutes*]. The following are completed and removed items:

Completed Action Items	Who?	Comments
Upon receipt of application from Chris Kneupper, set up a citizen science project designation for VMS hours related to the Brazoria County Big/Rare Tree Registry	Oron Atkins	Note: VPAL is for partners; VPAR is with a non-sponsor organization
Update TMN milestone plaques	Bob Whitmarsh	All plaques up-to-date as of December 31, 2018

**Treasurer’s Report**—Don Sabathier presented the January 2019 financial information, below. He noted that expenses for the month reflected the Bonus AT Day lunch and TMN shirts for interns. The Bonus AT Day budgeted amount was \$1200, of which \$916.98 has been spent.

**1 January – 31 January 2019, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,797.75
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,734.13
Expense Summary	(\$ 1,124.98)
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 9,406.90

Don said that he will again try to piggyback the next-class’ intern shirt order, placed by Howard Allen, with a shirt order for any members who wish to do so.

John Boettiger suggested that members have a uniform shirt to wear at outreach activities in order to clearly identify participants as TMN-COT members. He will bring up the issue at the March General Meeting.

**Bonus AT Day Report**—Bob Whitmarsh felt that the day went well, stayed on time and with no complaints. Speakers were well received, including last-minute substitute speakers due to Susan Conaty’s and Jennifer Sanchez’s unavailability. Bob added that he would hold a recap meeting with the planning committee after the February General Meeting, and he intended to begin the planning process earlier. Oron added that perhaps a short survey about the event could be conducted at the meeting.

Kristine suggested that Bob be the clear leader next year and added that the displays were great. Connie noted that the displays could be shown in the AgriLIFE building and/or local libraries. John Boettiger suggested that displays be shown at next week’s General Meeting, and Kristine later emailed that suggestion to display creators. Ruby offered to contact local libraries about hosting the displays. Kristine also suggested having a fall field day.

Ruby added that items stored in the COT storage room sometimes disappear.

**BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS**

**Programs**—In Bill Ahlstrom’s absence, there was no update to the following speakers for upcoming chapter meetings:

- **February**—Stephen Curtis, TPWD American Eel Mop Project Coordinator, presenting an update of project findings; Nature Notes—Tom Morris on past pelagic bird trips

- **March**—not yet confirmed; however, Kristine offered to be the speaker.

Rose Wagner said that she would send mushroom specialist Teri MacArthur’s contact information to Bill.

**Membership**—John Boettiger presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients, which Pete and Peggy Romfh had provided for announcement at the February General Meeting. He said that 2019 recertification pins were not yet available from State.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—January 31	419	231	650

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—January 31	980	367	72

Initial Certification Achieved	Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	Recertification 2019 (Golden-cheeked Warbler Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	1000-Hour Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin)
Brenda Martin Kristine Plunkett	John O’Connell	Lisa Myers Kristine Rivers	Roger Allen	Pam Peltier

**New Class Training**—Kristine Rivers said that Carolyn May-Monie had suggested Regina Tippit and/or Mary Schwartz as training director(s). A brief discussion followed, the major points being:

- The training director position requires more knowledge of the program than a newly-graduated member would have
- John O’Connell offered to co-lead training with one of these people or someone else
- Consider reviving the policy of having “member ambassadors” attend training classes and help with the training program
- Regarding interest in the next training class, John Boettiger currently has the names (submitted by Ruby) of three people and will follow-up with them and any other contacts he gets.

**Volunteer Project, Public Outreach and Activity Request Review**—Oron Atkins noted the following activities:

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Work Day**—February 14, 28, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—February 21, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Days**—every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper

- **Pearland Natural Resources Work Day**—First Thursday each month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **BCPD Trail Day**—CANCELLED; February 21, Hanson Riverside County Park; (third Thursday each month), 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Big Tree Registry (FR) Project**—dates TBD; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary Trail Maintenance**—March 16, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; contact Tom Taroni

Oron added that Pete and Peggy Romfh are again coordinating host-station volunteers for Spring Fling. The tower roof at the sanctuary is scheduled to be done and the structure is going to be painted blue.

Oron also indicated that he was curious about the validity of VT and AT that is listed with Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue's monthly meetings; he will ask Pete and Peggy Romfh about it.

**Advanced Training**—Bob Whitmarsh presented the following AT opportunities, all of which are on the Calendar. He will have a slide for the General Meeting.

- **Growing Native Plants for Birds, Bees and Butterflies**, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Galveston—February 20, 10 to 11 a.m.; approved for 2 hours AT
- **Birding 101**, Galveston Island State Park, West Galveston Island—Either February 9, 16, or 23, 1:30 p.m.; approved for 1 hour AT
- **Beachcombing 101**, Galveston Island State Park, West Galveston Island—Either February 9, 16, or 23, 10:00 to 11 a.m.; approved for 1 hour AT
- **Monarch Butterflies: Each One Counts**, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Galveston—February 22, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; approved for 2 hours AT
- **Surface Water Quality Monitor Training**, Water Quality Measurement and Hydrology, UH Clear Lake—March 18, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., approved for 8 hours AT
- **Bullseye Stream Quality Training—(Information to follow).**

**Outreach**—Ruby Lewis presented the following, upcoming activities:

- **Urban Harvest Fruit Tree Sale**—February 9, 7:30 a.m. (setup) to 3 p.m. at 2101 Winter Street, Houston; contact Ruby Lewis or David Plunkett
- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day**—Date TBD; contact Ruby Lewis
- **Rice University Softball Game Event**—February 17, 11 a.m. to ?; contact Ruby Lewis
- **DEEP at Brazoria NWR**—(assumes no shutdown) February 12, 14, 21, 26, 28, March 5, 7, 19, 21, 28; contact Tom Schneider
- **Brazoria Heritage Day**—March 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis or David Plunkett.

**Chapter Host**—On behalf of Pam West, Kristine Rivers indicated that the arrangements for the special AT meal, morning snacks, and afternoon treats went very well. At the General Meeting, she wanted to express thanks to everyone who helped with clean up: Several members stayed and put everything back together. It was fast and easy. Additionally, she would like suggestions for improving next year's event, if we have one. John Boettiger suggested that Pam have a committee to help with hosting duties.

**Publications**—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

## TWITTER

Resurrected our dormant Twitter account (Eight followers to date—see Attachment)  
Login: <https://twitter.com/tmncot> Password: Quercus77515TX

## WEBSITE

### Renewal

- Renewed hosting for two years at \$281.17 (including Texas sales tax)
- This does not include domain registration

### Homepage

- Added link to Twitter account (see Attachment)
- Added adspot for Migration Celebration (see Attachment).

### Advanced Training Page

- Added list of 2019 Refreshment Teams
- Added links to known meetings (Feb 13) <http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>

### Intern Training Page

- 2018 training schedule remains in place until 2019 schedule is available  
[http://tmn-cot.org/Intern\\_Training/index.html](http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/index.html)

### In Memoriam Page

- Added obit for Richard "Dick" Hickner <http://tmn-cot.org/Memoriam/index.html>

### Birding Page

- Added links to two birding sites suggested by readers who work with children:
  - Steven Neale, whose daughter Emily is studying birding in Girl Scouts
  - Rachel Martin, who volunteers for an after-school education program  
<http://tmn-cot.org/birding/index.html>

### Index Page

- Added link to Big Tree Registry at request of Chris Kneupper  
<https://brazoria.agrilife.org/brazoria-county-big-tree-registry/>

## NEWSLETTER

- January issue went out on schedule
- February issue publication schedule:

Wednesday February 6	Board meeting, 9 a.m.
Thursday February 7	Submission deadline, 5 p.m.
Sunday February 10	Board review draft deadline, 12 p.m.
Monday February 11	Publication

## CONTINUOUS REMINDER TO BOARD

There are “hidden” pages on the website for which no password is needed:

- <http://tmn-cot.org/Minutes/> (Board and General Meeting Minutes 2007-2018)
- <http://tmn-cot.org/Mugshots/> [small (150px) headshots of members/others]
- [http://tmn-cot.org/COT\\_Special\\_Forms](http://tmn-cot.org/COT_Special_Forms) (related to tax exemption)

**Publicity**—Larry Peterson asked what the expectations were for the Publicity Coordinator and who is currently doing what regarding Facebook posts, and he received input including promote COT-related activities (e.g., press releases) and try to obtain press coverage for them. Kristine said that Dick Schaffhausen and Pete and Peggy Romfh often post photos and content. Larry noted that he had obtained a list of media contacts from Dick.

**Speakers Bureau**—Ed Peebles said that he had sent an email to those who expressed an interest in participating with Speakers Bureau activities. Kristine noted that she had received a request from Featherfest for a butterfly presentation and related field trip. She also asked if we had received any word about a Pearland Nature Center opening event, and Don offered to ask when he was at the center tomorrow.

Ed said that GCBO’s Robin Bjork needs volunteers to serve as Skimmer Project chaperones. Ed suggested that we might invite an outside speaker for an AT opportunity, e.g., Butterfly Train-the-Trainer or other. Oron offered to contact Robin Bjork to see if she was interested in presenting a bird-related event.

**Chapter Adviser**—John O’Connell suggested an electronic survey for feedback on the Bonus AT Event. He also indicated that he will contact Carolyn May-Monie to obtain information on New Class Training.

John then presented a couple of PowerPoint slides on a new citizen science project begun last November by the Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve ([www.MissionAransas.org](http://www.MissionAransas.org), [jace@utexas.edu](mailto:jace@utexas.edu)) to collect data on how many nurdles (industrial plastic pellets that escape into the environment through mismanaged handling activities) are on Texas Gulf Coast beaches and where they are located. He asked for time at the next General Meeting to present the project.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
Add an additional COT Chapter Advisor	Kristine Rivers	ASAP	Ongoing	Must be a Texas Parks and Wildlife employee <b>August:</b> Kristine will contact David Abrego at Sea Center Texas <b>September to December:</b> No update <b>January 2019:</b> Connie said that Sea Center Texas is about to fill the vacant positions; perhaps one will be a good candidate <b>February:</b> Paul Carson is the new Hatching Manager at Sea Center Texas; Connie will invite him to a future board meeting
Correct information on the COT website regarding how to log travel time for VT; membership vote to accept final COH	Neal McLain Connie Stolte	ASAP	Ongoing	Connie will provide accurate information to Neal <b>November:</b> Connie and Neal to check if the information posted is correct. <b>December:</b> Connie stated that the information posted reflects the revised COH; item will be complete once membership approves COH, likely in January <b>January 2019:</b> Board will vote to approve via email no later than January 23, then document will be sent to members to review 10 days prior to their vote at February general meeting <b>February:</b> COH was emailed to members; a vote to accept can be held at the next general meeting
Review and update Chapter Operation Handbook Appendices	Connie Stolte	Open.	Ongoing	COT calls this document Policies and Procedures Handbook on the website. Current Appendices need updating and revision <b>November:</b> Connie suggested that we organize this website document via a sub-index under “Forms”; Neal will review and make recommendations (THIS IS COMPLETE; see <a href="http://tmn-">http://tmn-</a>



				<a href="http://cot.org/Forms/index.html#pandp">cot.org/Forms/index.html#pandp</a> <b>December:</b> Connie finished latest draft and sent to reviewers; then will be sent to Board; then ready for membership vote; no appendices yet <b>January 2019:</b> No appendices yet <b>February:</b> the committee needs to meet to decide on appendices; Connie will coordinate; do appendices need to be approved by membership or simply posted to the website
Contact Cullen Ondracek regarding details of opening event at Pearland Nature Center	Kristine Rivers	ASAP	Ongoing	In order to determine if COT will participate and how <b>February:</b> Don will ask when he is at the center on February 7
Explore allocating a maximum of \$500 or \$1,000 annually (or as the chapter is able) to fund one project selected from those submitted by COT members	Kristine Rivers Bill Ahlstrom John O'Connell Bob Whitmarsh	Open	Ongoing	To support member interests and spur involvement

<b>NEW Action Item(s) Added at January Meeting</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due date?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Clarify Bryan Frazier's (and perhaps other members who are BCP employees) status as COT "advisor" vs "member"	Kristine Rivers	ASAP	Michelle Haggerty of TMN state office, indicated that Bryan is considered an advisor and therefore has no responsibility to meet annual VT and AT requirements
Ask local libraries if they are interested in showing the displays prepared for the Bonus AT Day	Ruby Lewis	ASAP	To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes
Contact mushroom specialist Teri MacArthur as a possible speaker at a future COT meeting	Bill Ahlstrom	ASAP	Rose Wagner to send contact information to Bill
Contact Robin Bjork at GCBO about presenting a "mini-AT event"	Oron Atkins	ASAP	
Determine VT time for Nurdle Patrol activities	Oron Atkins	ASAP	
Consider having an annual uniform shirt that members wear at all outreach activities for TMN-COT "branding" purposes	John Boettiger	March	John will present the idea at the March general meeting



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.  
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

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**President:** Kristine Rivers adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:55 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)





Attendance Date 2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Elected Board Members</b>													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X											
Ahlstrom, Bill	X												
Sabathier, Don	X	X											
Myers, Lisa	X	X											
<b>Advisor(s)</b>													
O'Connell, John	X	X											
<b>Immediate Past President</b>													
Brandes, Dave	X	X											
<b>Appointed Board Members</b>													
Boettiger, John	X	X											
McLain, Neal	X	X											
Lewis, Ruby	X	X											
Whitmarsh, Bob	X	X											
Atkins, Oron	X	X											
West, Pam	X												
Rose Wagner (2018 class)	X	X											
Stolte, Connie	X	X											
Peebles, Ed	X	X											
Peterson, Larry	X	X											
<b>Guest(s)</b>													
Kneupper, Chris	X												

Attachment  
PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT by Neal McLain, February 2019

TWITTER

Twitter followers as of 2/2/18

- Lisa Myers (no location specified)
- Fairfax Master Naturalists, Fairfax County, Virginia
- Heartwood Chapter Texas Master Naturalist, Montgomery & Walker Co, Texas
- Larry Peterson, Manvel, Texas
- Native Prairies Association of Texas, San Marcos, Texas
- Natives In Harmony, Marengo, Ohio
- Neal McLain, Brazoria, Texas
- Texas Master Naturalist (state office), Kerrville, Texas



WEBPAGE

