



## TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 11:05 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)             | ✓          | Dave Brandes (Immediate Past President) |         |
| Bill Ahlstrom (Vice-President/Programs) | ✓          | John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)        | ✓       |
| Lisa Myers (Secretary)                  | ✓          | John O'Connell (Interim New Class Dir.) | N/A     |
| Don Sabathier (Treasurer)               | ✓          | Neal McLain (Communications Dir.)       |         |
|   |            | Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)              | ✓       |
| <b>Chapter Advisor(s)</b>               |            | Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)  | ✓       |
| John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)     | ✓          | Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)    | ✓       |
| Paul Cason (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)     | ✓          | Pam West (Chapter Host)                 | ✓       |
| <b>Guests</b>                           |            | Rose Wagner (Class of 2018 Rep.)        | ✓       |
|   |            | Connie Stolte (State Rep.)              |         |
|   |            | Ed Peebles (Speakers Bureau Coord.)     |         |
|   |            | Larry Peterson (Publicity Coord.)       | ✓       |
| <b>Quorum</b>                           | <b>Yes</b> |   |         |

**Approve Previous Board Minutes—**Lisa Myers stated that the February 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 May General Meeting and April Board Meeting Minutes | Larry Peterson    | Don Sabathier   | Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present |

**Motions—**

| Motion  | Motion to Approve | Motion Seconded | Vote   |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| The Board will order and pay for one short-sleeved COT-logo T-shirt per 2019 dues-paid member and 2019 dues-paid intern | Lisa Myers        | Oron Atkins     | Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present |
|   |                   |                 | Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present |

**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   |
|---|---|--|
| Add an additional COT Chapter Advisor   | Connie Stolte<br>Dave Brandes                                       | Paul Cason became a COT chapter advisor in May.  |
| Review and update Chapter Operation Handbook Appendices   | Connie Stolte   | Updated and approved by Board and approved by membership at the May General Meeting [see May Board Meeting Appendices]; sent to State TMN office and posted on website by Neal McLain.   |
| Explore allocating a maximum of \$500 annually (or as the chapter is able) to fund one or more projects selected from those submitted by COT members  | Kristine Rivers<br>Bill Ahlstrom<br>John O'Connell<br>Bob Whitmarsh | The board approved revised wording for the suggested "2019 TMN-COT ECO Fund Grant Application" [see <i>Attachments for first draft</i> ].<br><b>BOARD NEEDS TO VOTE TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE.</b>  |
| Consider having an annual, uniform, short-sleeved T-shirt that members wear at all outreach activities for COT "branding" purposes<br>Organize a committee of 2 or 3 board members to select shirt and logo design and determine cost | John Boettiger  | The board approved purchase of one robin's-egg blue, short-sleeved T-shirt per paid 2019 member and paid new members from 2019 class (price between \$6 and \$8/shirt based on size [see <i>Motion</i> ]; sizes will be collected at the June meeting. |

**Treasurer's Report**—Don Sabathier presented the May 2019 financial information, below.

**1 March – May 31, 2019, COT Treasurer Report**

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| <b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b> | \$ 9,545.86 |
| Revenue Summary                 | \$ 599.14   |
| Expense Summary                 | (\$ 49.99)  |
| <b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>    | \$10,095.01 |

Don noted that revenue is primarily dues and one new life member; expense is monthly Constant Contact charge and cake for May meeting.

**Constant Contact**—Don Sabathier indicated that use of this service was approved six to eight months ago to alleviate problems some Comcast users were experiencing with COT emails and it was set up but never used. Kristine noted that Constant Contact offers a variety of functions and Larry Peterson offered to look into how to implement.

**Chapter T-Shirts**—John Boettiger circulated a sample of the brand of shirt selected and noted pricing as follows: \$6/shirt for sizes up to XL; \$7 for 2XL; \$8 for 3XL. The board decided on robin's egg blue. After some discussion, the board decided to cover the cost of one shirt per dues-paid 2019 member and dues-paid 2019 intern-class members [see *Motion*].

**Bonus AT Day Survey**—Bob Whitmarsh reviewed results of several questions from the Bonus AT Day Survey, which he said will be useful for future planning. Lisa will again post in the next newsletter a reminder to take the survey.

- As of June 4, 47 members had responded
- 90.7% felt the event was a good use of chapter money
- 95.56% supported making the event an annual event
- 47.84% support holding the event at AgriLIFE; 19.57% indicated AgriLIFE was not ideal but did not support changing venues; 23.9% support a new venue and would pay to help defray cost; 8.7% support a new venue and chapter should cover the cost
- 56.10% preferred holding the event on the third Saturday of January; 26.83% for second Saturday and 17.07% for fourth Saturday.

John Boettiger said that he will ask members at the general meeting to update their personal information.

**Fall Field Day**—Kristine Rivers announced a field day to be held at Quintana County Park in lieu of the regular October meeting. Several people have volunteered to conduct hands-on sessions such as seining and digging for ghost crabs.

**ECO Fund Award**—Kristine Rivers distributed a draft of the proposed program [see Attachment]. The board discussed various aspects and agreed on the following changes:

- Title will be “2019 TMN-COT ECO Fund Grants Application
- One or more grants will be awarded, not to exceed a total of \$500
- Grantees will be selected by a committee composed of Bill Ahlstrom, John O’Connell, Kristine Rivers and Bob Whitmarsh
- Grantees will be required to submit receipts for expenses related to their project.

**Outreach Alligators**—Ruby Lewis indicated that the large USFWS alligators are no longer being used at COT outreach events. Crocodile Encounter has agreed to take the alligators, but they have not been picked up. She added that Tom Schneider of USFWS has promised us the use of a new baby alligator.

## BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

**Programs**—Bill Ahlstrom shared the following, upcoming general-meeting speakers:

- **June**—Teri McArthur: “Mushrooms and Fungi” (weather allowing, will include an additional “Walk and Talk” AT session after the chapter meeting at BEES)  
Nature Notes—Peggy Romfh: “Lichens”
- **July**—Dr. Robert Lonard, Biologist and Professor Emeritus at UT of Rio Grande; topic TBD  
Nature Notes: TBD
- **August**—speaker TBD (working on two possibilities; Kristine suggested David Heinicke present on mammals); Nature Notes—Candace Novak: “Mollusks,” focusing on the animal within the shell

**Membership**—John Boettiger noted that Ellis Burkhardt is in the hospital in failing health. He then presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients, which Pete and Peggy Romfh had provided for announcement at the June General Meeting.

| Impact Data       | # Adults | # Youth | Total  |
|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| YTD Totals—May 31 | 7,678    | 23,443  | 31,121 |

| Period            | VT Hours | AT Hours | # of Volunteers            |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------------------------|
| YTD Totals—May 31 | 7,837    | 976      | 97 (of 107 active members) |

| Recertification 2019<br>(Warbler Pin) |               |                | 250 Hours      | 500 Hours      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ed Barrios                            | Jo Myers      | Linda Sluis    | Regina Tippett | George Valadez |
| Barbara Burkhardt                     | Larry Ruhr    | Chip Sweet     |                |                |
| John Minkert                          | Jimmy Salinas | George Valadez |                |                |
| Sheree Muzny                          | Ken Sluis     |                |                |                |

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

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Workday**—June 13, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—June 20, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Workdays**—Every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Pearland Natural Resources Workday**—First Thursday each month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **BCPD Trail Day**—CANCELLED FOR JUNE; Hanson Riverside County Park; (third Thursday each month), 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Sea Turtle Patrol**—Nest finding is low so far but volunteer hours are up this season.

**Advanced Training**—Bob Whitmarsh noted that he will add the following opportunities to the Calendar:

- Coastal Prairie and Galveston Bay TMN chapter meetings
- Native Plant Society of Texas Clear Lake and Houston chapter meetings.

**Chapter Advisor**—John O’Connell announced that the AgriLIFE building will be undergoing renovations for about three months, starting in July. He suggested the Sebesta building at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds for member meetings and intern training and perhaps BEES for board meetings. Pam West said that she will investigate options. After the meeting Pam notified the board via email that First Presbyterian Church at 130 S. Arcola Street in Angleton will allow COT to hold member meetings there at no cost.



John O'Connell also noted later that July 29 through August 3 will be Youth Days at the Beach.

Paul Cason stated that attendance at Nature Day at Sea Center was low due to the weather. He added that a new volunteer coordinator is coming on board, and Sea Center is also undergoing renovations.

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

- **Brazoria County Library System Summer Reading Program**—Many dates, June and July; contact Ruby Lewis
- **Camp WILD**, (invitation by Galveston Bay TMN Chapter)—November 9
- **Prairie Festival at Galveston State Park**—invited to bring animals and other exhibits.

Ruby raised the issue of volunteers who have not had background checks, e.g., individuals who wish to volunteer prior to joining the upcoming intern class. Brazoria County Library System now requires all volunteers to have background checks (COT members are checked by State). We should direct volunteers to go to the partner organization's website or AgriLIFE to obtain background check form/information.

**Publications**—Neal McLain, not present, provided the following information regarding publications:

**WEBSITE**

**Home Page**

Added link to June General Meeting; need info for July  
Adspots for Summer Reading Program and 2019 State Meeting remain in place

**Advanced Training Page**

Added link to June AT meeting <http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>  
Need July AT meeting info ASAP

**NEWSLETTER**

May Issue went out on schedule [http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/Chapter\\_News\\_2019-05.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/Chapter_News_2019-05.pdf)  
June publication schedule:

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Submission deadline           | Thursday, June 6, 5:00 p.m. |
| Draft posted for Board review | Sunday, June 9              |
| Publication                   | Monday, June 10             |

**BUSINESS CARDS**

Business cards with TMN-COT logo are now available for any TMN-COT member at \$16/100 cards + \$4 shipping  
To order contact Neal McLain [nmclain@annsgarden.com](mailto:nmclain@annsgarden.com)



**USUAL MONTHLY REMINDERS TO BOARD MEMBERS**

There are three "secret" pages on the website (no password needed):  
Minutes of Board and General Meetings 2007-18 <http://tmn-cot.org/Minutes/>  
Mugshots (small headshots of members and others) <http://tmn-cot.org/Mugshots/>  
Special Forms (forms related to tax exemption) [http://tmn-cot.org/COT\\_Special\\_Forms](http://tmn-cot.org/COT_Special_Forms)

| Cradle of Texas Board Action Register   |  |                      |                  |   |
|---|--|----------------------|------------------|---|
| Open Action Item  | Who?                                     | Due Date?            | Complete/Ongoing | Comments  |
| Ask local libraries if they are interested in showing the displays prepared for the Bonus AT Day              | Ruby Lewis                               | Sept.                | Ongoing          | To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes<br><b>March:</b> No update (Ruby absent)<br><b>April:</b> Ruby contacted the library system and they would like to display them at libraries that have space starting in August. Ruby will coordinate a schedule and transport by a TMN member<br><b>June:</b> Ruby said libraries said fall would be best; they need a container to hold the presentation boards for transport between libraries or we can transport; Ruby will work out details in September |
| Contact Robin Bjork at GCBO about presenting a “mini-AT event” on bird nesting                                | Oron Atkins                              | ASAP                 | Hold             | <b>March:</b> Robin has left GCBO; replacement just hired—too early for her to present<br><b>April:</b> GCBO is not ready but still wants volunteers later<br><b>June:</b> Taylor Bennett (Robin’s replacement) will contact Oron   |
| Develop a Monarch Conservation Education Program for Angleton ISD in partnership with Keep Angleton Beautiful | Ed Peebles<br>Megan Mainer<br>Ruby Lewis | May and October 2019 | October          | <b>June:</b> Ruby has possible volunteers for fall program  |
| Review benefits/negatives of Constant Contact purchase and decide if needed or not                            | Kristine Rivers<br>Don Sabathier         | ASAP                 | July             | Is the chapter utilizing the service? Do we need to continue the \$20 a month subscription?<br><b>June:</b> Larry Peterson offered to look into learning Constant Contact and implementing  |
| Recruit speakers to participate in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Angleton                             | Ed Peebles                               | ASAP                 | Ongoing          | Classes are in Angleton and Galveston on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in June, July and August. Two-hour morning and afternoon sessions each day<br><b>June:</b> No update in Ed’s absence   |

| NEW Action Item(s) Added at June Meeting | Who? | Due date? | Comments |
|--|------|-----------|----------|
| None                                     |      |           |          |

**President:** Kristine Rivers adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary (from notes provided by Connie Stolte)

cc: Board Members  
Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary [Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu)



## ATTACHMENTS



### 2019 ECO Fund Award Application

TMN-COT will award one \$500 ECO Fund grant for 2019. The purpose of the award is to provide support for specific projects that will enhance our mission to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within the Brazoria County community.

Selection at the September 2019 chapter meeting will be by blind drawing from qualified applications.

The Board ECO Fund Committee will screen all entries to ensure that applications are complete and consistent with the intent of the award. Applications that fail this screening will not be included in the draw.

Completed applications must be received by Friday, August 30, 2019. Submit your application via email to [rivers@tmn-cot.org](mailto:rivers@tmn-cot.org) for review by the committee. You may also submit your application in person at any chapter meeting prior to the deadline.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must have been an active, dues-paying member and achieved certification for the previous two calendar years.
- If the planned project involves work with a partner, applicant must receive approval in advance from the partner before submitting application and include the name of the person within that organization who will oversee the project.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Previous recipients of the award are ineligible to apply in consecutive years.

#### Acceptable uses of the award include:

- Implementation of a new project with a chapter partner
- Expansion of a current project with a chapter partner
- Development of educational materials for a specific project
- Development of materials to be used for outreach events

#### Responsibilities of recipients:

- Report on progress on the project to the Board of Directors at the March 2020 Board meeting.
- Present an overview of the completed ECO Fund project at the September 2020 chapter meeting.
- Confirm and review the upcoming presentation with the Program Chair by August 2020.
- Recipients who fail to use the funds according to the guidelines are required to refund the award to TMN-COT.

Questions: Send questions regarding the ECO Fund Award application to [rivers@tmn-cot.org](mailto:rivers@tmn-cot.org).



**2020 ECO Fund Award Application Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your planned ECO Fund Award project: *(Attach additional pages if needed)*

If you answered yes above, you must receive approval in advance from the partner before submitting your application. Provide the name and title of the person within the organization who will oversee the project:

\_\_\_\_\_

**The mission of TMN-COT is to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within the Brazoria County community.**

How would your project support TMN-COT's mission? *(Attach additional pages if needed)*

If I receive the 2019 ECO Fund Award, I agree to abide by the rules as stated on page 1 of this form. I understand that should I fail to do so, I will be required to refund the award money to TMN-COT.



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_







| 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   | X   |     |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Ahlstrom, Bill                  | X   |     | X   | X   |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Sabathier, Don                  | X   | X   | X   | X   | N   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Myers, Lisa                     | X   | X   | X   |     | O   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Advisor(s)</b>               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| O'Connell, John                 | X   | X   | X   | X   |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Paul Cason                      | -   | -   | -   | -   |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Brandes, Dave                   | X   | X   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Appointed Board Members</b>  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Boettiger, John                 | X   | X   | X   | X   | M   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| McLain, Neal                    | X   | X   | X   | X   | E   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Lewis, Ruby                     | X   | X   |     | X   | E   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Whitmarsh, Bob                  | X   | X   | X   | X   | T   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Atkins, Oron                    | X   | X   | X   | X   | I   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| West, Pam                       | X   |     | X   |     | N   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Rose Wagner (2018 class)        | X   | X   | X   |     | G   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Stolte, Connie                  | X   | X   | X   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Peebles, Ed                     | X   | X   | X   | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Peterson, Larry                 | X   | X   | X   | X   |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Guest(s)</b>                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Kneupper, Chris                 | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Cason, Paul                     |     |     |     | X   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |