



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, August 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

BEES (Brazoria Environmental Education Station), 583 Hospital Drive, 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.)		✓
Chapter Advisor(s)			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)		
Guests			Rose Wagner (Class of 2018 Rep.)		
			Connie Stolte (State Rep.)		
			Ed Peebles (Speakers Bureau Coord.)		✓
			Larry Peterson (Publicity Coord.)		✓
Quorum		Yes			

Approve Previous Board Minutes—Lisa Myers stated that the July 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 July General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Dave Brandes	Bob Whitmarsh	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*].

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
Contact Robin Bjork at GCBO about presenting a "mini-AT" event on bird	Oron Atkins	March: Robin has left GCBO; replacement just hired—too early for her to present April: GCBO is not ready but still wants volunteers later

nesting		<p>June: Taylor Bennett (Robin's replacement) will contact Oron</p> <p>July: Oron says Taylor is ready to do what we would like; Oron will ask what is convenient; Dave suggested a Nature Note now and field trip in spring</p> <p>Aug: Taylor is scheduled to speak at February 2020 general meeting</p>
Verify with Ed Barrios that he will host the December Hog Wild party	Lisa Myers	Ed has agreed to host party at his house; board suggests starting December meeting at 11a with party afterwards

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

1 July – July 31, 2019, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 10,497.56
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.14
Expense Summary	(\$ 818.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 9,703.79

Don noted that expenses are primarily for the member T-shirts and Constant Contact, and all active members have paid 2019 dues.

Chapter T-Shirts—On behalf of John Boettiger, Lisa Myers distributed the new COT T-shirts to board members and indicated that John would have members' shirts at the general meeting next week. Kristine asked that board members wear the shirts at the general meeting next week.

Intern Recruitment and Training—John O'Connell said that there are nine applications to date. He will set-up on-line payment option next year to facilitate registration. He added that more promotion is needed. Dave and Don suggested newspaper ads and exposure and add phone number contact information in addition to web contact. Bob suggested adding an invitation to monthly meetings in every means of promotion. John added that weekday morning training sessions are an impediment to working people; Dave said that perhaps classes could be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and field trips on Saturdays—perhaps hold fewer classes (but same hours). John added that we may be undervaluing the training with a low fee; we could raise it and offer scholarships to those in need. Don added that we could hold an interest meeting(s) to promote awareness. Kristine will form a committee to discuss changes that could be made to attract more interns.

Future Meeting Location—Kristine stated that several members would like to permanently hold general meetings at the First Presbyterian Church; however, John noted that once we give up our time slot at AgriLIFE, we likely will not get it back. In any case, we may be at the church for longer than anticipated as AgriLIFE renovations have not yet started.

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

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

- **August**—speaker Dr. Lonard, "The Barrier Islands of Texas"; Nature Notes: Candace Novak: "Mollusks: the animals within the exoskeletons"

- **September**—speaker Dr. Glenn Jones, “The World’s Most Erosive Coastline”; Nature Notes: Sue Heath of GCBO on “LOSH: Urban Loggerhead Shrike Project”
- **October**—Fall Field Day at Quintana Beach State Park with various stations including reptiles, seining, digging for ghost crabs and shrimp
- **November**—speaker to be named by Paul Cason on topic of zooplankton
- **December**—No presentations; Hog Wild party
- **February 2020**—speaker Taylor Bennett on shorebird nesting.

Bill circulated renderings for the new Angleton Nature Center. Expected groundbreaking is early 2020.

Membership—In John Boettiger’s absence, Lisa Myers presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients, which Pete and Peggy Romfh provided for announcement at the August General Meeting.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—July 31	10,121	27,295	37,416

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—July 31	10,385	1,149	98 (of 105 active members)

Recertification 2019 (Warbler Pin)		500 Hours	1000 Hours
Bill Ahlstrom	Ellen Lasseter	Chip Sweet	Herb Myers Don Sabathier
Julia Geisler	Georgia Monnerat		
Cindy Goodrum	Rose Wagner		

State Representative—In Connie Stolte’s absence, Kristine indicated that registration is now open for the TMN Annual Meeting.

Chapter Advisor—John said that either pizza or sandwiches will be served at the initial intern class, and he will order. Kristine questioned whether the orange field notebooks were necessary as they were no longer being used as part of the training. Lisa will make a brief presentation on nature journaling at an intern class.

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

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Workday**—August 22 and 29, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—August 15, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Workdays**—Every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; contact Chris Kneupper

- **Pearland Natural Resources Workday**—Second Thursday (August 8) each month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **BCPD Trail Day**—Third Thursday each month, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **GCBO Hummingbird Xtravaganza**—September 14 and 21, 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact Jennifer Horton; contact Chris Kneupper to help with plant sales.

Oron said that he had been contacted about constructing rescue-bird cages in Bay City. Oron added that he had forwarded information to Ruby regarding the **Seabourne Festival** on November 2. It was suggested that we have both an activity (Ruby recommended leaf prints) and information regarding TMN. He added that the Cradle of Texas Conservancy is working with the Fort Velasco project regarding trail development at Surfside. Oron will update the VPAR to include this activity.

Kristine noted that there had been a lot of interest in the **ECO Fund Grant** but only one application so far.

Advanced Training—Bob Whitmarsh said that he will have new items to post to the calendar by next week.

Outreach—Ruby Lewis reported the following outreach events:

- **GCBO Hummingbird Xtravaganza**—September 14 and 21, 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact Jennifer Horton
- **KBR Kids Day**—October 12
- **Galveston State Park**—November 9.

She indicated that 3,098 participants and 44 volunteers attended COT's programs at Brazoria County Library System's Summer Reading Programs.

Publications—Neal McLain provided the information below regarding publications. He added that the Partners page needs to be reviewed by the Volunteer Service Director to ensure its accuracy, and the Projects page has been removed until it is current; Oron said that he will update VPAR agreements.

WEBSITE

Home Page

Added link to August General Meeting with church location cited
Four ads spots are posted on the home page:



Size: 150x150 pix (about 2.1 inch).

Advanced Training Page

July meeting AT posted 1.5 hours, VT at .5 hours plus travel

August meeting info posted with link to location; need info on September meeting ASAP

NEWSLETTER



July issue went out on schedule <http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/index.html>
 August publication schedule same as previous months

SOCIAL MEDIA

Lots of activity on Facebook and Twitter <https://www.facebook.com/TMN-COT>
<https://twitter.com/tmncot>

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



MONTHLY REMINDERS TO BOARD MEMBERS

There are three "secret" pages on the website (no password needed):
 Minutes of Board and General Meetings 2007-19 <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

Publicity—Larry Peterson indicated that the current version of Wordpress would not give us as much webpage capability as we currently have. He is continuing to train and explore options.

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 March: No update (Ruby absent) April: 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 June: 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
Develop a Monarch Conservation Education Program for Angleton ISD in partnership with Keep Angleton Beautiful	Megan Mainer Ruby Lewis	May and October 2019	October	June: Ruby has possible volunteers for fall program July: Ruby will coordinate
Review benefits/negatives of Constant Contact purchase and decide if needed or not; possibly use an alternate for group email	Kristine Rivers Larry Peterson	ASAP	July	Is the chapter utilizing the service? Do we need to continue the \$20 a month subscription? June: Larry Peterson offered to investigate learning Constant Contact and implementing July: Larry says this is primarily a marketing tool; the board discussed ideas for how it could be useful; Dave will provide name of replacement for Yahoo Groups (he later emailed the name: groups.io) Aug: Need to evaluate groups.io
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 June: No update in Ed's absence July: Kristine says they need instructor(s) for 8-week course; perhaps



				we could offer the 2018 Bonus AT topics; Dave suggested a mini version of intern training Aug: Kristine told them fall is not good; spring is better; Ed and Kristine will meet to work something out; Ed has forwarded names to OLLI of members who are interested
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NEW Action Item(s) Added at August Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments
Determine our liability and develop a procedure when there is an incident at an outreach event, e.g., accident.	John O'Connell Ruby Lewis	ASAP	John will speak to the Civil D.A. regarding risk management; Ruby can conduct an annual training during a general meeting and mini training before each event

President: Kristine Rivers adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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



Attendance Date 2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X	X			X	X	X					
Ahlstrom, Bill	X		X	X		X	X	X					
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	N	X	X	X					
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X		O	X	X	X					
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X		X		X					
Paul Cason	-	-	-	-		X	X						
Immediate Past President													
Brandes, Dave	X	X	X				X	X					
Appointed Board Members													
Boettiger, John	X	X	X	X	M	X	X						
McLain, Neal	X	X	X	X	E		X	X					
Lewis, Ruby	X	X		X	E	X		X					
Whitmarsh, Bob	X	X	X	X	T	X	X	X					
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	I	X	X	X					
West, Pam	X		X		N	X	X						
Rose Wagner (2018 class)	X	X	X		G	X	X						
Stolte, Connie	X	X	X	X									
Peebles, Ed	X	X	X	X			X	X					
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Guest(s)													
Kneupper, Chris	X												
Cason, Paul				X									