



## TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 9:28 a.m. – 11:58 a.m.

Brazoria County AgriLIFE Extension Offices, 21017 County Rd 171, 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 August 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 August General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Bob Whitmarsh	Rose Wagner	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

**Motions—**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Discontinue Constant Contact until such time that it is used	Don Sabathier	Ruby Lewis	Approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present
Increase to \$125 the registration fee for intern training classes	Don Sabathier	Bob Whitmarsh	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*].

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
Review benefits/negatives of Constant Contact purchase and decide if needed or not; possibly use an alternate for group email	Kristine Rivers Larry Peterson	Cancelled contract [see Motion]
Update Texas Conservancy VPAL to include trail development at Surfside	Oron Atkins	Oron will provide information to Neal to post on website

**Treasurer’s Report**—Don Sabathier presented the August 2019 financial information, below.

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

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 9,703.79
Revenue Summary	\$ 552.13
Expense Summary	(\$ 1,417.14)
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,838.78

Don noted that expenses are primarily for Directors and Officers insurance, registration fee to State Meeting for president, and additional books for intern training. Revenue is primarily intern fees and a \$100 donation in memory of Ellis Burkhardt. Don suggested that we discontinue the Constant Contact agreement as we have not used it [see Motion].

**Chapter Brochure and Intern Training Class Fee**—Ruby Lewis suggested that the brochure be revised to eliminate the start date for training; Lisa Myers will do so. A discussion followed concerning the training class fee; the board voted on increasing the fee to \$125 in order to cover the cost of providing T-shirts and financial aid [see Motion].

**2020 Board Positions**—Kristine Rivers asked board members if they intend to run/remain on the board. She said that Bill Ahlstrom is running for president; therefore, we need a vice president. Pam West is stepping down as Chapter Host. She also said that the Executive Committee would be meeting to discuss the size of the board.

**BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS**

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

- **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 County Park with various stations including reptiles, seining, digging for ghost crabs and shrimp
- **November**—speaker April Russell of Sea Center Texas on zooplankton; Nature Notes: Chip Sweet on “Tardi Grades”
- **December**—No speakers; Executive Board election; intern presentations; Hog Wild party
- **January 2020**—speaker Susan Conaty on “Nash Prairie”; Nature Notes TBD
- **February 2020**—speaker Taylor Bennett of GCBO, “Shorebird Nesting”; Nature Notes TBD.

**Membership**—John Boettiger indicated that there will be approximately 10 T-shirts left after all are distributed; he will offer them to the membership at \$7 each. He then presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients, which Pete and Peggy Romfh provided for announcement at the September General Meeting. Pam West will arrange for a cake to commemorate Tom Morris' achieving 5000 volunteer hours.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—August 31	10,999	28,176	39,175

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—August 31	11,287	1,227	99 (of 105 active members)

Recertification 2019	250 Hours	5000 Hours
Jerry Eppner Robert Salzer	Mary Schwartz	Tom Morris

**State Representative**—Connie Stolte indicated that Kristine Rivers, Bill Ahlstrom and she will be attending the annual State Meeting. The State Office has sent a message about the annual document review; this should not be a major task as we have recently completed a thorough review. Kristine asked Connie to review which board positions are mandatory as the Executive Committee will be reviewing them soon.

**Vice President**—Bill Ahlstrom suggested that the chapter host a screening of the movie *Greenfire*; he will survey member interest and determine the license fee.

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

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Workday**—September 12, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and September 21, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—September 19, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Workdays**—Every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO New Pond Construction**—contact Phil Huxford for dates and times
- **Pearland Natural Resources Workday**—Second Thursday this month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **BCPD Trail Day**—Third Thursday each month, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Brazos Bend State Park Butterfly Count**—September 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; contact Rich Jespersen.

Oron reminded the board of the Bryan Adams memorial bench dedication this Sunday at 2 p.m. at the BASF Planetarium.

**Advanced Training**—Bob Whitmarsh said that he had added several items to the Calendar. He added that he will be attending the TMN Galveston Bay chapter's book club meeting next week and will report back. Bob added that the Bonus AT Day date has been changed to January 25 and will be held at the First Presbyterian Church. Oron indicated that one opportunity is a presentation by Dr. Shaver on sea turtles.

**Outreach**—Ruby Lewis reported the following outreach events:

- **GCBO Extreme 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
- **Science Fest at Lake Jackson Historical Museum**—September 21, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Hogtober at Varner Hogg Plantation**—October 5, 12 p.m. to ?
- **KBR Kids Day in Houston**—October 12, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Surfside Nature Fest**—October 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas**—October 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Nature Fest at Seaborne Creek Park, Rosenberg**—November 2, 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Nature Walk About at Galveston State Park**—November 9, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Chapter Host**—Pam West indicated that September meeting snacks will be provided by the Brazoria County Library System to thank members for participating in the Summer Reading Program. She said that Sea Center Texas is an option for the November, December and January 2020 board meetings; the October board meeting will be at AgriLIFE. Pam asked for an estimate of Bonus AT Day attendees for planning purposes and Kristine said to plan on 110.

**Publications**—Neal McLain provided the information below regarding publications.

#### WEBSITE

##### Home Page

Link to September General Meeting posted with church location cited  
Same four adspots still posted on the home page; he will remove the training adspot



Size: 150x150 pix (about 2.1 inch).

##### Advanced Training Page

August meeting AT posted 1.25 hours; VT at 1.0 hours plus travel  
September meeting info posted with link to location; need October field day info ASAP  
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>

#### NEWSLETTER

August issue went out on schedule <http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/index.html>  
September publication schedule same as previous months (deadline 5p Thurs)

#### 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](mailto: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](http://tmn-cot.org/COT_Special_Forms)

**Chapter Advisor**—Paul Cason noted that fish production at Sea Center Texas had a slow start due to rain and salinity issues. The new Shark Weekend event, with an educational focus, had 1500 attendees over two days. There are four offsite, outreach events scheduled for which volunteers are needed, and four onsite events scheduled.

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	October	Ongoing	To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes <b>March:</b> No update (Ruby absent) <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 <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 <b>Sept:</b> no update
Develop a Monarch Conservation Education Program for Angleton ISD in partnership with Keep Angleton Beautiful	Megan Mainer Ruby Lewis	October 2019	October	<b>June:</b> Ruby has possible volunteers for fall program <b>July:</b> Ruby will coordinate <b>Sept:</b> Ruby attended training; Cherie Young (Bryan Adams' daughter) will coordinate; two additional volunteers are needed
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 <b>June:</b> No update in Ed's absence <b>July:</b> 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 <b>Aug:</b> 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 <b>Sept:</b> Kristine said the OLLI fall schedule is set, and there are opportunities for COT; interested volunteers should contact her or Ed Peebles
Determine our liability and develop	John O'Connell Ruby Lewis	ASAP	Ongoing	John will speak to the Civil D.A. regarding risk management; Ruby can conduct an annual training during a general meeting and mini training



a procedure when there is an incident at an outreach event, e.g., accident.				before each event <b>Sept:</b> John not present
Review and update partners webpage	Oron Atkins	ASAP	Ongoing	<b>Sept:</b> Oron has updated and will provide Neal with information to post on website
Update VPAR agreements	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	<b>Sept:</b> We have 16 partners; some paperwork is missing; Peggy Romfh is checking to see if there is VT logged or not; the board agreed that agreements will be auto-renew with a 30-day cancellation clause and agreement contact information will be updated every two years

NEW Action Item(s) Added at September Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments
none			

**President:** Kristine Rivers adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
 EXTENSION *Board Meeting*

Date: 9/4/19  
 Speakers: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER NATURALISTS MEETING**  
**September 4, 2019**

Name	Name
1. <i>Kristine Russ</i>	20.
2. <i>Bill Ahlstrom</i>	21.
3. <i>Bob Whitmarsh</i>	22.
4. <i>Lisa Myers</i>	23.
5. <i>NEEL MCALIN</i>	24.
6. <i>DON SABATHIER</i>	25.
7. <i>Sam West</i>	26.
8. <i>Paul Casan</i>	27.
9. <i>Oron Atkins</i>	28.
10. <i>Connie Stoltz</i>	29.
11. <i>Harty</i>	30.
12. <i>Greg Wagner</i>	31.
13. <i>Ruby Davis</i>	32.
14. <i>Edward Peebles</i>	33.
15.	34.
16.	35.
17.	36.
18.	37.