



## TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 10:53 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.

### 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.)	
		Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)	✓
		Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	✓
		Pam West (Chapter Host)	✓
		Rose Wagner (Class of 2018 Rep.)	✓
		Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	✓
		Ed Peebles (Speakers Bureau Coord.)	✓
		Larry Peterson (Publicity Coord.)	✓
<b>Chapter Advisor(s)</b>			
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	✓		
Paul Cason (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	✓		
<b>Guests</b>			
<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

**Approve Previous Board Minutes—**Lisa Myers stated that the September 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 September 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
Allocate up to \$100 to print a poster containing names and photos of 2019 intern class	John O'Connell	Dave Brandes	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
Develop a Monarch Conservation Education	Megan Mainer	<b>June:</b> Ruby has possible volunteers for fall program

Program for Angleton ISD in partnership with Keep Angleton Beautiful	Ruby Lewis	<p><b>July:</b> Ruby will coordinate  <b>Sept:</b> Ruby attended training; Cherie Young (Bryan Adams' daughter) will coordinate; two additional volunteers are needed  <b>Oct:</b> Several members attended the National Wildlife Federation program; the question of whether training could be offered during a future general meeting was raised</p>
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**Treasurer's Report**—Don Sabathier presented the September 2019 financial information, below.

**1 September – September 30, 2019, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,838.78
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,149.12
Expense Summary	(\$ 339.82)
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 9,648.08

**Nominating Committee**—Dave Brandes said that in addition to Kristine and him, he needs two more people on the committee. Kristine repeated that Bill is running for president; therefore, a new vice president is needed. Several names were suggested.

**BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS**

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

- **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: Mickey Dufilho on a lethal parasite that infects Monarch butterflies
- **February 2020**—speaker Taylor Bennett of GCBO, “Shorebird Nesting”; Nature Notes TBD (possibly Dave Brandes on light pollution)
- **March 2020**—speaker Barbara Burkhardt on “Gardening for Habitat”; Nature Notes TBD

**Matagorda Bay Ecology Biodiversity Assessment Meeting**—Bill Ahlstrom noted that he recently attended this meeting. A broad survey of the bay’s flora and fauna is planned, and numerous citizen science volunteers will be needed to collect baseline data. This effort would be an excellent topic for a general-meeting speaker at a future meeting.

Bill added that the University of Houston is conducting an erosion study using Lidar at Bryan Beach.

**Membership**—John Boettiger presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients, which Pete and Peggy Romfh provided for announcement at the October General

Meeting. He noted that volunteer hours are down compared to year-to-date last year, likely due to heavy rains last week and some members not entering hours. About 40 members have not yet certified for 2019. He added that he has issued 104 t-shirts and needs to order some additional shirts for interns (need correct size) and those who want additional shirts.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
<b>YTD Totals—September 30</b>	12,149	28,945	41,094

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
<b>YTD Totals—September 30</b>	12,617	1,379	115 (of 123 active members and interns)

Recertification 2019	
Mickey Dufilho	Brenda Martin
Phyllis Gerdes	Mike Mullins
Christina Hartman	

**State Representative**—Connie Stolte said that four board members are going to the Annual State Meeting. The state office is holding off sending information for the annual document review until the end of the year.

**Intern Training**—John O’Connell indicated that training was going well. The herpetology session was rescheduled due to recent bad weather. John is working on a poster containing intern head shots and requested that \$100 be allocated [see Motion]. He is investigating the logistics of holding a spring intern class on Saturdays and evenings. The class could possibly be held in the north part of the county, and he plans to offer on-line registration. For future classes, he intends to post training handouts for download rather than waste paper printing them.

John added that one intern has not yet given permission for the mandatory background check. If the intern refuses, she will be asked to leave the class as this is a state requirement.

John wanted to know the whereabouts of the chapter’s portable mike and speaker system so that it can be used for training. Someone thought Susan Conaty might have it. Kristine added that it was not a very effective system, and we might need a better one.

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

- **DEEP at BNWR**—October 22, 24, 29, 31, 8:30 a.m. to ~2:00 p.m.; contact Tom Schneider or Ruby Lewis
- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Workday**—October 10 and 24, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and September 21, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **TCWP at GCBO Workday**—October 17, 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
- **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
- **Smith Point Hawk Watch**—Daily through November 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **GCBO Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary Expansion**—Dates/times TBD, contact Martin Hagne
- **Captain Shishka Bob**—October 31 and November 1; contact John O'Connell

Oron provided a brief overview of the planned canopy expansion at Quintana Neotropic Bird Sanctuary, which will include irrigation. He added that work will resume on Bobcat Woods Trail in November, and the San Bernard NWR will have four RV volunteer couples this fall.

**Chapter Host**—Pam West reported several items:

- The November, December and January board meetings are scheduled for Sea Center Texas.
- No one has offered to be the chapter host next year, so Pam intends to put together a committee under her directions or co-direction. She has one volunteer so far.
- Money had previously been allocated to purchase shelving for meeting supplies; she has identified and will purchase a shelf.
- The gates at Quintana Beach County Park do not open until 8:00 a.m., so the October general meeting social time cannot start at 7:30; it was decided that the general meeting will be as short as possible, and members can grab snacks before or after.

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

#### WEBSITE

##### Home Page

Link to October General Meeting and Field Day posted with Quintana location cited  
Same four adspots still posted on the home page; he will remove training and BCLS adspots



Size: 150x150 pix (about 2.1 inch).

##### Advanced Training Page

September meeting AT and VT posted  
October meeting info posted with link to location; need November info ASAP  
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>

#### NEWSLETTER

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

**Advanced Training**—Bob Whitmarsh said that he had added several items to the Calendar and will have several more by next week’s meeting.

**Chapter Advisors**—John O’Connell reminded members of the October 31 and November Captain Shishka Bob event for which he needs more volunteers, especially in food service.

Paul Cason had several announcements:

- Dr. Chris Mace is the new Stock Enhancement Director as of October 1.
- The fish-production switch is about to start, and a new flounder building has been approved
- About 290 people attended the recent Sea Center Texas fishing event
- SCT is involved in the Connect to Texas distance education program, an interactive video-conferencing program for students grades K-12; COT may wish to participate by developing session(s); school curricula and TEKS are available online.

<b>Cradle of Texas Board Action Register</b>				
<b>Open Action Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due Date?</b>	<b>Complete/Ongoing</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 <b>Oct:</b> Ruby not present
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 <b>Oct:</b> Kristine is doing a class; John O’Connell is doing a session; Dave

				indicated that this should be a function of the COT Speakers Bureau
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	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 before each event <b>Sept:</b> John not present <b>Oct:</b> No action
Review and update partners webpage (see below)	Oron Atkins	ASAP	Ongoing	<b>Sept:</b> Oron has updated and will provide Neal with information to post on website <b>Oct:</b> Oron working to finalize changes
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 <b>Oct:</b> Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR

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

**President:** Kristine Rivers adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

Attachment: Sign-in sheet

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



TEXAS A&M  
 AGRILIFE  
 EXTENSION

Date Oct 2  
 Meeting Title Board Meeting - Oct

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST—CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

Name	Name
1. Lisa Myers	23.
2. Don SABATHIER	24.
3. Bill Ahlstrom	25.
4. Dave Brande	26.
5. Kristine Rivers	27.
6. NEAL M'LAIN 	28.
7. LARRY PETERSON	29.
8. Oron Atkins	30.
9. Larry Stoltz	31.
10. John Goettiger	32.
11. J. M. O'Leary	33.
12. Bob Whitmarsh	34.
13. Pam West	35.
14. Pam Casard	36.
15. Edward Pabbles	37.
16. Rose Wayne	38.
17.	39.
18.	40.
19.	41.