



## **TMN COT December 8, 2010 General Meeting Minutes**

**President David Brandes** called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

### **Announcements**

Dave announced that former member James Albert “Al” Clarke had recently passed away and expressed appreciation for his service.

Laura Brandes distributed new TMN pamphlets to all members and encouraged everyone to distribute them around the county in as many places as possible. January is new intern recruiting month. There is also to be an article in the The Facts newspaper in January about Texas Master Naturalists which will also assist in these recruiting efforts. The first 2011 new intern training classes will begin in early February.

### **Training Director**

Laura Brandes announced and presented a shirt and certificate to **New TMN Certification – Charlie Clements.**

Laura revealed that over the past two years there have been 19 interns and all but 1 of them have attained TMN Certification.

She said there are 3 interns with training carrying over into 2011 and there are currently 5 or 6 prospects for new internship.

## **Membership Chairman**

**Awards** presented by Jerry Eppner.

### **2010 Recertification**

**Ramah O’Gorman  
Jerry Krampota  
Fred Lewis**

**250 Volunteer Hours (Bronze) Louis Peltier**

**500 Volunteer Hours (Silver) Ed Johnson**

Jerry encouraged all to submit their year-ending December volunteer hours. About 54 members have submitted time sheets. There have been 52 Recertifications, and the chapter has approximately 9600 volunteer hours for this 2010 year.

Next year it is anticipated that our COT chapter should reach 100,000 volunteer hours. This will be quite an outstanding accomplishment.

## **AgriLife Advisor**

Corrie Bowen has informed COT that he will now be serving as the chapter advisor. Dave said that Corrie has a broad background and we appreciate his assistance.

## **January General Member Meeting, 01-12-11**

Carolyn Schlein and Barbara Burkhardt communicated that the January meeting will be held at the **Brazosport Museum of Natural Science**. There will be several (5 or 6) Advanced Training speakers on the subject of “**Seashells**”.

Carolyn urged all members to help advise fellow members of the different meeting location.

## **Christmas Bird Counts**

Tom Morris reviewed the importance of the counts and the value of assistance from members, even the inexperienced. Tom and Jim Renfro are Area Leaders and Tom circulated a sign-up form for those who can participate in these counts:

San Bernard – this Friday, 12/10/10

Freeport – Sunday, 12/19/10

Brazoria – Saturday, 01/01/11

Barbara Burkhardt offered additional motivation for volunteers; more eyes means more birds spotted. Normally 60-80 birds are recorded by each individual with the total area count being over 200 birds.

Kathleen Murray offered access to Bryan Beach via private property that she has permission to utilize.

Further information about Christmas Bird Counts is posted at <http://tinyurl.com/2010-christmas-bird-counts>.

## **Matagorda Island Trip**

Steve and Clyde Zilliox reviewed the scheduled May 1, 2011 trip. Registration forms will be available at the January meeting. Those who have never attended will receive first opportunity to register, then in February registration will be opened up to others. The charge will be \$40.00 for the trip plus any hotel charges. Once again the Island hosts and escorts will be Wayne "Doc" and Martha McAlister.

## **Election of 2011 Officers**

Dave Brandes presented the Nominating Committee selections and opened the floor for additional nominations.

### OFFICERS

President	Barbara Burkhardt
Vice President	Mary Holler
Membership	Jerry Eppner
Intern Training Director	Laura Brandes

State Representative  
Past President

Ed Barrios  
Dave Brandes

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Volunteers  
Outreach  
Host  
Website  
Newsletter  
Advisor

Neal McLain  
Ruby Lewis  
Jerry Krampota  
Neal McLain  
Mary Helen Israel  
Corrie Bowen

The motion was made by Kathleen Murray to suspend nominations and accept the nominating committee selections and it was seconded and passed unanimously, confirming the nominated slate as elected.

### **Advance Training Chairman**

The current members and Advance Training Chair, the Wesselman's, are moving to North Dakota. Barbara Burkhardt, incoming President asked for an interested volunteer to please contact her at home or by e-mail.

This is an important responsibility that is pro-active in locating training opportunities in surrounding communities, and opportunities that we may not normally learn about, and communicates those opportunities to the members.

Thanks to member Candace Novak who volunteered at the meeting.

### **Phytoplankton Monitoring**

It was noted that the number of volunteer monitors have dwindled. Dave Brandes announced that he would be willing to set up a training class for those interested. Please give this consideration and advise Dave of your interest.

### **Further Al Clarke Recognition**

Kirby Rapstein reviewed some of the work that Al, as a birder, did with Boy Scouts. He told an interesting incident involving Al and a woodpecker and a spotting scope.

### **Whooping Crane Trip**

Tom Morris said that the January 19, 2011, trip is full, with 33 signed up to participate. Details of the trip are being e-mailed to the participants. Of interest, 238 Whoopers have already arrived and another 50 have left Canada and their arrival is anticipated.

### **Hog Wild**

Today is the day, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast, and members are invited to come and go from noon until the evening at 325 Timbercreek Drive, Lake Jackson.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.**