



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
AGRI LIFE EXTENSION BLDG.  
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2014 9am-12:10pm**  
**AgriLIFE® Extension Building**  
**Angleton, Texas**

**Attendance:**

52 Members were in attendance for the first meeting of 2014.

**President Mike Mullins** called the meeting to order at 9am.

Mike announced that TMN-COT member Ramah O’Gorman has passed away. Ramah was a member of the Class of 2001 and was an active participant in Chapter activities. For several years she participated in the Cornell University Ornithology Lab Project, “FeederWatch” and wrote a Citizen Science report describing the program. Her report is posted on the Chapter website at <http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2012/05/ProjectFeederWatch.pdf>

Mike called on **Roy Morgan, 2014 Training Chair**, who announced that we now have 13 interns signed up for the Class of 2014 Training Class. Roy introduced the members of the Class of 2014 who were present.

Mike thanked the outgoing board members for their service to the Chapter.

- Marty Cornell (Secretary)
- John Marshall (Treasurer)
- Ed Johnson (Training Chair)
- Mary Helen Israel (Newsletter Editor)

Mike introduced the new and continuing board members:

- Peggy Romfh (Vice-President)
- Becky McClendon (Secretary)
- Gerald Forrest (Treasurer)
- Jerry Eppner (Membership Director)
- Roy Morgan (Training Director)
- Ed Barrios (State Representative)
- Tom Morris (Advanced Training Chair)
- Andy Smith (Calendar Editor)
- Jerry Krampota (Chapter Host)
- Ruby Lewis (Outreach Chair)
- Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Chair)
- Neal McLain (Webmaster)



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Mike asked for member emeritus nominations from the membership by submitting a letter to the Board explaining who and why that person should be a candidate.

**Project Updates:**

- President Mike Mullins reported that the martin houses were removed from the INEOS EE site and will be installed at Sea Center Texas. Mike and others are working on this project.
- Plaques will be displayed in the lobby of the AgriLIFE building. These plaques honor Chapter members who have achieved volunteer benchmarks of 4000 volunteer hours, 5000 volunteer hours, and President's Call to Service Award.
- 2014 Certification Pin is the armadillo.

Mike called on **Denis Mudderman** who shared details of the 2014 Migration Celebration Photo Contest:

- ✓ Photo submission deadline is March 7, 2014.
- ✓ Contest rules and entry forms are posted on the Chapter website.
- ✓ Brazosport Art League will sponsor a show of 100 photos at the Art Gallery in the Center of the Arts and Sciences from April 29 to June 1.
- ✓ This year's show is called "A Focus on Nature III".
- ✓ Volunteers are needed to help with preparations, setup, checking on prints during the show, tear down, and print sales.
- ✓ Contest Website is <http://migrationcelebration.org/PhotoContest> .
- ✓ Questions can be directed to Contest Coordinator Denis Mudderman at [Photocontest@migrationcelebration.org](mailto:Photocontest@migrationcelebration.org) or [tamaracweb@yahoo.com](mailto:tamaracweb@yahoo.com) .

Denis also shared that the Holiday Open House at Brazoria Wildlife Refuge Discovery Center hosted 323 guests and received front page coverage on December 30 in the Facts.

Mike called on **Roy Morgan, Training Director**, who informed the group that our 2014 Intern group of 13 may be expanding. There are two others interested. The 2014 Interns have already logged 273 Volunteer Hours and 26 Advanced Training Hours in 2013.

**Membership:**

**Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair**, presented the membership report. A record 15,086 Volunteer Hours were recorded for 2013. There are 80 active members and 20 lapsed memberships. 64 members recertified in 2013.

Jerry distributed certifications and awards. The following members recertified for 2013:



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Janet Clemenson, Julia Geisler, Marlies Greenwood, Ruby Lewis, Candace Novak, John O'Connell, Louis Peltier, Archie Pratt, Carolyn Schlein, Sherry Summers, Bob Woods.

Those members logging 250 volunteer hours in 2013 were Howard Allen and Chris Kneupper. 500 volunteer hours were earned by Susan Conaty and Candace Novak. Carolyn Schlein and Janet Clemenson recorded 1000 volunteer hours each. Ruby Lewis and Denis Mudderman devoted 2500 volunteer hours to our 2013 record.

Other members reaching the 4000 volunteer hours goal are:

Ed Barrios, Justina Dent, Sandy Henderson, and Neal McLain.

The 2014 Timesheets are on the Forms page of the COT website and ready to use.  
<http://tmn-cot.org/Forms/index.html#timesheet>

### **Outreach Programs:**

**Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis** reported 174 events for 2013, with 44,969 contacts compared to our 13,699 contacts in 2012.

Upcoming events are:

- Hudson Woods – dates on the calendar
- Dune's Day – January 25, 2014 at Stahlmann Park from 8:30am-12pm. James Glover with Brazoria County Parks will organize.
- Cool Club at First Baptist Church in Lake Jackson on January 9, 2014.

### **Advanced Training – Webinars:**

**Tom Morris, Advanced Training Manager**, spoke on Webinar rules and approved topics. Members must have passed the post test and have a certificate for approved Webinars to earn AT. Tom also gave several examples of apps that are available for Smart Phones, I Phones, etc. A list is available on our website for both the Smart Phone Apps and the approved Webinars.

**Vice President Peggy Romfh** reported that Andy Samson will be speaking about water at our February General Meeting. She also appealed to members to volunteer for making future Nature Quizzes.

Today's Nature Quiz was produced by Rich Tillman with help from Peggy. It was all about oysters.

**Jerry Krampota, Chapter Host**, requested members sign up to bring snacks for future meetings. Sheet was passed around.



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**Finances:**

**Treasurer Gerald Forrest** reported that our chapter account ended 2013 with \$5,344.

**(Break)**

**Peggy Romfh** introduced our program speaker, **Jim Renfro**. His topic was “**Forest Birds Study Group – Avian Research Project Methods and Results.**” Joining Jim in his presentation was **Bill Ostrand**. Contents covered during the presentation were:

- ✓ Columbia Bottomlands
- ✓ Forest Birds Study Group (FBSG)
- ✓ Bird Banding as a Research Tool
- ✓ Project Scope & Protocol
- ✓ Findings & Conclusions
- ✓ The Field Team

FBSG is not a formal organization but is comprised of those interested in documenting the stopover of neo-tropical migrating passerines.

Banding is done 10 days per year and banding is not done if temperatures are below 40F.

Data is collected and reported to Fish and Wildlife Services and is public domain.

**(Break 11:10-11:20)**

Jim continued with Neotropical VS Nearctic Migrants. Mortality rate is about 50% but varies from year to year.

Mike Mullins stated that today's meeting was worth 2.0 hours of AT for the Quiz and program, and worth 1.25 hours of VT for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned @ 12:10pm.

Submitted by  
Becky McClendon  
Secretary, TMN-COT