



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

TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9am-11:20pm
AgriLIFE® Extension Building
Angleton, Texas

Attendance:

55 Members were in attendance for the March 2014 General Meeting. 16 Interns from the 2014 Intern Class attended the meeting.

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Mike updated the members on the plaques for our display case. Connie Stolte will be ordering the plaques.

Mike called on **Past President, Barbara Burkhardt**, to talk about the luncheon for the May Graduation. Barbara encouraged members to be part of a gumbo cook-off by bringing one crockpot of their best gumbo recipe. Judging the entries will be three home economics teachers. **Marty Cornell** will be making the rice. There will be a sign up sheet for other items at the April General Meeting.

Mike announced that an anonymous donation was made to cover the cost of Dr. Sansom's presentation at the February General Meeting.

Programs:

Vice President Peggy Romfh lined out the upcoming speakers as follows:

- April – Pauline Tom, TBS on Bluebirds
- May – Intern Presentations
- June – Bill Ostrand, USFWS Wildlife Biologist, retired, on Ecological Theory for Amateur Naturalists
- July – Ken Johnson, Professor A&M, retired, Author of TEXAS CRAWDADS
- August – Peter Woods, Extension Fisheries Program Specialist on Aquatic Ecology/Pond Management
- Extra Advanced Training opportunities Wednesday, September 17, 2014, from 9am to 12pm. Cathy Downs will be speaking on monarch butterflies – biology, life cycle, migration, habitat, and milkweeds. The presentation is very hands-on, more of a workshop. Estimated 3 hours of AT.

*Cathy Downs has offered to come a day early or stay a day longer to teach other programs in the area. For example: school or scout programs. Just let Peggy Romfh know so she can communicate your needs to Cathy.

Roy Morgan, Intern Training Co-coordinator, invited members to join the Interns on their field trip to Hudson Woods after the general meeting today.



Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gerald Forrest reported that February's beginning balance was \$7,521.27 and the ending balance was \$8,111.59.

Revenue Summary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Donation | 440.00 |
| Training fees and membership dues | 875.00 |
| Interest | 1.48 |
| Total Revenue | \$1316.48 |

Expense Summary

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Speaker Fees | 439.90 |
| Intern Supplies | 246.26 |
| Background Checks | 40.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$726.16 |

To date the balance is \$8,111.59 with a few expenses pending.

Advanced Training:

Tom Morris, Advanced Training Chair, reminded members of the Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystems Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2014, from 8am to 4pm at the City of Wharton Civic Center, 1924 N. Fulton, Wharton, Texas 77488. Online RSVP, Agenda, Registration, Information available.

Outreach and Upcoming Events:

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reported on the events for the month of February.

- February 22 – Nature Day at Sea Center Texas – 10 TMN-COT Members volunteered
- February 24 – Nature Night at the Library in Angleton, Texas - 1 TMN-COT Member volunteered and public attendance was 16 – 9 youths, 7 adults.

The first event in March was well attended by the public at Brazoria Heritage Day in Brazoria on March 1. There were 9 TMN-COT volunteers and approximately 300 members of the public, 200 youths and 100 adults.

Upcoming events are:

- Monday, March 24 – Nature Night at the Angleton Library. Children will be using forensics to identify road kill. To volunteer, contact Ruby Lewis at rubylewis@tmn-cot.org.
- Saturdays, March 22 & 29 – Friends of the Refuge will be at Brazos Mall at the JC Penney Court from 10am to 4pm to talk about Migration Celebration. Contact Ruby Lewis or David Plunkett to volunteer.

Phil Huxford added:

- Saturday, March 29 – Birds of Prey Shows at Brazos Bend State Park at 11am and 3pm



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- March 17 – Birds of Prey school programs start

Ed Barrios reported on the upcoming Migration Celebration and reflected on past Migration Celebrations.

- Butterfly Encounter from last year was a success so it will be part of the festivities this year.
- Graphs of past MC attendance years 2009-2013 showed attendance from surrounding cities and volunteer groups.
- Saturday, April 12, times have changed – 9am to 3pm.
- Sunday, April 13, times have changed – 11am to 4pm.
- Exhibition Barn will just house the photos and there will be fewer exhibitors.
- Angleton Fire Department will provide food so no volunteers are needed for serving.
- Bird banding will be in a new area.

Marty Cornell added information about the Migration Celebration fundraising dinner, Friday, April 4.

- Photo viewing 5:30pm
- Dinner 6:15pm
- Photo Contest winners announced 7:30pm then the guest speaker
- Change in the dessert to Kahlua Chocolate Cake and volunteer bakers are needed. Contact Marty Cornell if you are willing to help with baking.

David Plunkett added that he has the ability to take credit cards for the dinner tickets.

One more reminder of an upcoming event was given by **Denis Mudderman**. The Nature Photography class is open to the public Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Nature Quiz:

Barbara Burkhardt produced and emceed the Nature Quiz on Hummers. Future quiz makers are needed.

Membership:

Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair, reported that to date there are more than 600 reported volunteer hours for our chapter for 2014. The recertification pin for 2014 is an armadillo.

Jerry presented the first person to recertify this year, Barbara Burkhardt, with her recertification pin. Jerry announced that Dick Schaffhausen has reached 250 VT hours.

Seven TMN-COT members were recognized for 4000 hours of volunteer time and received special pins. The following members received a gold dragonfly pin with a ruby inset:

Ed Barrios
Marty Cornell
Justina Dent
Sandy Henderson
Phil Huxford
Neal McLain



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Jim Renfro

Jim was not present at the meeting to receive his 4000 hour pin.

Four of those members were further recognized with the President's Call to Service Award. These members will have their names added to a special plaque to be displayed in the display case at the AgriLIFE building. They are:

Ed Barrios
Justina Dent
Sandy Henderson
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>

(Break)

Peggy Romfh introduced our program speaker, Mike Lange from US Fish and Wildlife. Mike's topic was titled "The Columbia Bottomlands – A Partnership Project to Conserve a Unique Ecosystem."

The bottomlands habitat has tremendous diversity and consists of flood plain forests in surrounding counties. Through partnerships land is acquired and forests preserved for future studies and generations to enjoy.

President Mike Mullins stated that today's meeting was worth 1.50 hours of Advanced Training for the Quiz and program, and worth 1.0 hours of Volunteer Training for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned @ 11:20pm.

Submitted by
Becky McClendon
Secretary, TMN-COT