



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

TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 9am – 12pm
AgriLIFE® Extension Building
Angleton, Texas

Attendance:

50 Members were in attendance for the April 2014 General Meeting. 19 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. The plaques have been ordered. Jane Eppner and Barbara Burkhardt are designing the layout for the display case.

Mike called on **John O'Connell, Chapter Advisor, AgriLIFE Extension Agent**, who informed the chapter of the presentation at the Brazoria Heritage Foundation at 202 W. Smith Street in Brazoria on Saturday, May 10, from 9am to 12pm. The title of the conference is "A Look at Brazoria County's Water Needs: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE." The speakers include: Lora-Marie Bernard, author of LOWER BRAZOS RIVER CANALS; Cathy Vominguez, Lower Basin Government Relations Mgr. Brazos River Authority; and Juan Longoria, III, President of Brazosport Water Authority. Registration and Vendor Expo begins at 8am. Pre-registration cost is \$10 per person. Registration at the door is \$15 per person. Blue registration forms were available.

Mike informed the Members that Rainbow Johnson's husband, Jerry Johnson, passed away.

Membership:

Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair, reported that 25 Members have turned in time sheets with 14 recertifying. Those recertified are:

Dave Brandes	Ellis Burkhardt
Susan Conaty	Chris Kneupper
Patsy Lepper	Ruby Lewis
Jeanne Manry	Roy Morgan
Denis Mudderman	Mike Mullins
Peggy Romfh	Pete Romfh
Dick Schaffhausen	Patrick Wilson

Jerry also recognized the following for reaching volunteer milestones:

Chris Kneupper – 500 hours VT Silver
Patsy Lepper – 250 hours VT Bronze
Roy Morgan – 2500 hours VT
Mike Mullins – 1000 hours VT Gold
Peggy Romfh – 1000 hours VT Gold



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

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gerald Forrest reported that the March beginning balance was \$8,111.59 and the ending balance was \$7,333.71.

Revenue Summary	
Dues payments	100.00
Interest	1.62
Total Revenue	\$101.62
Expense Summary	
Intern Curriculum refund	38.17
Presidents Award Cake	49.99
Intern Material Expenses	791.44
Total Expenses	\$879.50

Roy Morgan, Intern Training Co-coordinator, reported that 100% of the interns are on track to graduate.

Past President Barbara Burkhardt asked that a sign-up sheet be passed around for the May General Meeting Gumbo Cook-off. She requested that more members volunteer to cook gumbo.

Ed Barrios, State Representative, reported on the status of the Migration Celebration. He has updated the volunteer list, flags will be at the entrance, and volunteers should start arriving at 8am. **Marty Cornell** reported that 221 people were served at the Migration Celebration Fundraising Dinner and members who stayed for the speaker can claim 45 minutes of AT.

Outreach and Upcoming Events:

Mary Helen Isreal reported for Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis. Mary Helen passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for "Wild in the City" programs in July.

Programs:

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

- 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,



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life cycle, migration, habitat, and milkweeds. The presentation is very hands-on, more of a workshop. Estimated 3 hours of AT.

This month's **Nature Quiz** was presented by Peggy Romfh titled "Nature's Yellow and Black".

There will be no Nature Quiz in May. June's Nature Quiz will be presented by Jerry Krampota. Peggy asked for more volunteers to create Nature Quizes.

Peggy suggested Members sign up for the Texas Bluebird Society during break time. A FREE nesting box comes with membership. Membership is \$15. Nesting boxes are usually \$15.

(Break – 15 minutes)

Jerry Eppner notified members that a copy of the roster has been sent by email and members should check for payment of dues on the roster.

John O'Connell has sent a video link to Clear Creek ISD for ??????

Peggy Romfh introduced our program speaker, **Pauline Tom** and her husband Ron Tom. Pauline is the president of the Texas Bluebird Society.

Members were given a handout of plants that attract Eastern bluebirds either for their berries or the insects the plants attract.

Other information provided by Pauline included websites:

TXblues.org and the organization's Facebook page

Distributors.txblues.org – to get more nesting boxes

SHARE.txblues.org – program can be downloaded and saved, edited and shared

There are three bluebird species: Mountain bluebird, Western bluebird, Eastern bluebird. The bluebirds in Brazoria County are Eastern bluebirds. Our Eastern bluebirds are cavity-nesting birds.

Members were encouraged to place nesting boxes in areas that could be monitored at least twice a week and to join Nestwatch.org and enter observations once bluebirds have nested.

Bluebirds' diet is 75% insects, 25% fruit. Mealworms can be ordered from thenaturesway.com.

Pauline recommended a book titled Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy about how native plants sustain wildlife in our gardens.



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President Mike Mullins stated that today's meeting was worth 2.0 hours of Advanced Training for the Quiz and program, and worth 1.0 hours of Volunteer Time for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned @ 12pm.

Submitted by
Becky McClendon
Secretary, TMN-COT