



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.
AgriLife® Extension Building
Angleton, Texas

Attendance:

66 Members and 21 interns were in attendance for the February, 2015 General Meeting. Dave Brandes recognized one guest, Judi James.

President's Report: Dave Brandes, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and presented the agenda.

Treasurer's Report:

Gerald Forrest, Treasurer, gave the following treasurer's report: Gerald is currently collecting \$25 annual dues.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u> | <u>ENDING BALANCE</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01/31/2014 02/11/2015 | \$6,351.94 | \$8,585.75 |
| Revenue Summary | | |
| | | 1,375.00 |
| | | 1,500.00 |
| Interest | | 1.61 |
| Expense Summary | | |
| Name Tags | | 642.80 |

Awards:

Jerry Epperson, Eppner Membership Coordinator reported seven timesheets have been turned in for 2015.

He also recognized the following award recipients:

Sandy Henderson – 5,000 Volunteer Hours for the Diamond Award

Michelle Hague – 500 Volunteer Hours for Silver

1,000 Volunteer Hours for Gold

~~Leon~~ **Leo** O'Gorman – 250 Volunteer Hours for Bronze

Leo Novak – 250 Volunteer Hours for Bronze

The following members recertified for 2014:

Ed Barrios

George Bettinger

Hope Cepak

Michelle Hague



JoAnna ~~Harlan~~ Harlan
John O'Connell
Louis Peltier
Carolyn ~~Schlein~~ Schlein

Training:

Roy Morgan, Training Coordinator, reported there are 21 interns in the 2015 class. Next week's topic is zoology. Members are welcome to join the classes. Seating is scarce in some venues, so check with Roy for availability.

Advanced Training:

Peggy Romfh, Advanced Training Coordinator, presented the following opportunities that are approved for Advanced Training:

Feb. 11-18: Seaside Chats, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21: Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue Training, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Feb. 27: Texas Refuge and Streams Ecosystems by Galveston County Extension Service in LaMarque, TX, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 28: Managing Your Land for Wildlife by Heartwood TMN, Spring, TX 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Take Care of Texas Project: Susan Canaty requested used styrofoam cups and glassware or china to be used in mosaics for renovation projects in Susan Smither Park.

Volunteer Service:

Pete Romfh, Volunteer Service Coordinator, reported the following volunteer hour's opportunities:

- Feb. 27 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Workday at **Monolony Prairie**. **Mowotony Prairie**. The work will involve clearing with chainsaws and loppers. Also needed are volunteers to work with getting debris to the burn pile. It is approved for 8 hours VT.
- March 7 – 8, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Plant floating wetlands and habitat wetlands for Pearland Nature Center. Each day is approved for 8 VT hours. The timecode is "Other." The contact is Mary Carol Edwards, 281 218-8100.
- March 14th or 15th: A muckers trip to the Gilbert property. The owner of the property, Dr. Larry Gilbert, has given us permission to survey the property for species of flowering dogwood.
- Feb. 13-16: Audubon Backyard Bird Count. This is approved for 2 VT hours per day.
- Feb. 14: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. This event from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. is approved for 7 VT hours.

Also, West Columbia Elementary School needs a male chaperone to assist with 5th grade boys going to a 4-day nature camp educational program. Contact is Holly Heble, 979 236-8901. It is approved for 2 VT hours each day.



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Outreach:

Ruby Lewis, Outreach Coordinator, reported there are two upcoming events:

- Feb. 2: Nature Day at Sea Center Texas, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- March 7: Brazoria Heritage Day at the Brazoria Museum, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Setup starts at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer sign-up sheets were sent around.

Also there are 4 sessions for DEEP:

- Feb. 17: Lake Jackson Intermediate School, 7th graders
- Feb. 24: Lake Jackson Intermediate School, 7th graders
- Feb. 26: Wild Peach Elementary School, 6th & 7th graders
- March 17: Hudson Woods Environmental Education Program (WHEEP), 3rd graders from Angleton

Also:

- Feb. 21: 9th Annual Citrus Sale, 8:00 a.m.-Noon, Brazoria County Fairgrounds
- Feb. 26: Fundraiser for Brazosport Planetarium at 6:45 p.m. in the Dow Arena Theatre. For teams of four, the cost is \$100 or \$25 per person.

Phil Huxford reported on the need for fundraising for the Birds of Prey Program. The plan is to expand the Birds of Prey program into Alvin Jr. High. The falconry program has continued to grow over the years. They currently serve 9 independent school districts, 32 schools, and have reached over 16,000 teachers and students. Each program costs ~~over~~ \$400 per school. The programs are usually sponsored by school PTOs and individual businesses.

Chapter Host Position:

Dave Brandes, President, presented a plan to pilot changes to the Chapter Host position. The hosting of all general meetings and some of the intern classes for special functions will be coordinated with teams providing snacks. They will be responsible for insuring tables are set up and refreshments are available during the social period as well as cleaning up. One hour VT is approved for each meeting.

Emerald Ash Borer: Dave provided information on the emerald ash borer that is coming to Texas. They kill ash trees and could cause the green ash to disappear.

Migration Celebration:

Ed Barrios, State Representative, reported the 21st Annual Migration Celebration will be held April 18th & 19th with the Kickoff Dinner to be held April 10th. Approximately 30 volunteers are needed for this event. Last year 220 attended the dinner, and 1,800 attended the Saturday and Sunday events. More details will be provided next month.



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Next Meeting:

Leo Novak, Vice-President, announced that the March meeting will be held at the Brazosport Planetarium, The Center for Arts and Sciences, 400 College Blvd., Clute, Texas. Judi James, Director of the Nature Center and Planetarium encouraged everyone to come to the Planetarium.

Nature Quiz:

Jerry Epperson, Eppner Membership Coordinator, conducted the nature quiz on dragonflies.

Break

Dr. John Jacob, Director of the Texas Coastal Watershed Program, presented the program on Geological Ecology of the Texas Gulf Coast.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m... AT credit was approved at 2.25 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sluis,
Secretary