



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

TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 9:10 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
AgriLife® Extension Building
Angleton, Texas

Attendance:

Sixty-three members and three guests, Ron Bisbee, Steve, and Sherry Hill, were in attendance.

President's Report:

Dave Brandes, President called the meeting to order and presented the agenda at 9:10 a.m.

Treasurer's Report: Dave appointed with the approval of the Board, Don Sabathier to serve as treasurer until the end of the year.

Awards:

Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator, recognized and presented certification letters to Ann Lange and Robert Salzer.

The following were recognized for attaining volunteer service hour awards:

Pam Peltier - 500 Volunteer Hours, Silver Dragonfly Service Pin
Patsy Lepper – 250 Volunteer Hours, Bronze Dragonfly Service Pin

Also the following members recertified for 2015:

Ed Barrios	James Calvert	Susan Conaty
Mary Helen Israel	Gerald Forrest	Patsy Lepper
Pam Peltier	Sherry Summers	Pam West
Patrick Wilson		

Volunteer Management System, Jerry Eppner announced that the new online VMS system will go online on October 1, 2015. After that date all volunteer time, all advance training hours, and all travel time must be recorded through the VMS system. Excel and paper timesheets will not be accepted after September 30, 2015. Dave, Ed, Peggy, Pete, and Jerry have received training on the new system and will provide membership training at the September meeting. One of the features is that it will not accept time over 45 days. People profiles have been uploaded this week. Dave has put in an enormous spreadsheet, inputting every hour of AT and VT hours.

Dave asked Neal to make a link from our website to VMS. Ed announced that the AgriLife building now has Wi-Fi.



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

AT and VT - Marty Cornell: The video, "Nature Valley 3 Generations Rediscover Nature," was shown. Dave suggested we share the video on Facebook.

Outreach Coordinator, Ruby Lewis announced the library programs are over. Thirty-four programs were presented in June and July with 2,332 participants.

Library Programs - Reptiles (June): 23 programs in 12 libraries

Library Programs – Sea & Shore (July): 11 programs in 11 libraries

Kids' Kollege – (July 17, 20): 79 total participants

Kids' Day at Brazos Mall (Aug. 1): 300 total participants

Upcoming Events:

August 18 - Gathering Place, Lake Jackson,

First Presbyterian Church's Alzheimer's Group

September 12 & 19 – Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Xtreme Hummingbird

Xtravaganza , 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

October 3 – Buffalo Bayou Park Grand Opening, Houston, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

October 17 – KBR Kids' Day at Buffalo Bayou Park, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

October 17 – Fall Kids Fish Fest at Challenger Seven Memorial Park

Christina Hartman will be at the September TMN-COT meeting to solicit volunteers.

October 25 – Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas

November 21 – Festival of Lights – Lake Jackson

The sign-up sheets were passed around for volunteer opportunities.

There were two other events: the senior citizens from Clear Lake visited the refuge for the first time, as well as the Justin Roberts Community Center. Approximately 32 children ages 6-12 had never been to a refuge before.

Dave Plunkett reported that at least 20,000 people are expected for Buffalo Bayou Park Grand Opening on October 3. The location is Buffalo Bayou Park near the Waugh Drive Bridge in Houston. Parking will be a problem.

Marty reported that "A Taste for Nature" fundraising event sponsored by the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges will be held Oct. 9 at the Dow Academic Center to help provide matching funds for the \$160,000 grant received from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. High-end Italian wines with matching canapés will be paired at a cost of \$100 per person. The event will also have a live and silent auction.

Media Library: Neal McLain, Publications Coordinator reported the library should be done within a week or so.

Newsletter: Dave announced that Neal will once again resume the duties of Newsletter Editor.



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

Thank you to Ron Bisbee: Chapter Host, Pam West recognized Ron Bisbee for preparing the barbecue for the awards celebration held in July.

Nature Quiz: Ed Barrios presented the quiz, "How Much Do You Know About Insects?"

Phil Huxford showed examples and discussed snakes prevalent in our area. These snakes included the Western Coach Whip, the Texas Rat Snake, Texas Garter Snake, and the Copperhead.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Initiative: Brandi Bradford was introduced as the new Houston Urban Initiative Education Coordinator. Her new responsibilities include coordination of the activities of the Buffalo Bayou celebration on October 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. with credit for 1 hour VT and 45 minutes AT.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sluis
Secretary, TMN-COT