



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

Attendance:

Fifty-seven members and two guests, Denise Kaplan and Lisa Myers, were in attendance.

President's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier reported a balance of \$6,634.81. He added that members could begin paying 2016 dues of \$25.00.

Photos: Neal McLain found TMN-COT photos that were displayed for members to have.

State By-laws: Dave presented a short discussion of the new state by-laws that must have membership approval. Mary Helen Israel made a motion seconded by Jeanne Manry that the new state by-laws be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nominations: Mike Mullins presented a proposed slate of Officers for 2016 from the Nominating Committee for consideration and voting at the December meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of the following: Mike Mullins, Jerry Eppner, Roy Morgan, Ed Barrios, and Pete Romfh. The proposed slate includes: Dave Brandes, President; Jill Carroll, Vice-President; Jean Britt, Secretary; Don Sabathier, Treasurer; Carolyn May-Monie, Training Coordinator; and Ed Barrios, State Representative.

Awards/VMS: Jerry Eppner announced the following awards:

Roy Morgan presented Certification 2015 Awards to Patty Brinkmeyer and Jill Carroll, who also recertified.

Recertified for 2015:

Betty Bouley	Ellis Burkhardt
Justina Dent	Jane Eppner
Louis Golish	Michelle Hague
Christina Hartman	Sandy Henderson
Anna King	Ruby Lewis
Carolyn May-Monie	Mike Mullins
Joan Simonsen	

The Bronze Service Award for completing 250 Volunteer Hours was awarded to the following:

Roger Allen	George Bettinger
Joycelynn Grigson	Sheila Williams.



The Gold Service Award for the completion of 1,000 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Susan Conaty.

The Polished Silver Award for completion of 2,500 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Peggy Romfh.

In addition, Tom Morris was recognized for having completed over 4,000 Volunteer Hours.

Jerry Eppner reported the number one problem in entering hours into the VMS system is incorrect coding. He suggested printing off a list of the codes from the TMN-COT website.

Outreach: Ruby Lewis thanked all volunteers for participating in October outreach activities. She reported there were 539 participants in “Spooktacular” at Sea Center Texas.

Volunteers are needed for “The Festival of Lights” in Lake Jackson on November 21st. In addition a spokesman for TMN-COT is needed for this event. The sign-up sheet was sent around.

Kelly Drinnen, Education Specialist at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, currently has an exhibit on display at the Brazoria County Library in Angleton. She will be providing an Advanced Training session on Thursday, November 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the library for TMN-COT members. The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is sponsoring a “Name a New Manta” Contest. Applications are available at the Brazoria County Library. A brochure was provided.

“A Taste for Nature 2015”: **Marty Cornell** reported that 188 guests attend the ATFN 2015 event and that \$52,000 had been raised for Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges to support the development of the Bobcat Woods Trail at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. Requests will be sent for volunteers to help rebuild and extend the boardwalk at the San Bernard refuge.

Media Library: Neal McLain announced the Media Library is now open and ready for use.

December Meeting Time: Dave announced the meeting time for the December General Meeting will be 10:00 a.m. The 12th Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast 2015 will begin immediately following the meeting.

December Meeting Snacks: Pam West requested snacks for the December meeting and the Hog Wild Party.

Photo Gallery: Peggy Romfh presented the “2015 TMN-COT Photo Gallery Report. The gallery was started in 2012 with 300 photos of 125 species. The gallery currently contains 3,300 photos of 1,048 species from the Texas Mid-Coast including Brazoria,



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Fort Bend, Galveston, Jackson, Matagorda, and Wharton counties. Additional photos can be sent to Peggy by email direct or on the website in jpg file format.

“Restoring the San Jacinto Battleground to 1836: Challenges and Achievements,” was presented by Boyd R. Harris, Lead Interpreter, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. The historical perspective of the battlefield was presented along with the mission to restore the battlefield park to its 1836 appearance. Working alongside Texas Master Naturalists, the Interpretation Staff at San Jacinto is planning a variety of historical and natural programming for the public in the upcoming years.

After completion of the program, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. with credit awarded for 1.5 hours (AT-COT) and 1 hour plus travel VT (CM:TMN-COT Chapter Meeting.)

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sluis
Secretary, TMN-COT