



**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**  
**AgriLife® Extension Building**  
**Angleton, Texas**

**Attendance:**

Forty-three members and four guests, Denise Kaplan, Herb Myers, Lisa Myers, and Caylee Harris were in attendance.

**President's Report:**

**Dave Brandes, President** called the meeting to order and presented the agenda at 10:00 a.m.

**Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier** reported a balance of \$6,884.60. He added that members could begin paying 2016 dues of \$25.00.

**Date:** November 1 – November 30, 2015

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>		\$ 6,634.81
Revenue Summary		301.41
Interest	1.41	
Membership Dues	50.00	
Sponsor Donations	50.00	
New Intern Class Payments	200.00	
Expense Summary		51.82
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>		\$ 6,884.40

**Awards: Jerry Eppner** announced the following awards:

Recertification for 2015:

Donna Graham	Phil Huxford
Rainbo Johnson	Jerry Krampota
Dawn Logan	Candace Novak
Pam Peltier	Robert Salzer

The Bronze Service Award for completing 250 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Patsy Lepper.

The Silver Service Award for completing 500 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Pam Peltier.

The Gold Service Award for completing 1,000 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Becky McClendon.



**2015 Hours/Profiles for VMS Implementation:** **Jerry Eppner** reported that it is necessary to have accurate profile information for each member in the VMS system so that background checks can be done by the state. Also, because the annual reports will be done from the VMS system in early January, it is important for all 2015 volunteer and advanced training time to be entered no later than January 10<sup>th</sup>.

The 116<sup>th</sup> annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 14, 2015 to January 5, 2016. Members were encouraged to get the 2015 hours entered. Christmas Bird Count hours are to be entered under "FR" code.

**Volunteer Hours Policy:** **Pete Romfh** discussed what can be counted for Volunteer Service under the new VMS system. Travel to and from an event is now included in the total event hours, but should not be more time than the actual project activity. Meals or breaks taken during an activity now may be counted, providing they are at the work site or with the rest of the project participants. Ideally the VT coordinator should be contacted ahead of time to work out "special situations."

**Outreach:** **Ruby Lewis** requested volunteers for Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders on Tuesday and Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that the schedule is on the website at <http://tmn-cot.org>.

**Storm Retention Project:** **Chris Kneupper** announced that a part of the Texas Coastal Watershed Project (TCWP) is to build some above ground ponds at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) and accumulate wetland plants. Volunteers are needed for an informal workday at San Bernard National Refuge beginning at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be collecting rhizomes of the native Louisiana Iris, then bringing them back to the GCBO to pot them.

**2016 Meeting Snacks Sign-up:** The sign-up sheet was sent around for members to volunteer to bring snacks for 2016.

**Thank you to 2015 Board:** **Dave Brandes** recognized members of the 2015 TMN-COT Board with special thanks.

**Election of 2016 Officers:** **Mike Mullins** presented the proposed slate of officers from the nominating committee:

President – Dave Brandes  
Vice-President – Jill Carroll  
Secretary – Jean Britt  
Treasurer - Don Sabathier

A motion was made by Roy Morgan, seconded by Pete Romfh that the nominations cease and the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sluis  
Secretary, TMN-COT