



**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**  
**AgriLife® Extension Building**  
**Angleton, Texas**

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

**President's Report:**

**Attendance:**

Sixty-eight members and two new interns were in attendance. The following interns were introduced and welcomed:

- Marshana Gill
- Linda Medellin

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Treasurer, Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for January 1 – January 31, 2016.

**Beginning Balance** \$ 7,853.50

**Ending Balance** \$ 9,375.36

Don will accept checks and/or cash from all non-intern members who have not paid dues. Please make checks payable to TMN-COT.

**Awards/VMS Profiles:** Jerry Eppner recognized the following members who have recertified for 2015:

Two members have recertified:

Julia Geisler            Vicki Kirby

Patsy Lepper and Vicki Kirby were recognized for having reached 250 hours of Volunteer Hours and will be awarded the Bronze Dragonfly Service Pin.

Jerry encouraged members and interns to use the available help sheets to submit codes and hours. He also reminded us to check over our VMS profile. If there are any questions, Jerry Eppner, Pete Romfh, Peggy Romfh, or Dave Brandes will help. Jerry announced that the Board is looking at the simplification of codes. Jerry reminded us to reset codes each time with a new entry.

For those members that assisted with the intern training classes on either January 27 and/or February 3, the VMS code that should be used is TR:COT, Service Project- VT Hours will be for length of time one attended + travel time.

February 10, General Meeting: Remember to reset codes each time for a new entry. There are two entries for the meeting:



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- Chapter business meeting: Code is CB:TMN-COT Chapter Meeting, Service Project. Hours are 1 hour + travel time
- AT presentation at meeting: Code is AT:COT, AT, 1.5 Hours

**Water Quality Class:** Pete Romfh reported that there is a Water Quality class in Pearland at the Pearland Recreation Center on February 11. See calendar for details. He noted that the Storm Water Wetlands has been completed at GCBO. Volunteers may still help every third Thursday at GCBO with planting activities.

**Advanced Training:** Peggy Romfh announced that there are additional opportunities for additional AT credit:

Wednesdays, February 10, 17, and 24 –Peggy reported that Kelly Drinnen will present a programs in Galveston on “Managing Invasive Lionfish” (Feb. 10), “Whale and Dolphin Stranding” (Feb. 17), and “News at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.” (Feb. 24). Members may attend via webinar or in person at the Galveston meeting site. See calendar for details.

April 1-30-Peggy Romfh noted that there will be opportunities to volunteer at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary. Regardless of the level of bird knowledge, volunteers are encouraged to come out to learn and help. Contact Pete or Peggy to sign up.

**Migration Celebration Photo Contest:** Peggy and Pete Romfh will be overseeing this contest. Brochures are available. The due date to submit photos is March 18, 2016. The Center for Arts and Sciences at Brazosport College will be exhibiting some of the photos. This year there are additional photo types that may be submitted in the contest. See Migration Celebration web site for details on contest rules.

**Migration Celebration:** Ed Barrios reported that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Migration Celebration is April 16-17 at the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge. Many volunteers will be needed for set-up, the various events, and the clean-up. Volunteers will be need on April 15<sup>th</sup> to set-up easels and to pick up vans from Houston. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will be needed for clean-up and to return vans. Ed informed us of the Migration Celebration Fundraising Dinner on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the River Place in Freeport. Although cooking or attending the dinner does not count towards VT hours, helping set up the easels and photos does count towards VT hours. The guest speaker at the dinner will be Kelly Drinnen, Education Specialist at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

**Outreach:** Ruby Lewis announced that there are two opportunities for VT credit:

Saturday, February 27, is Nature Day at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson.

Saturday, March 5, is Brazoria Heritage Celebration in Brazoria. She announced that volunteers are needed.

**Outreach:** Ed Johnson and John O’Connell announced volunteer opportunities with Water Fair at the Danbury Elementary school on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to help with the five kinds of water classes. There will be training for the



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actual volunteers beforehand. There will be another “Water Class” on May 12 and 13 at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds. Volunteers will be needed.

**Nature Notes:** Jill Carroll gave a presentation on “Purple Martins”. She encouraged future presentations. One can earn up to 1 hour of VT for preparing and presenting at a general monthly meeting. Please email Jill for more information.

**Guest speaker:** Betsy Ross spoke of “Soil Microbes for Soil Health-Lawns to Prairies.”

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Britt, Secretary, TMN-COT