



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 9:00 am- 11:00 am

AgriLife® Extension Building

Angleton, Texas

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

President's Report:

Attendance:

Sixty-eight members and four guests: Bryan Adams, Vicky Adams, Monica Gibbs, and Jim Scott were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Brandes announced the financial report for Treasurer, Don Sabathier for February 1 – February 29, 2016.

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 9,375.36
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<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 10,397.84
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Awards/VMS Profiles/VMS Updates: Jerry Eppner recognized the following members who have recertified for 2016:

Dave Brandes	Ruby Lewis
Carolyn May-Monie	Dick Schaffhausen
Don Sabathier	Peggy Romfh
Pete Romfh	

The Silver Service Award for the completion of 500 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Pam West.

The Gold Service Award for the completion of 1000 Volunteer Hours was awarded to Andy Smith.

Jerry Eppner, Pete Romfh, Peggy Romfh, and Dave Brandes have simplified the VMS code structure. Jerry Eppner presented these new VMS codes. The new codes have reduced the current VMS codes to 6 basic codes and 3 specialty codes. Jerry stated that this will be a learning experience and to please contact Pete, Peggy, Dave, or himself for further clarification.

Advanced Training: Peggy Romfh announced that there is an opportunity for Advanced Training (Native Plant Society of Texas Symposium on March 12th in Austin). See calendar for details.



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Volunteer Time (Service Projects) Pete and Peggy Romfh announced several volunteer opportunities, including

March 17 - TCWP Wetlands Project at GCBO from 9 am – 12 pm. Chris Kneupper reports that volunteers are needed every third Thursday of each month at GCBO with planting activities. See calendar for details.

March 18 – Trail Clearing and maintenance at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary from 2 pm – 5 pm

April 2 - Trash Bash: Rivers, Lakes, Bays 'N' Bayous Trash Bash, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

April 1-30 Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, Spring Fling, AM and PM shifts.

Regardless of the level of bird knowledge, volunteers are encouraged to come out to learn and help. A sign-up was passed around. Contact Pete or Peggy to sign up. See calendar for details.

22nd Annual Migration Celebration:

The 22nd Annual Migration Celebration is April 16-17 at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. Many volunteers will be needed for set-up, the various events, and the clean-up. Volunteers will be need on April 15th to set-up easels and to pick up vans from Houston. On the 18th, volunteers will be needed for clean-up and to return vans. Pete informed us of the Migration Celebration Fundraising Dinner on April 8th 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. A sign-up was passed around. See calendar for details.

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 Art League Studio 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.

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

March 17 Ribbon-Cutting for New Nature Trail, Pearland, 10 am -11 am

March 19 Family Day at Richwood, 10 am -12 pm

March 25 Reptile Display at Brazosport Mall, 10 am - 4 pm

April 3 Reptile Display at Brazosport Mall, 10 am – 4 pm

April 23 Reptile Display-Manvel, 10 am – 12 pm

April 23 Pearland Earth Day Celebration, 10 am – 2 pm

April 30 Earth Day-Richwood, 10 am – 12 pm

March 22, April 7, 26, 28-DEEP at Brazoria NWR needs volunteers.

Please see calendar for further details.



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Turtle Patrol 2016: Bryan Adams explained the “Turtle Patrol”. For those interested in volunteering with the “Turtle Patrol”, please give your name, phone number, and email address to Bryan. One can receive VT hours. A training meeting will be held. The date is to be determined.

Nature Notes: John Boettiger gave a presentation on “White-Tailed Deer”. One can earn up to 1 hour of VT for preparing and presenting at a general monthly meeting. Contact Jill Carroll for more information. 281-384-4244 jillcarroll725@gmail.com

Guest speaker: Ben Pfeiffer spoke of “The Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site: Before and After Civil War”.

After the completion of the program, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 with credit awarded for the following:

March 9, 2016- General Meeting: Remember to reset codes each time for a new entry.

- Chapter business meeting: Code is "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin (Chapter Admin)". Hours are 1 hour + travel time
- AT presentation at meeting: Code is "AT: I Received Training (Advanced Training)", 1.0 Hours

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Britt, Secretary, TMN-COT