



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

TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.
AgriLife Extension Building
Angleton, Texas

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

Attendance:

Sixty eight members and two guests were in attendance: Jim Scott and Johnny Dwyer.

President's Report:

Dave thanked the Brazoria County Library System for the delicious breakfast goodies that were brought in as an acknowledgement of our helping with the Brazoria County Summer Library Program. Dave stated that the Nominations Committee has been formed in regards to the executive board. Mike Mullins, Neal McLain and Carolyn May-Monie form this committee and will be announcing the selected nominees for consideration. He further announced that following the General Meeting there would be an opportunity for AT credit. Mike Mullins would be administering 'iNaturalist Training'. Dave reminded us about the remaining tumblers from the 15th Anniversary Celebration were available to the intended recipients.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Sabathier presented the financial report for September.

September 1 – September 30, 2016

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 6,434.49
Revenue Summary	405.00
Interest	1.31
Expense Summary	607.50
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 6,233.30

Don also said that 30 new curriculum books have been ordered.

Membership Report:

Awards/VMS Profiles/VMS Updates:

Jerry Eppner recognized the following members who have recertified for 2016:

George Bettinger	Betty Bouley	Phyllis Gerdes
Michelle Hague	Denis James	Larry Kirby
Georgia Monnerat	Sheree Muzny	Leo Novak
Pam Peltier	Robert Salzer	Ken Sluis
Andy Smith	Lorna Witt	



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The Gold Service Award for the completion of 1,000 Volunteer Hours was presented to Dick Schaffhausen.

The Gold Pin with Ruby Service Award for the completion of 4,000 Volunteer Hours was presented to Jim Calvert. He received a congratulatory letter from Michelle Haggerty, the TMN Program Coordinator. Jim also received a letter of congratulations signed by the President of the United States and the official President's Call to Service Award pin.

The Gold Pin with Diamond Service Award for the completion of 5,000 Volunteer Hours was presented to Dave Brandes. He received a congratulatory letter from Michelle Haggerty, the TMN Program Coordinator.

TMN-COT members celebrated with a cake during the break.

Jerry also is pleased to announce that Kris Shipman, a TPWD representative, will be coming in November to help analyze the VMS reporting system in regards to inputting hours on the website. He reported that the VMS entries have improved as people have fine-tuned their skills in inputting the entries.

Jerry stated that the TMN-COT roster has been emailed to us and to please review the information. If you have not received the roster, notify him and also please edit the VMS info if the email has been entered incorrectly.

Volunteer Time (Service Projects) Pete Romfh announced VT opportunities:

- DEEP is ongoing. Check the calendar for dates.
- GCBO Smith Point Hawk Watch is daily through November 15
- October 13 TCWP workday in Pearland (3 canoes)
- October 15 USFWS KBR Kids' Day in Houston
- October 20 Prairie Seed Collection at Warren Ranch
- October 30 SCT's Spooktacular
- GCBO Invasive Species Removal Project Dates (to be determined)

Check the TMN-COT calendar for details at <http://www.tmn-cot.org/Calendar/index.html>
Pete also urged us to use the correct VMS codes when inputting. He stated to please check the calendar for updates as there are many volunteer opportunities.

DEEP : Johnny Dwyer, the Environmental Educational Coordinator for the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, reported that he aspires to teach children why the environment matters and hopes to instill a passion for learning about environment. He read a poem by Dr. Seuss about keeping Earth a clean and wonderful place for all. Johnny also reported that he needs 2 volunteers at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge tomorrow.

Outreach: Ruby Lewis announced that there are several opportunities to volunteer.



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- KBR Kids' Day at Buffalo Bayou- October 15 11a.m.-4:00 p.m. Carpool information is on the table. Please check these sheets if interested. David Plunkett is in charge of the carpool forming in Lake Jackson.
- Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas- October 30 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge 50th anniversary at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge-November 12 Ruby will need 4 volunteers to help with leaf rubbings. Please contact her if interested.
- Festival of Lights at Lake Jackson- November 19, 10 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Ruby advised members to check the calendar for further details. She also stated that the DEEP and HWEEP programs have volunteer opportunities.

Kristine Rivers announced that two courses are being offered through Pearland Parks & Recreation that are approved for AT.

- Beginning birding-October 25 – December 6 (Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m.)
12 hours of AT including 3 instructional classes and 3 field trips in the Pearland area. To register, go to www.pearlandparks.com.
- Intermediate birding-October 27 – December 8 (Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m.)
12 hours of AT including 3 instructional classes and 3 field trips in Brazoria, Harris, and Ft. Bend Counties. To register, go to www.pearlandparks.com.

State Representative: Ed Barrios announced that he has the spread sheets available and requested volunteers for the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge 50th Celebration. He also reported that he has contacted Comcast to try to resolve the problem of Comcast users not receiving the Google group emails.

Nature Notes: Laurel Owen and Jimmy Salinas spoke about the flooding in Brazoria County that they were personally affected by.

Guest Speaker: Edward D. Craven spoke about the 'Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker'.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Time codes allocated for the general meeting and presentations are

- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," 1.0 Hours + travel time (up to 1 hr.)
- Advanced Training (Nature Notes and Ivory-billed Woodpecker talk), AT:I received training, 1.5 hr. (no travel)
- Post meeting note: for those that attended Mike Mullins' presentation on iNaturalist , up to 1.0 hr. of AT:I received training may be reported.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Britt, Secretary, TMN-COT