



**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 9:00 a.m. – 11:57 a.m.**  
**AgriLife® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas**

**Kristine Rivers, President**, called the meeting to order and presented the agenda at 9:00 a.m. She reminded attendees to silence their phones, sign-in, and asked guests to introduce themselves.

**Attendance:**

Seventy members were in attendance and the following guest: Edward Peebles.

**President’s Report: Kristine**

- Introduced 2017 Board members, thanked outgoing 2016 Board members, and presented a gift to immediate past President Dave Brandes
- Chapter Host Pam West thanked the members who provided today’s breakfast
- Summarized the chapter’s 2016 accomplishments including: 15,371 volunteer hours that provided \$353,533 of funding to TPWD; 1,585 advanced training hours; 24,739 people directly impacted by chapter programs and 11,426 people indirectly impacted

**Treasurer’s Report: Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for 1 December—31 December 2016:

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 5,253.17
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,050.00
Interest	\$ .55
Expense Summary	\$ 323.22
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 5,980.50

Don also reminded members to give him \$25 in cash or check for 2017 chapter dues.

**Awards/VMS Profiles/VMS Updates: Peggy and Pete Romfh** recognized the following members for achieving service hour milestones:

- New Milestones—Silver Service Award: Oron Atkins for 500 hours
- Recertification: Caylie Harris, Mary Holler, Sheila Williams, Sherry Summers
- New Certification: Ken Arnold, Caylie Harris, Susan Safley, Melba Beken

Peggy indicated that award recipients should pick up their awards at the sign-in table; awards that had not been picked up in prior months were also at the table. A thank you gift was presented to past director Jerry Eppner.

**Volunteer Time (Service Projects): Oron Atkins** presented the following opportunities and circulated sign-up sheets:

- Invasive Plant Species Removal Project—January 19 and 20, from 8:30 to finish at GCBO



- Field Investigation Day—This program for high school students (similar to DEEP) is sponsored by the Texas Wildlife Association and consists of one day of training on January 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 25619 CR in Danbury and the event on February 8, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a location to be announced
- Whooping Crane Trip—February 14 from Rockport, 7 a.m. to noon, at a cost of \$55 plus tip
- Phil Huxford indicated that 34 Birds of Prey programs had been scheduled to date for 2017 with more to be added. He also provided a brief overview of the Matagorda Bay Birdfest on February 18 and 19 in Palacios, Texas; Birdfest does not qualify for AT or VT

**Advanced Training: Larry Ruhr** solicited opportunities so that he can determine whether they qualify for AT.

**Training (2017 Intern Class): Carolyn May-Monie** reminded members that the class of 2017 starts on January 18; 14 interns are enrolled. Two new sessions are to be added, aquatic ecology and urban ecology, and members are invited to attend these or other classes (which qualify for AT time) on a space-as-available basis provided: they email a request to Carolyn one week or more in advance and attend the morning training sessions only (not field trips).

**Nature Notes: Jill Carroll** indicated that Nature Notes presenters were needed for numerous months this year, and interested members should contact her. Presenters receive up to two hours of volunteer time for preparation. She then spoke on the topic of "Doves." A request to post Nature Notes presentations on the website was made, and Neal McLain indicated he would do so.

**President Kristine Rivers** announced a 10-minute break.

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Brooke Shipley**, Chief Scientist and GIS Analyst for the Artificial Reef Program within the Coastal Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Development spoke on the topic of "TPWD's Artificial Reef Program." Information on the program is available at <http://tpwd.state.tx.us/artificialreef>

After the completion of the program, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 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
- Presentations: Code "AT: I Received Training," 2 hours

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary, TMN-COT