



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. – 11:27 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 and to sign-in.

Attendance: 88 members were in attendance and no guests.

Host's Report: Pam West thanked this month's snack team: John Minkert, Tom Morris, Candace and Leo Novak, Kim Richardson, and Don Sabathier. She also thanked those who help in the kitchen and with clean-up.

Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier presented the financial report for 1 February—28 February 2017:

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 7,503.89
Revenue Summary	\$ 775.00
Interest	\$.74
Expense Summary	(\$ 0.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 8,279.63

Don also reminded members to give him \$25 in cash or check for 2017 chapter dues, which are due no later than the end of March.

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

Initial Certification: Denise Kaplan (2016 class)	Recertification: Ruby Lewis Carolyn May-Monie Jo Myers	Milestones: Herb Myers—250 hours Janet Jackson-Ellis—250 hours Sherry Summers—1000 hours
	Kristine Rivers Don Sabathier Jimmy Salinas	

They also presented a summary of impact data and AT and VT hours entered in VMS to date for January and February, 2017 (see below), adding that the chapter is on track for achieving 16,000 hours for the year.

- January, 2017: 366 adults, 78 youth, 445 total impacted
- February, 2017: 776 adults, 1251 youth, 2027 total impacted

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
1 January – 28 February 2017	2,751	294
2001 – 28 February 2017	174,445	16,453

Peggy reminded members to enter impact data, and Dave Brandes noted that Texas Parks and Recreation tracks hatchery tours at the Texas Sea Center.



Volunteer Time (Service Projects): Oron Atkins presented the following opportunities and circulated sign-up sheets as applicable. He noted that further information is available via the on-line TMN-COT calendar.

<http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>

- GCBO Spring Fling—April 1 to 30 at the Quintana Visitor Station for the Neotropical Bird Sanctuary (NBS); refer to the calendar for open dates/times, but Pete said members are welcome to help and/or birdwatch whenever convenient
- Quintana NBS Trail Cleaning and Maintenance—March 12, from 2 to 5 p.m.
- DEEP—Upcoming dates for which volunteers are needed include April 4 and 6
- Trash Bash Surfside/Quintana—March 25, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- San Bernard NWR (Oron gave a brief overview of progress and plans) and Brazoria NWR (park employees need assistance for the next 2-3 weeks, Monday through Thursdays on trail repairs)—refer to the calendar
- Migration Celebration—April 21 (set-up), April 22-23 (event), April 24 (clean-up); Ed Barrios said 170-180 volunteers are needed; email him at barrios@tmn-cot.org
- Migration Celebration Kick-Off Dinner—April 7
- Migration Celebration Photo Contest Judging—March 31, 1 to 6 p.m. (Pete Romfh said members interested in entering photos should see him)
- Water Fairs—April 5-7; April 10-11; April 12-13 (see John O’Connell’s report, below)
- Buff-Breasted Sandpiper Training and Driving Surveys—April 14, 21, 28, May 5

To clarify which Migration Celebration-related activities do and do not qualify for VT, Oron presented the details listed below, stating that conducting fundraising does not qualify except as an incidental part of the event, e.g., the days on which Migration Celebration (MC) is conducted.

Approved for VT

- April 21 and 24—set-up and takedown of MC booths, signage, displays; pick-up/return of vans; clean-up
- April 22-23—staffing all booths, workstations (including food and bake sale stations) and activities; parking, wayfinding, hikes, van tours, etc.
- Several dates for Photo Contest—organization, support for judging, display at MC dinner and event including set-up/take-down

NOT Approved for VT

- April 7 Kickoff Dinner—baking, cooking, serving, set-up, take-down, selling tickets, nature store
- April 22-23—baking items for bake sale



Water Fairs: **John O'Connell** provided a brief overview of this project, including the five learning stations the targeted 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders will visit: stream trailer, rainfall simulator, water cycle, ground water aquifer, and enviroscape. He circulated sign-up sheets, noting that a minimum of 10 volunteers per day is needed. Volunteers must attend training on either March 29 or 30, for which AT is earned; he will be sending an email with details.

John solicited assistance on April 19 for Quail CSI, as he will not be able to attend, and asked interested members to contact him after the meeting or at j-oconnell@tamu.edu.

Advanced Training: **Larry Ruhr** shared the fact that approximately 30 people attended the March 7 Beach Nesting Birds training for the GCBO-sponsored citizens patrol of Bryan Beach. Larry also noted that he will be out of town for the remainder of March but is available via phone (989/859-9173) and email, LarryRuhr@tmn-cot.org.

Upcoming AT events include the following (see calendar for more information):

- Wildlife Rescue Basic Workshop—March 25, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no details at this time)
- Water Fair Worker Training—Attend either March 29 or March 30, 1-4 p.m. at Agrilife Extension Building
- Turtle Patrol Detection Training—April 5, 11, 26 (annual training required and AT given)
- Migration Celebration Kickoff Dinner Monarch Presentation—April 7

Sea Turtle Patrol: **Oron Atkins** said there were four dates available for training/retraining. He advised that the likelihood of spotting a turtle or tracks was slim; however, patrolling was fun, especially at Matagorda State Park, where a UTV was necessary. Not all sites have an available UTV, but some beach stretches, such as Bryan Beach, do not require one. Only the driver, he said, needed UTV training. Volunteering is scheduled via a Google calendar and the beaches covered range from Quintana to the Colorado River. Volunteers are also asked to contact Bryan and Vicky Adams with their patrol dates and start and stop times.

Speakers Bureau: **Jimmy Salinas** provided a brief overview of the tasks involved in providing presentations to a broad variety of groups, including school children and adult organizations. Those with presentation-development skills and/or presenting skills are needed as are general coordination and support help. While he already has two requests for speakers, Jimmy intends for his group to do outreach as well.

20th Anniversary Project: **Lisa Myers** relayed information provided by the TP&W Texas Master Naturalist Program. To celebrate the program's 20th anniversary in 2018, each chapter has been asked to create oral history videos and photographs. Lisa distributed sheets for volunteers to indicate their interest in: Serving on the project committee, being interviewed or recommending someone to be interviewed, and providing photographs. More information will follow as it is made available by the program. Lisa can be contacted at LisaMyers@tmn-cot.org.



Whooping Crane Trip: Tom Morris briefly summarized this February 14 trip, for which he sent a more detailed report to the membership on March 3. The 31 participants (members and some spouses) saw 34 cranes and 52 species of birds despite a two-hour storm delay and enjoyed a wonderful dinner and fellowship. Tom displayed a chart indicating whooping crane numbers since 1940; the current population is approximately 330 individuals. Tom also shared photos taken on the trip. The report and pictures can be found at <http://tmn-cot.org/Scrapbook/WhoopingReport-2017.pdf>.

Nature Notes: Jill Carroll introduced COT member George Bettinger, who spoke on the topic, “*Vibrio vulnificus*—Flesh Eating Bacteria.” Jill asked for a volunteer to present at the April meeting.

Afterwards, Jill announced a 10-minute break.

Guest Speaker: Mike Mullenweg, M.S., Lead Interpreter / Events & Trails Coordinator for the Brazoria County Parks Department, spoke on the topic of “*Ocypode quadrata*—Ghost Crabs.”

Upon completion of the program, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 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," 1.25 hours

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