



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 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: 72 members were in attendance and no guests.

Host's Report: On behalf of **Pam West**, **Kristine Rivers** thanked this month's snack team: Julia Geilser, Donna Graham, JoAnna Harlan, Mike Mullins, and Pete and Peggy Romfh. She also thanked Don Sabathier and Carole Wenny, who helped in the kitchen and with clean-up.

Treasurer's Report: **Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for 1 March to 31 March 2017 and reminded members who had not already done so to submit their dues to him.

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,279.63
Revenue Summary	\$ 175.00
Interest	\$.85
Expense Summary	(\$ 60.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 8,395.48

VMS and AT Updates / Awards: **Peggy and Pete Romfh** presented VT and AT hours and impact data year-to-date and again recognized Denise Kaplan ('16), who last month achieved initial certification; Peggy also recognized the members listed below for achieving service hour milestones.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 March 2017	2137	6285	8422

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
1 January – 31 March 2017	4281	621

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin):	250 Hours Milestones (Bronze Dragonfly Pin):
Oron Atkins	Jean Britt
Susan Conaty	Judy Green
Garry Ellis	Lisa Myers
Judy Green	Kristine Rivers
Becky McClendon	
Sheree Muzny	
Ann Lange	
Janet Jackson-Ellis	
Herb Myers	
Lisa Myers	
Peggy Romfh	
Pete Romfh	
Larry Ruhr	
Chip Sweet	
Jean Britt	
Ed Johnson	



Volunteer Time (Service Projects): **Oron Atkins** presented the following opportunities and indicated that Ruby Lewis would circulate sign-up sheets as applicable. He noted that further information is available via the on-line TMN-COT calendar: <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- San Bernard NWR and Brazoria NWR trail repairs—both are nearing completion; refer to the calendar
- Spring Fling at GCBO Neotropical Bird Sanctuary—Ongoing through the month of April; contact Peggy Romfh at peggy.romfh@comcast.net
- Buff-Breasted Sandpiper Training and Driving Surveys—April 14, 21, 28, May 5; contact Larry Ruhr at ruhrfamily@gmail.com
- Migration Celebration—April 21 (set up), 22, 23, and 24 (clean up); contact Ed Barrios at barrios@tmn-cot.org
- Monarch (butterfly) Watch—see the calendar
- Hanson Riverside Park trail clearing—May 15; contact Mike Mullenweg at mikem@brazora-county.com
- TCWP Exploration Green planting water plants—April 15, 29, May 13, and May 27; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- Louisiana Eyed Silkmoth—Two volunteers are needed from the end of April through the summer to trap these invasive moths at area refuges; not on calendar, see Oron Atkins or email oronatkins@comcast.net
- City Nature Challenge nationwide competition—April 14-18; see <https://nhm.org/nature/citizen-science/city-nature-challenge-2017> (Pearland has a related event on April 17, from 8-11 a.m.)

Migration Celebration: **Ed Barrios** thanked everyone who volunteered for the Migration Celebration kick-off dinner and circulated sign-up sheets to volunteer for Migration Celebration.

Outreach: **Ruby Lewis** noted the many events COT volunteers were involved in during the past month. She highlighted the following upcoming opportunities and circulated sign-up sheets as applicable:

- Pre-Migration Celebration event at Brazos Mall—April 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Pearland Earth Day booth—April 22, to promote TMN
- DEEP—Four dates in May
- Quintana Park Beach Safaris for kindergarten age children—Training on May 9, 10, 16, and 17
- Captain Shishka Bob—May 11 and 12 at Angleton Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. plus set up and tear down
- Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park—June 12-15; no sign-up yet
- Quintana Park beach camp—June 19-22; self-training, more info TBA
- Summer Library Programs—Many dates in June and July at various Brazoria County libraries; this year's program is a combination of days dedicated to reptiles and the



sea shore.

In addition, Lou Golish announced an upcoming native plant planting at Surfside Beach at a date to be announced.

Advanced Training: Larry Ruhr shared the following upcoming AT events (see calendar for more information) and asked to be contacted regarding additional AT opportunities.

- Buff-Breasted Sandpiper Surveys—April 13 is the last training date
- Turtle Patrol Detection Training—April 26 at San Bernard NWR is the last date (annual training required and up to two hours AT given)
- Quintana Park Beach Safari—May 1, 2 and 8 are training dates.

Larry also presented information regarding a new TMN Specialist Certification opportunity, the Texas Waters Specialist. The goal of the certification program is to “develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats” in State of Texas communities.

Certification requirements include:

- Reading the required curriculum in the book, Texas Waters—Exploring Water and Watersheds
- Eight hours of approved AT training relative to water and watersheds
- Initial 10 hours of VT service relative to Texas waters and then 10 additional hours each year for recertification.

Larry indicated that more information would be available in the May chapter newsletter; in the meantime, interested members can contact him.

20th Anniversary Project: Lisa Myers distributed information for transmitting digital images to her at LisaMyers@tmn-cot.org. Contact her if you have photos that need to be scanned. Each image/photo must be accompanied by a release form, which can be executed electronically by the photographer and all persons who appear in the photo. She will send the form upon receipt of image(s). Interviews will be scheduled in the future after details regarding use of the iPad software and equipment are coordinated.

Southern Plains Bumblebee: Mike Mullens shared photos taken at his Grimes County property; the photos represent the first documented sighting in Texas of this large bumblebee.

Nature Notes: Kristine Rivers introduced COT member Peggy Romfh, who spoke on the topic, “Reddish Egrets.” Afterwards, Kristine announced a 10-minute break.



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Guest Speaker: William “Billy” Ward. Columbia Bottomlands Field Representative for The Nature Conservancy spoke on the topic of “The Columbia Bottomlands: New Preserves in Brazoria County Established by The Nature Conservancy.”

Upon completion of the program, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 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," 0.75 hours.

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