



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:35 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: 66 members were in attendance and one guest, Judi James.

Host's Report: Pam West thanked this month's snack team: Oron Atkins, Mike Bettorf, Cindy Goodrum, Judy Green, Denise Kaplan, Jerry Krampota and Roy Morgan; she also thanked Don Sabathier for making coffee. Pam indicated that cake would be served during the break in celebration of Peggy Romfh's 4,000 hours of volunteer service.

Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier announced that COT now has 501(c)(3) non-profit status, which means that contributions are tax deductible and eligible for matching donations. He then presented the financial report for 1 May to 31 May 2017.

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 7,996.28
Revenue Summary	\$ 161.00
Interest	\$.81
Expense Summary	(\$ 224.65)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 7,933.44

VMS and AT Updates / Awards: Peggy and Pete Romfh thanked everyone for consistently providing impact data in VMS. They noted that as of the night before, over 9,500 hours of VT had been entered as compared to 7,800 for the previous year-to-date, and they urged members to continue to enter hours and data in a timely manner. The following VT and AT hours and impact data year-to-date were presented, and the members listed below were recognized for achieving initial certification, recertification, or service-hour milestones.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 May 2017	7,813	24,268	32,081

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
1 January – 31 May 2017	9,083	869

Initial Certification	Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)	4000 Hours Milestone (Polished Gold Dragonfly with Ruby Pin)
Michael Lasseter ('17) Edward Peebles ('17)	Dave Brandes Susan Safley Marlies Greenwood Carole Wenny Pam West	Peggy Romfh



Volunteer Time (Service Projects): Oron Atkins presented the following opportunities. He explained the links available via the TMN-COT calendar and how additional information for events, when available, is accessed. See <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- **Bobcat Woods Trail Boardwalk**—On-going, materials received, waiting for refuge personnel and equipment operators; check calendar; contact Oron Atkins oronatkins@comcast.net
- **Grass Mowing at SBNWR**—Mondays through Thursdays; contact Roland Davis roland_davis@fws.gov (no TMN calendar entry)
- **Sea Turtle Patrol**—On-going through early July; see Sea Turtle Patrol Calendar (AT required)
- **TCWP at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Work Day**—June 17, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com
- **Louisiana Eyed Silkmoth Project**—To end of summer; contact Jennifer Wilson jennifer_wilson@fws.gov (no TMN calendar entry)
- **Mini Wetlands Camp**—July 14; more information to come
- **American Eel Monitoring**—Fall to Early Winter; involves deployment of “eel mops” to catch juvenile eels in approximately 16 location; more information to come.

Outreach: On behalf of Ruby Lewis, Georgia Monnerat reviewed the following, upcoming events and circulated sign-up sheets as applicable:

- **Brazoria County Library System (BCLS) Summer Reading Club**—Multiple dates and times in June and July at various libraries; more volunteers needed, especially for June and northern county dates; Ruby Lewis is the contact; see calendar.

Advanced Training: Larry Ruhr noted that summer is a quiet time for AT but urged members to check the calendar for multiple opportunities to acquire information if not to accrue AT hours.

Larry shared the following, upcoming AT events (see calendar for more information).

- **Field Trip: Exploration Green** (Native Plant Society of Texas—Clear Lake Chapter)—June 14 at wetland nursery, 1801 Neptune, Houston, 6-8 p.m.; RSVP to Jerry Hamby, jhamby4@comcast.net
- **Texas Stream Team Training**—June 16 in Alvin, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; six hours (the first of three required sessions for certification)
- **Instruments of Watershed Change Webinar**—June 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; counts towards Texas Waters Specialist certification
- **Texas Watershed Steward Workshop**—July 11, 1-5 p.m. at Brazoria County Fairgrounds, Angleton; four hours; counts towards Texas Waters Specialist certification.

Larry asked to be contacted regarding additional AT opportunities and reminded those who had registered for the Texas Water Specialist program of today’s first, guided discussion of the required reading immediately after today’s meeting; this will count as AT (the next discussion will be on July 12).



Speakers Bureau: Jimmy Salinas reported several speaking engagements since the bureau’s inception in March:

- **Lake Jackson Citizens Police**, Rich Tillman provided an overview of the TMN program
- **Freeport Intermediate Career Day**, Jimmy Salinas presented environmental opportunities
- **Grady Rasco Middle School**, Kristine Rivers spoke on nature tourism
- **League City Parks Board**, Kristine Rivers spoke on nature tourism
- **Girl Scouts of America Lake Jackson Council**, Ruby Lewis presented on wildlife

Future engagement:

- **Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS)**, July 20, on monarch butterflies; a speaker from the TMN Dallas group will replace Kim Richardson, who had to cancel

Jimmy noted that he is gathering a repository of PowerPoint presentations and that several members had offered suggestions for presentations and offered to present.

Training Team: Carolyn May-Monie reported that some changes in the training program would be made. Registration for next year’s intern class will be “open registration”—starting now, and potential interns will be invited to attend General Meetings until the next training session starts. The 2018 class size will be limited to 15 interns. She asked members to direct interested parties to the TMN-TOC website.

2018 Class Representative: Bill Ahlstrom announced first aid (\$35) and CPR (\$69) classes offered by Brazosport College, at the Health Science Building, on July 15 (four openings) and August 12.

Recognition/Awards (Chapter Advisor): John O’Connell recognized the individuals listed below for their volunteer efforts at Water Fair and/or Captain Shishka Bob. He reminded members of the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on June 16 and to RSVP to Jennifer Fielding in person or jenniferf@brazoria-county.com.

Water Fair:

Ann Lange	Jean Britt	Mike Mullenweg	Rich Tillman
Connie Stolte	Lorna Witt	Pam Peltier	Sheree Muzhy
Ed Johnson	Mary Holler	Peggy Romfh	Tom Morris
Jackie Hicks	Mel Mckey	Pete Romfh	

Captain Shishka Bob:

Ellen Lasseter	Jackie Hicks	Joycelynn Grigson	Ken Arnold
Michael Lasseter			

Nature Notes: Lisa Myers spoke on the topic “Opossums.” Afterwards, Kristine announced a 10-minute break.



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Guest Speaker: John O'Connell, the Coastal and Marine Resources Extension Agent for Brazoria County and TMN-COT Board Advisor, spoke on the topic "Echinoderms."

Upon completion of the program, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations: Code "AT: I Received Training," one hour and 30 minutes
- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time.

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