



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:34 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: 69 members were in attendance and no guests.

Host's Report: Pam West thanked this month's snack team: Barbara Burkhardt, Ellis Burkhardt, Elaine Crews, Becky McClendon, Roy Morgan, Dick Schaffhausen, and Carole Wenny.

Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier presented the financial report for 1 June to 30 June 2017.

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 7,933.44
Revenue Summary	\$ 49.46
Interest	\$.78
Expense Summary	(\$ 97.94)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 7,885.74

Don reminded members of COT's new 504(c)(3) status and asked members who donate to do so via check or direct deposit versus PayPal to avoid processing fees.

VMS and AT Updates / Awards: Peggy and Pete Romfh thanked everyone for consistently providing impact data in VMS. 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 – 30 June 2017	8,776	26,797	35,573

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# Volunteers
1 January – 30 June 2017	10,625	996	115

Peggy mentioned that the chapter was on track to achieve 11,000 hours by the end of July.

Initial Certification	Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)		250 Hour Pin (Bronze Dragonfly)	500 Hour Pin (Silver Dragonfly)
Bob Whitmarsh ('17)	Bill Ahlstrom Anne Bettinger George Bettinger James Calvert	Jerry Eppner Georgia Monnerat Andy Smith Larry Peterson	Ann Lange Larry Ruhr Jimmy Salinas	Howard Allen Anne Bettinger



Volunteer Time (Service Projects): Oron Atkins presented the following opportunities. See information via <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- **The Nature Conservancy Nash Prairie Preserve Work Day**—July 10, 8:30 a.m. to ~noon; intersection of CR 25 and CR 255, Brazoria County. Contact:
Billy Ward, wward@TNC.ORG, [505-948-8366](tel:505-948-8366) or
Susan Conaty pmcsmc2@centurylink.net, [979-417-1421](tel:979-417-1421)
- **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)
- **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) Native Plant Nursery Work Day**—Saturdays through end of August, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com (see *NOTE, below*)
- **TCWP at Exploration Green (Clear Lake) Nursery Work Days**—July 13 and 27, August 3, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Contact Mary Carol Edwards, 281-989-5517
- **TCWP at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) Work Day**—July 20, 8:30 to 11:30, contact Chris Kneupper
- **Louisiana Eyed Silkmoth Project**—To end of summer; contact Jennifer Wilson jennifer_wilson@fws.gov (no TMN calendar entry)
- **Brazoria County Library System (BCLS) Summer Reading Club**—Multiple dates and times in July at various libraries; contact Ruby Lewis; see calendar.

NOTE: Chris Kneupper provided additional information about the new Native Plant Nursery at GCBO, which is now open (more details available in the COT July newsletter). He indicated that GCBO intends to collaborate with other groups in the future to obtain and supply plants. Chris also noted the following volunteer opportunity:

- **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Nursery Work Day Oversight**—July 14, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.; need volunteers who have knowledge of plants to identify weeds/invasives to Dow interns, who are volunteering at the nursery; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com.

Outreach: Ruby Lewis provided an overview of summer volunteer activities to date and noted the following events for members to reserve, if possible:

- **Brazos Mall Event**—August 12 and 26
- **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) Xtreme Hummingbird Extravaganza**—September 16 and 23
- **KRB Kids' Day at Buffalo Bayou**—October 7; approximately 30 volunteers needed
- **TMN 18th Annual State Meeting**—October 20 to 22
- **Sea Center Texas Spooktacular**—October 29
- **Lake Jackson Festival of Lights**—November 18.



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

- **Texas Waters Discussion Group**—July 12 and August 9, 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in AgriLife meeting room
- **Sewer System Workshop by H-GAC in Partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Angleton**—July 21, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at AgriLife (no AT)
- **“Native Thistles: Important and Misunderstood Plants” (webinar)**—July 25, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (see calendar)
- **Sheldon Lake State Park “Wetland Plant Identification”**—August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; \$50 fee
- **“Texas Water Law and Planning” (webinar)**—August 22, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (see calendar).

Larry reminded those who had registered for the Texas Water Specialist program of today’s guided discussion of the required reading after today’s meeting at 12:00 p.m.; this counts as AT.

TMN 18th Annual State Meeting, October 20 to 22—Kristine provided an overview of the COT team’s presentation that was recently accepted for the state meeting. Each team member briefly explained his or her section of the presentation, which is titled “It’s a Wild, Wild Life on the Mid-Texas Coast.”

Nature Notes was postponed to a future date due to technical difficulties. Kristine announced a 10-minute break.

Guest Speaker: Kari Howard, Coastal Conservation Program, Audubon Texas, spoke on the topic, “Texas Estuarine Resource Network Program (TERN).”

Upon completion of the program, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations: Code "AT: I Received Training," 1.5 hours
- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time.

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