



**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:27 a.m.**  
**AgriLife® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas**

**Kristine Rivers, President**, called the meeting to order and expressed the hope that everyone was recovering from the effects of Hurricane Harvey. She presented the agenda at 9:00 a.m. and reminded attendees to silence their phones and to sign in.

Kristine thanked the representatives of Brazoria County Public Library for providing snacks for the meeting. They expressed appreciation for COT's participation in county libraries' Summer Reading Program.

**Attendance:** 55 members were in attendance and one guest.

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

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 6,814.21
Revenue Summary	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 0.64
Expense Summary	(\$ 420.00)*
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 6,814.21

\* for Directors and Officers Insurance

Don reminded members of COT's 501(c)(3) status and of many companies' matching gift programs. He indicated that members can use VMS to log volunteer-activity miles, which are tax deductible, as are annual dues, since nothing tangible is received in return. However, Don urged members to check with their tax professionals.

**VMS and AT Updates / Awards:** **Peggy and Pete Romfh** noted that a "total miles" figure is listed at the end of members' on-line VMS hours report and they can provide a detail report, if requested, for tax-deduction purposes.

Pete and Peggy then presented the following VT and AT hours year-to-date, and the members listed below were recognized for achieving recertification. They further noted that several members are very close to achieving major milestones. September hours were lower than usual, Peggy said, due to Hurricane Harvey; however, COT remains the highest or among the highest of any chapter in hours volunteered per member.



Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 30 September 2017	9,967	27,867	37,834

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 30 September 2017	13,111	1,359	115

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)	
Ed Barrios	Donna Graham
Jill Carroll	Phil Huxford
Mickey Dufilho	Bob Whitmarsh

Pete explained some guidelines for certifying and membership. New members have 14 months from date of graduation to certify. Members who have paid dues but have fewer than 40 volunteer hours are still considered active regardless of whether or not they certify. If any member needs volunteer hours, Pete can provide information on individual, field-research projects.

**Outreach:** On behalf of **Ruby Lewis, Ed Barrios** shared the following, upcoming events and circulated sign-up sheets, as applicable. See information via <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- **Spooktacular, Texas Sea Center**—Sunday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **DEEP**—Multiple Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 19 through February 8. See Calendar; contact Ruby Lewis, [rubylewis77515@ymail.com](mailto:rubylewis77515@ymail.com) or Tom Schneider [tom\\_schneider@fws.gov](mailto:tom_schneider@fws.gov).

**Volunteer Time (Service Projects):** On behalf of **Oron Atkins, Lisa Myers** presented the following opportunities. See information via <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- **Grass Mowing at SBNWR**—Mondays through Thursdays; contact Roland Davis [roland\\_davis@fws.gov](mailto:roland_davis@fws.gov) (no TMN calendar entry)
- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Nursery Work Day**—October 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper [kneupper@bazorianet.com](mailto:kneupper@bazorianet.com)
- **Kid’s Fishing Derby, Brazoria County Parks Department** —November 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at San Luis Pass Park; eight volunteers needed; contact Mike Mullenweg [mikem@brazoria-county.com](mailto:mikem@brazoria-county.com)
- **GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Harvey Flood Recovery Work Days**—Every Wednesday and Saturday until further notice, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Martin Hagne [mhagne@gcbo.org](mailto:mhagne@gcbo.org).



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.  
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

**Advanced Training:** On behalf of **Larry Ruhr, Peggy Romfh** announced that he will be sending via email upcoming AT opportunities. See information at <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

Jill Carroll added that the Board had selected Saturday, January 20, as the chapter AT event. It will consist of the six presentations to be conducted by the TMN-COT team going to the State Meeting next week. Lunch will be provided.

**Intern Training:** **Carolyn May-Monie** announced that due to Hurricane Harvey issues, the next intern training class will be delayed until August 2018. This delay gives the training team, presenters, and potential interns the opportunity to recover from Harvey. The training team, Carolyn added, will be revising the training schedule to accommodate the change of seasons. She then introduced a guest and Kristine encouraged all members to invite guests.

**Brazoria County Parks Update:** **Bryan Frazier**, Parks Director and COT member, provided an impromptu report on the status of county parks post Harvey. Most county parks received some damage, with Camp Mohawk County Park suffering the worst effects. Volunteer work days will be scheduled in the future. Bryan indicated that Parks had recently added approximately 40 acres of land seized as a result of a drug bust and happily added that County Parks received a \$1 million budget increase this fiscal year.

**Publicity:** **Dick Schaffhausen** asked that members assist him with promotion efforts by posting pictures of events to Facebook. He cautioned against posting full-face pictures of minors.

**Nature Notes:** **Jimmy Salinas** spoke on the topic, “**Oil Spills.**”

Kristine announced that anyone interested in serving on the COT Board should contact Dave Brandes, who chairs the Nominating Committee. She then announced a 15-minute break.

**Guest Speaker:** **Glenn Olsen**, Region 8 Director for the Texas Ornithological Society, spoke on the topic, “**Phenomenal Flights: The Amazing Intercontinental Flights of Birds.**”

Upon completion of the program, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations: Code "AT: I Received Training," 1-1/2 hours
- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time.

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