



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:54 a.m.
AgriLife® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Kristine Rivers, President, called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 9:00 a.m. and reminded attendees to silence their phones and to sign in.

Attendance: 64 members were in attendance and two guests.

Host’s Report: Pam West thanked this month’s snack team: Anne Bettinger, Mary Holler, Rainbo Johnson, Georgia Monnerat, Ken Sluis, and Linda Sluis. Pam announced that cake would be available during the break to celebrate Justina Dent’s milestone of 5,000 volunteer hours. She then indicated that next month’s snack team should bring light refreshments, that refreshments would start at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting at 11 a.m., as there would be no speaker, and the annual Hog Wild Party would follow the General Meeting.

Roy Morgan asked anyone with sage to let Marty Cornell know as he needs it for cooking the pork for the Hog Wild Party.

Treasurer’s Report: Don Sabathier presented the financial report for 1 October to 31 October 2017.

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 6,394.85
Revenue Summary	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 0.65
Expense Summary	(\$ 0.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 6,395.50

Don reminded members that membership dues for 2018 would be coming up; he has started collecting the \$25 annual fee and hopes that everyone pays no later than March. Kristine noted that as a non-profit, COT donations, including dues, are tax deductible.

Membership: VMS and AT Updates / Awards—Peggy and Pete Romfh presented the following VT and AT hours year-to-date, and the members listed below were recognized for achieving certification, recertification or milestones.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 October 2017	14,091	32,752	46,843

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 31 October 2017	14,364	1,517	116



Additionally, Bill Ahlstrom earned the Angler Certification.

Initial Certification (Dragonfly Pin)	Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	5,000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold with Diamond Dragonfly Pin)
Victor Wade	Roger Allen Chris Kneupper John Boettiger Rich Tillman Denis James	Herb Myers Kristine Rivers	Justina Dent

Presentation Team: **Kristine Rivers** showed photos from the State Meeting presentations and shared feedback from several attendees. She gave presentation team members pins in appreciation for and as a memento of their participation.

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

- **Lake Jackson Festival of Lights**—November 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Civic Center grounds near the Ferris Wheel
- **DEEP**—Multiple Tuesdays and Thursdays, November 9 through February 8. See Calendar; contact Tom Schneider tom_schneider@fws.gov.

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

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Work Day**—November 9, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Nursery Work Day**—November 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com
- **Lake Jackson Festival of Lights** (see above)
- **Exploration Green Wetland Planting Prep Day**—November 24, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **Exploration Green Habitat Island Wetland Planting**—November 25, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **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. Rebuilding dates TBD
- **Bobcat Woods**—The contract for concrete work is now out for bid; work on the boardwalk will restart on Monday, November 13; see Oron Atkins if interested (not yet on Calendar).



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
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A question concerning Christmas Bird Counts was raised. This annual event occurs at multiple locations throughout the area. Information and locations will be posted on the Houston Audubon website (<https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/upper-texas-coast.html>).

Advanced Training: Larry Ruhr noted that there were no new, upcoming AT opportunities. He needs suggestions from the membership. He reminded members that plans are being made for the January 20, six-hour AT day at which State Meeting Presentation Team members will give their presentations. Registration will be required as attendance is limited, and lunch plans need to be made; more information will be sent via email and posted to the Calendar at <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

Speaker Bureau: Jimmy Salinas said that he has one pending request from Edgar Allan Poe Elementary School for a presentation on reptiles.

Nature Notes: Candace Novak spoke on the topic, “Monk Parrots.”

Kristine announced that anyone interested in serving on the COT Board should contact Dave Brandes, who chairs the Nominating Committee. Voting for officers will take place at the December General Meeting. She then announced a 15-minute break.

Guest Speaker: Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director for the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Texas, spoke on the topic, “Aquaculture.”

Upon completion of the program, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations: Code "AT: I Received Training," 1.75 hours
- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time.

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