



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 11:00 a.m. – 11:37 a.m.
AgriLife® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Jill Carroll, Vice President, called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 11:00 a.m., and reminded attendees to silence their phones and to sign in.

Attendance: 40 members were in attendance and no guests.

Host’s Report: Pam West thanked this month’s snack team: Mike Bettorf, Ann Lange, Mel McKey, and Neal McLain. Pam announced that volunteers are needed to bring morning snacks to the January 20 AT event and for the January General Meeting.

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

1 November – 30 November 2017, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 6,395.50
Revenue Summary	\$ 125.00
Interest	\$ 0.61
Expense Summary	(\$ 556.34)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 5,964.77

Don reminded members that he is collecting membership dues for 2018; the \$25 annual fee is tax deductible as are donations to COT.

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 recertification or milestones.

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)		250-Hour Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	1000-Hour Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin)
Mike Bettorf	Mary Helen Israel	Vicki Kirby	Neeta Allen Anna King	Kim Richardson
Patty Brinkmeyer	Ellen Lasseter			
Barbara Burkhardt	Mike Lasseter			
Julia Geisler	Mike Mullenweg			
Christina Hartman	Candace Novak			
Mary Holler	Ed Peebles			
David Plunkett				



Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 30 November 2017	14,603	33,776	48,379

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 30 November 2017	15,339	1,632	115

Outreach: Ruby Lewis informed members that over 2,000 people were impacted by COT volunteers at the recent Lake Jackson Festival of Lights. She thanked all those who volunteered in 2017 and shared the following, upcoming event and circulated sign-up sheets. See information via <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- **Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Open House**—December 26 to January 1; volunteers needed half-day or all day.

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

- **Exploration Green Nursery/Wetland Workday**—December 21 and 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Nursery Work Day**—December 21, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazoriainet.com
- **GCBO 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
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Day**—Every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazoriainet.com
- **Bobcat Woods Trail**—Installation of new boardwalk began November 13; basic scope of work includes staging materials along trail, drilling ground holes for posts, attaching sub-structure, installing TanDeck boards. About 100 feet have been completed; more volunteers needed. See calendar for scheduled work days and changes in schedule
- **Christmas Bird Count Events**—See calendar for details
 - **December 14**—Guadalupe River Delta, McFadden Ranches (TXGF)
 - **December 15**—San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges (TXSB)
 - **December 16**—Brazos Bend State Park (TXBZ)
 - **December 17**—Freeport (TXFR)
 - **December 18**—Matagorda Co., Mad Island Marsh CBC (TXMM)
 - **December 20**—Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR (TXAP)
 - **December 30**—Brazoria, Columbia Bottomlands (TXBR)
- **DEEP**—January 23 and 25, contact Karis Watson.



Information on, and locations for, the Christmas Bird Counts are posted on the Houston Audubon website:

(<https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/upper-texas-coast.html>).

Advanced Training: Larry Ruhr noted that the following AT opportunities will be posted to the calendar later today:

- **“Recording Water Levels Through Citizen Science Reporting,” Webinar**—Tuesday, December 19, 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **“Aquatic Invasive Species,” A Texas Waters Webinar**—Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **TMN-COT Advanced Training Event at AgriLife Building, Angleton**—Saturday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch and snacks included. Register (required) by January 3 via email or see calendar.

2018 Intern Training: On behalf of **Carolyn May-Monie, Lisa Myers** provided a brief overview of the 2018 COT Intern Training Class Schedule. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 5 and end with presentations and graduation at the December 12 General Meeting. The full schedule will be published as soon as firm dates are set with instructors. Lisa asked that members spread the word about the class; registration is on-line and available now.

Christmas Bird Counts: **Bill Ahlstrom** provided a brief overview of counts in the COT area and what participants can expect. Additional information is available in the December newsletter, via the COT calendar and Houston Audubon’s website at <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/cbc.html>. Anyone interested should contact the individual area coordinator(s) as soon as possible.

Election of Officers for 2018: **Dave Brandes**, Chair of the Nominating Committee and Past President, presented the slate of nominees: Kristine Rivers, President; Bill Ahlstrom, Vice President; Lisa Myers, Secretary; and Don Sabathier, Treasurer. There were no additional nominees from the floor, so Rich Tillman made a motion to elect the nominees by acclamation, and Neal McLain seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority voice vote.

Upon completion of the election, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m. Jill reminded everyone that the Hog Wild Party would begin at Ed Barrios’ at 12 p.m. The time code allocated for the general meeting was:

- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin,"
1 hour + travel time.

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