



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.
AgriLife® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Kristine Rivers, President, called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 10:00 a.m., and reminded attendees to silence their phones and to sign in.

Kristine announced that a cookie cake would be served at the break in honor of Ruby Lewis reaching the 4000-hour volunteer milestone. She also presented Ed Barrios with an etched-crystal wine glass to commemorate his 12 years of service on the Board of COT.

Attendance: 65 members were in attendance and two guests.

Host’s Report: Pam West thanked today’s snack team: Bill Ahlstrom, Lisa Myers, Candace Novak, and John O’Connell. She also circulated a snack sign-up sheet for the rest of the year.

Treasurer’s Report: Don Sabathier presented the financial report for 1 January to 31 January 2018.

1 January – 31 January 2018, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 6,312.89
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,592.97*
Interest	\$ 0.66
Expense Summary	(\$ 1,086.10)**
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 6,820.42

*Dues and Bonus AT Day donations

**Bonus AT Day expenses and gift to Ed Barrios

Don reminded members that he is still collecting membership dues for 2018.

Membership—Pete and Peggy Romfh presented final hours counts for 2017 (16,953.5 VT hours, 1,670 hours AT, 115 volunteers, and 50,851 impacted) and the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients for the February General Meeting. They noted that AT hours for the month of January are approximately half of those for VT due to the hours logged for the AT Bonus event on January 20. She also presented a graph that shows volunteer hours as categorized by hours groups (the graph also appears in the February *Chapter News*).

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 January 2018	215	209	424



Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 31 January 2018	772*	382	68

* Hours would have been higher, but many activities cancelled due to weather and the federal government shutdown.

Recertification 2017 (Sea Turtle Pin)	Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)
Sherry Summers	Ruby Lewis	Don Sabathier

Larry Ruhr presented certificates and pins to Ed Peebles, Larry Peterson and himself for completing the Texas Water Certification program and noted that Peggy Romfh and Pete Romfh received their certificates and pins in October, 2017.

Outreach—Ruby Lewis noted the following, upcoming volunteer opportunities and stated that many activities in January were cancelled due to weather or the federal government shutdown. Ruby circulated sign-up sheets as needed.

- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day**—February 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Brazoria Heritage Day**—March 3.
- **DEEP at BNWR**—February 15, 20, March 1, 6, and 8

Volunteer Project, Public Outreach, and Activity Request Review—Oron Atkins shared the following upcoming projects, outreach and/or status updates. See detailed information via <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/Calendar.html>.

- **Exploration Green Nursery/Wetland Work Day in Clear Lake area**—A Saturday to be determined, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards; they prefer that groups commit to dates in advance and Oron circulated a survey concerning available dates
- **Exploration Green Tree Planting**—February 17, March 10 and 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Jerry Hamby jhamby4@comcast.net
- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Work Day**—February 15, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@brazoriainet.com
- **GCBO Spread Crushed Granite Work Day**—February 21, 8:30 a.m. to completion; 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@brazoriainet.com
- **Bobcat Woods Trail**—Installation of new boardwalk began last November. Scope of work includes: stage materials along trail, drill ground holes for posts, attach sub-structure, install TanDeck deck boards. Many volunteers needed. See Calendar for scheduled work days (dependent on the weather)



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- **Cradle of Texas Conservancy Work Day**—February 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Chris Kneupper, a director of the organization, requested volunteers to plant yaupon and other native, woody plants on CTC property near the Surfside Bridge. He also asked members to save seeds from native, woody plants.

Migration Celebration: Ed Barrios, who is heading the Migration Celebration committee, briefly explained the event and asked members to save the dates of April 21 and 22 to volunteer at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, as many, many volunteers are needed. He also invited members to attend the event kickoff dinner and fundraiser on April 13; the guest speaker will be making a presentation on the MOTUS project. Many COT members have tickets for sale today. Lisa Myers, he noted, will be coordinating volunteers for Migration Celebration and will be contacting members via email and at future General Meetings.

Advanced Training Opportunities: Larry Ruhr noted an increase in AT opportunities and announced those listed below. He directed members to the COT Calendar for additional information and registration links, as required.

- **Project SOAR**—additional training dates in March will be emailed and posted as soon as available
- **Zika Surveillance Training**—After today's General Meeting; conducted by John O'Connell
- **Texas Waters Webinar**—February 15, 6 p.m. Registration required
- **Texas Stream Team Certified Water Monitoring Training at Sea Center Texas**—February 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; registration required, and class limit is 20 volunteers. Volunteers must commit to two years of monitoring. Contact Pete and Peggy or Larry for general information about the program
- **Moody Gardens Peek Behind the Scenes: Conservation**—February 21, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; no cost or RSVP required
- **Seaside Chats* live, via login, and login at Angleton Library (Corals: More Than Your Garden Variety)**—February 21, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Wildlife Rescue Basics**—February 24, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., no cost but preregistration required
- **TERN Colonial Waterbird Monitoring Training, Pearland**—February 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; registration required
- **Texas Waters Webinar: Groundwater/Surface Water and Freshwater Inflow**—February 27, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Registration required
- **Seaside Chats* live, via login, and login at Angleton Library (Okeanos Expedition 2017: Surprising Finds in the Gulf of Mexico)**—February 28, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Seaside Chats* live, via login, and login at Angleton Library (Reef Resilience: Bleaching, Mortality and Hurricanes, Oh My!)**—March 7, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*Regular AT or Webinar AT credit available



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Nature Notes: Candace Novak spoke on the topic, “**Songs of Frogs and Toads of Brazoria County.**”

Kristine announced a 15-minute break.

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuges Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Mary Cornell asked those who volunteer at BNWR to “save the date” of February 27 for the dinner, which will be seafood gumbo and chicken gumbo. Tom Schneider will be sending out email invitations soon.

Guest Speaker: Stephen Curtis, Aquatic Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife, spoke on the topic, “**American Eels.**” Afterwards, John Boettiger volunteered to be the contact person for the American Eel citizen science survey project.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

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

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