



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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: 80 members were in attendance and three guests.

Host’s Report: Pam West thanked today’s snack team: Donna Graham, Judy Green, Jackie Hicks, Larry Peterson, Larry Ruhr, and Bob Whitmarsh and thanked Don Sabathier for his help every week with making coffee.

Treasurer’s Report: Don Sabathier presented the financial report for March.

1 March – 31 March 2018, COT Treasurer Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Beginning Balance</u> | \$ 7,016.03 |
| Revenue Summary | \$ 1,203.97 ¹ |
| Interest | \$ 0.82 |
| Expense Summary | (\$ 19.95) |
| <u>Ending Balance</u> | \$ 8,200.87 |

¹ \$1,000 in funds (matching volunteer hours) received from ConocoPhillips

Don indicated that member dues for 2018 are now past due, and members who are unsure of their status should see him.

Membership—Pete and Peggy Romfh presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients. Peggy noted that 27 members had already recertified for 2018 and the impact data did not include recent Birds of Prey presentations.

| Impact Data | # Adults | # Youth | Total |
|---------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| YTD Totals—March 31 | 2,424 | 9,073 | 11,497 |

| Period | VT Hours | AT Hours | # of Volunteers |
|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| YTD Totals—March 31 | 4,086 | 783 | 90 |



| Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin) | | 250-Hour Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin) | 1000-Hour Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin) | 4000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold Dragonfly with Ruby Pin) |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Bill Ahlstrom Oron Atkins Ed Barrios Mike Bettorf John Boettiger Dave Brandes Jim Calvert | Susan Conaty Judy Green Ellen Lasseter Mike Lasseter Candace Novak Chip Sweet George Valadez | George Valadez | Lisa Myers | Carolyn May-Monie |

Outreach—Ruby Lewis announced upcoming outreach and volunteer opportunities listed below and circulated sign-up sheets, as needed. She also advised members not to contact her via her home-phone number but to use her cell number, 979-583-7903.

- **DEEP at BNWR**—April 26, May 1, 10
- **Brazos Mall**—April 14, times TBA; to promote Migration Celebration
- **Summer Library Programs**—June and July in Brazoria County Libraries (sign-up sheets circulated)
- **Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park**—June 18-21
- **Nature Camp at Quintana Beach County Park**—July 16-19.

Mike Mullenweg provided a brief overview of the Nature Camps.

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

- **Exploration Green Nursery/Wetland Work Day**—April 12, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **Exploration Green Nature Park**—April 14, 21, May 5, 19; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—April 19, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Day**—Every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Bobcat Woods Trail at SBNWR**—Need volunteers to finish boardwalk work by Migration Celebration deadline; see Calendar for scheduled work days; contact Oron Atkins
- **Water Fairs**—April 18 and 19, and April 24 and 25
- **Kids Fishing Derby at Alvin Resoft Park**—May 5, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg (a sign-up sheet was circulated, and Mike Mullenweg briefly explained the event and noted that the park’s pond was stocked with fish for the event)



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- **Migration Celebration at SBNWR**—April 13 at 5:30 p.m. (Kickoff Dinner at RiverPlace, Freeport); April 20 (set up at SBNWR at 9 a.m. until done); April 21 and 22 (event); April 23 (clean-up 9-11 a.m.)
- **TWA Science Outreach**—April 18 and 19
- **iNaturalist Big Blitz**—4-day snapshot of flora and fauna.

Migration Celebration—Lisa Myers reminded members of the Kickoff Dinner Fundraiser this Friday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. at RiverPlace in Freeport and that tickets are available for \$30 each from several COT members present at the meeting and at RiverPlace the night of the event. Lisa thanked members for their generosity in filling so many of the volunteer slots required by Migration Celebration but noted that numerous key positions were yet to be assigned. She circulated a sign-up sheet for those positions and requested that members reach out to family and friends and contact Lisa if they knew anyone willing to volunteer. Herb Myers and Judy Green both emphasized the value of Migration Celebration and how gratifying it was to volunteer at the event.

Lisa added that donations of baked goods were also needed for the bake sale held at Migration Celebration and noted that information handouts were available.

American Eel Project: John Boettiger provided a status report for the project first introduced to COT in February by guest speaker Stephen Curtis. John announced that volunteers were needed to set and then monitor two more eel-mop traps every two weeks for the next 12 months. John briefly reviewed the Scientific Method steps used in this phase of the study (see April's Chapter Newsletter).

Advanced Training Opportunities—Larry Ruhr displayed a slide showing the following, upcoming AT opportunities and directed members to the COT Calendar for additional information and registration links, as required.

- **Sea Turtle Patrol Training**—April 26, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Sea Center Texas
- **Spring Fling Host Training for Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary**—April 14, 9:00-10:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar: Understanding the Endangered Species Act**—April 24, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- **Introduction to Native Landscapes**—April 28, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (in Houston area, part one of four; fee charged)
- **Migration Celebration Kickoff Dinner Speaker Stuart Mackenzie of Bird Studies Canada on "Tracking Migration with MOTUS Microchips"**—April 13, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Chip Sweet added that Texas Stream Team Phase 1 and 2 training would be held on May 4.

Larry then reminded members that it was the Board's intention to hold another Bonus AT Day next January and he requested that those attending today's meeting provide input via informal survey questions (regarding length of the training, theme, and suggested topics) on the white board at the front of the room. The Sebesta Building at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds is available at no charge for next year's Bonus AT Day.



Publicity—Dick Schaffhausen asked members to submit testimonials regarding why they became Master Naturalists and/or the best part of being Master Naturalists so that he could use such documents to promote the next intern-training class. He also requested photos of COT activities and/or flora and fauna with accompanying descriptions and photo credits (but no straight-on shots of children's faces, which would require a photo release form) so that he could use these on the webpage and in promoting COT.

Nature Notes—Kristine Rivers spoke on the topic, "**Woodpeckers.**"

Kristine announced a 15-minute break.

Guest Speaker—Michael Eason—“Wildflowers of Texas.”

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

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

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