



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 9:49 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.
BASF Planetarium, Clute, Texas

Kristine Rivers, President, called the meeting to order and introduced today’s speaker, Judi James, Director of the BASF Planetarium; Kristina Denoncourt, who would be running the projector; and Wes Copeland, Director of the Center for the Arts and Sciences. Kristine then presented the agenda at 9:49 a.m. and reminded attendees to silence their phones. A sign-in attendance sheet was later circulated.

Attendance: 60 members were in attendance and one guest.

Host’s Report: Pam West thanked today’s snack team: Ed Johnson, Anna King, Ann Lange, Jo Myers, and George Valadez; she also thanked the Center for the Arts and Sciences for providing coffee and supplies.

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

1 June – 30 June 2018, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$8,104.04
Revenue Summary	\$ 49.77
Expense Summary	(\$ 0.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$8,153.81

Don asked members to contribute to the Center for the Arts and Sciences in the receptacle provided in order to offset the Center’s cost of providing today’s coffee and supplies. He also reminded those who had not yet paid COT annual dues to do so.

Membership—Pete and Peggy Romfh presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients. She added that three members will be recognized at the next meeting for achieving Water Specialist Certification; anyone interested in certifying should ask Oron Atkins to add the code in VMS.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—June 30	9,389	28,896	38,285

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—June 30	10,334	1,181	95



Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)		250-Hour Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)
Howard Allen	Anna King	Joanna Harlan Jackie Hicks	Jo Myers
Anne Bettinger	Becky McClendon		
George Bettinger	Huff		
Marlies Greenwood	Georgia Monnerat		

Outreach—Ruby Lewis informed members that Summer Library Programs are going well, and over 2,000 people have been impacted to date; she thanked volunteers for their help. Ruby then announced upcoming outreach and volunteer opportunities listed below.

- **Kids Day at Brazos Mall**—July 28, reptile program; email or phone Ruby to volunteer
- **Fill in the Gap**—August 8.

Mike Mullenweg thanked Camp Mohawk County Park Nature Camp volunteers and solicited a few more volunteers for next week’s camp at Quintana Beach County Park.

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>.

- **Bobcat Woods Trail Extension at SBNWR**—Phase 2 is a boardwalk across Cocklebur Slough, but work has not yet begun; Oron Atkins will be sending out a schedule to the current contact list; however, additional volunteers are welcome and should contact Oron if interested
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Day**—Every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Summer Library Programs**—check Calendar
- **Quintana Beach County Park Nature Camp**—July 16-19
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—July 19, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Exploration Green Nursery/Wetland Work Day**—July 19, 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **Pearland Natural Resources Work Day**—August 2 (on-going the first Thursday of each month at various locations)
- **GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**—September 8-9 (sign-up next month; note the event is on two consecutive days versus two Saturdays).

Advanced Training Opportunities—In Larry Ruhr’s absence, **Kristine** advised members to check the Calendar for upcoming opportunities.

American Eel Project Update—**John Boettiger** notified members that no American eels had yet been collected in any mops placed in the area; however, an eel had been caught (possibly a



Speckled Worm Eel) in the Sabine-Neches area. Photos and more information is available in the July *Chapter News*. John noted the purpose of the project is to learn more about American eels, to determine if they are in the area and if they can be collected via the mops.

Argentine Cactus Moth—Bill Ahlstrom updated members on this invasive moth that eats prickly pear cactus. Ruby Lewis' yard is the first known location of the moth in Texas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is monitoring the situation, collecting data and placing traps. The USDA wants more traps placed, and volunteers are also needed to survey and monitor in the area.

Bill presented slides depicting the moths, larva and egg sacks and images of the infestation in Ruby Lewis' yard. Eradication consists of digging up infected plants and burying them; the USDA is also considering a sterile-insect method of eradication. Bill also displayed a map of the area assigned to COT to survey and monitor. Many grids within the area are available and volunteers are needed to train in moth identification and in placing and monitoring traps. The next training opportunity is Friday, July 13, at 9 a.m. at the Angleton AgriLIFE building, and the VMS code is RM—Resource Management.

Kristine announced a 10-minute break.

Before the start of the guest speaker's program, Roy Morgan invited anyone interested in volunteering as a docent at the Museum of Natural Science to stay after the meeting to obtain information.

Guest Speaker—Judi James, Director, BASF Planetarium, Center for the Arts and Sciences, "This is Mars 2018."

At the end of the program, Denis James invited attendees to collect several handouts available at the front of the room, including: Volunteer opportunities at the Center (qualifies for VT), membership information, and a star map. Judi invited anyone interested to attend a night-sky program at the planetarium on August 18, from 8-10 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," 1.00 hours
- Chapter Business Meetings Code: "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time.

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