



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 11:08 a.m.
AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Kristine Rivers, President, called the meeting to order and reminded attendees to sign in and silence their phones.

Attendance—54 members were in attendance and no guests.

Host’s Report—**Pam West** thanked this month’s snack team, Mary Holler, Rainbo Johnson, Ellen Lasseter, Michael Lasseter, Ruby Lewis, and Kim Richardson.

Treasurer’s Report—**Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for October.

1 October – 31 October 2018, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,710.88
Revenue Summary	\$ 124.86
Expense Summary	(\$ 130.98)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 8,704.76

Don said that he will begin collecting 2019 COT dues in January.

Membership—**Pete and Peggy Romfh** presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—October 31	12,846	33,380	46,226

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—October 31	15,006	1,567	107

Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	250-Hour Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)	4000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold with Ruby Dragonfly Pin)
Neeta Allen Patty Brinkmeyer Christina Hartman Denis James Sherry Summers Carole Wenny	Patty Brinkmeyer Christina Hartman	Roy Morgan



Pete and Peggy also presented a certificate and pin to Kim Richardson for completing Texas Entomologist Specialist Certification.

Pete briefly explained a change to the descriptor for the RM code and two new NPA codes (see Attachment). He distributed handouts that explained the changes to VMS and indicated that an explanation was also included in the November COT newsletter. Peggy added that descriptors for VMS codes now appear in the system.

Outreach—On behalf of Ruby Lewis, Dave Brandes presented the following, upcoming activities and provided sign-up sheets as applicable:

- **DEEP at Brazoria NWR**—November 15, 27, 29, December 11 and 13; contact Tom Schneider
- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day**—February.

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>.

- **GCBO Native Plant Work Days**—every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Smith Point Hawk Watch**—Daily, through November 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Sue Heath
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—November 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Trail Maintenance at Quintana Neotropic Bird Sanctuary**—November 15
- **Pearland Natural Resources Work Day**—First Thursday each month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **BCPD Trail Day**—Hanson Riverside Park, November 15 (monthly on third Thursday), 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Bryan Adams Memorial Water Garden at BNWR**—rescheduled to November 28; time TBA (Later in the meeting, Phil Huxford received word that today's work day was back on).

Bryan Adams Memorial Water Garden at BNWR—Phil Huxford provided a brief presentation on the building of the garden, and he asked for volunteers to commit to its on-going maintenance.

Phil then mentioned some of the upcoming dates and local locations for the **Annual Christmas Bird Counts**. Several members added additional dates and locations, and someone mentioned that a listing could be found on the GCBO website; however, it is not yet posted. Information can be found on the Houston Audubon site at:

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

Finally, Phil recounted his participation at the recent **Seabourne Festival**, to which he brought snakes, and indicated that five TMN chapters participated. Phil estimated that he demonstrated to 1400 visitors.

Migration Celebration and COT Newsletter—Lisa Myers announced the 2019 Migration Celebration dates of April 12 for the kickoff dinner and April 27 and 28 for the event. She added that



the event requires many volunteers and hoped that Friends of Brazoria Refuges and the USFWS can once again count on COT members. She asked COT members to spread the word about Migration Celebration via the rack cards made available at the meeting. Information about Migration Celebration and the annual photo contest are at MigrationCelebration.org. Kim Richardson is running the photo contest.

Finally, Lisa asked members to provide articles and photos or ideas for articles for the COT newsletter.

American Eel Project Update—**John Boettiger** indicated that two eels have been captured to date—neither of them American eels; however, prime eel season is just starting. The project runs until March 2019.

Advanced Training—Kristine Rivers announced the following opportunity

- **Coffee & Cranes, Moody Gardens Golf Course Banquet Facility**—December 8, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.; tickets \$30/35; information at www.GINTC.org.

Larry Ruhr then provided an overview of COT's Bonus AT Day, "A Little R & R," to be held on January 26 and for which attendees can earn up to six AT hours. This year, more time will be scheduled for exhibits, and once again, lunch will be provided at no charge, and registration will be handled on line.

2019 Board Positions—**Kristine Rivers** announced openings for the following board positions:

- Membership Director
- Publicity Director
- Training Director

Dave Brandes announced the Board's slate of candidates to serve in 2019 (no change from current officers):

- President—Kristine Rivers
- Vice President—Bill Ahlstrom
- Secretary—Lisa Myers
- Treasurer—Don Sabathier

Dave added that anyone is free to run and the election will be held at the December General Meeting.

Peggy clarified the duties of the Membership Director—membership recruitment and oversight of data—and noted that she and Pete will continue to function as Data (VMS) Managers.

Acorns—Chris Kneupper brought Bur Oak, Shumard Red Oak and Nuttall Oak acorns and asked members to take and plant as many as they would like.

Nature Notes—Speaker unavailable.

Kristine announced a 15-minute break.

Guest Speaker—**Kristine Rivers** speaking on "A Wonderland of Winter Waterfowl."

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

T E X A S



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
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- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," 1 hour
- Chapter Business Meetings Code: "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time.

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

Cc: Board Members
Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary
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