



**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 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**—69 members were in attendance and no guests.

**Host's Report**—**Pam West** thanked this month's snack team, Bill Ahlstrom, John Boettiger, Neal McLain, Lisa Myers, and Don Sabathier. Pam circulated the 2019 General Meeting snack list and sign-up to bring snacks or a dessert to the January Bonus AT Day.

**Intern Presentations**—**Carolyn May-Monie** thanked everyone involved in this year's training effort and acknowledged the training team. She announced that Rose Wagner would be the intern class Board of Directors representative. She then handed over the meeting to the intern presentation teams, who spoke on the following topics:

"Mustang Bayou—A Comparison of Two Locations, Urban and Rural"

Team Members: Josefatz Jimenez, Debbie Nance, Jim Nance, Mary Schwartz, and Regina Tippet, with Herb Myers as mentor

"Fungi and Flora of Dow Woods"

Team Members: Brenda Martin, Kristin Plunkett, Catherine Sweet, Rose Wagner, and Taylor Wilkins, with Howard Allen and Jimmy Salinas as mentors

**Intern Graduation**—**Carolyn May-Monie** introduced and presented each intern with his or her TMN shirt and name tag.

Kristine announced a 15-minute break.

**Treasurer's Report**—**Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for November.

**1 November – 30 November 2018, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,704.76
Revenue Summary	\$ 674.50
Expense Summary	(\$ 1,357.06)
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,022.20

Don said that TDECU had retroactively decreased the account interest rate to 0.02% as of November 1. The ConocoPhillips \$1,000 transfer (matching funds) has been received. The month's balance sheet also reflects an in-kind donation of \$650.39 from two members' not accepting expense reimbursement for the State Annual Meeting. He added that unlike in past years, when the holiday party was hosted by individuals, this year's party will incur expenses.



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

**Membership**—On behalf of **Pete and Peggy Romfh**, Lisa Myers presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
<b>YTD Totals—October 31</b>	14,226	35,109	49,335 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An estimated 1,000 people are attributed elsewhere, e.g., Sea Center Texas, Angler Education, etc.

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
<b>YTD Totals—November 30</b>	16,122	1,663	107

Recertification 2018 <sup>2</sup> (Ocelot Pin)	2500-Hour Milestone (Polished Silver Dragonfly Pin)
Mary Holler Mike Mullenweg	Dick Schaffhausen

<sup>2</sup> 80 members have recertified to date; two or three more may recertify in December.

**Outreach**—**Ruby Lewis** presented the following, upcoming activities and provided sign-up sheets as applicable:

- **DEEP at Brazoria NWR**—December 13, January 10, 15, 24, 29, and 31; contact Tom Schneider
- **BNWR Open House at Discovery Center**—December 22 through January 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., unless there is a government shutdown. Consists of hosting duties and staffing displays (birders particularly needed to answer questions); contact Tom Schneider

**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
- **Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) and Contacts:** (information and links on Calendar)
  - San Bernard NWR, 12/14, Ron Weeks, Jennifer Wilson (gumbo dinner)
  - Brazos Bend, 12/15, Justin Bower (has a high count)
  - Freeport, 12/16, Mike Austin (includes BNWR)
  - Matagorda County, 12/17, Brent Ortego
  - Galveston, 12/18, Richard Mayfield



Atwater Prairie Chicken NWR, 12/19, Sumita Prasad  
Boliver Peninsula, 12/20, Steve Mayes  
Guadalupe River Delta, 12/20, Brent Ortego  
Brazoria-Columbia Bottomlands, 1/5, Tom Taroni and Martin Hagne (countdown dinner at Runway Grill)

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Work Day**—December 13, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact TBD
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—December 20, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Pearland Natural Resources Work Day**—January 3 (first Thursday each month); contact Cullen Ondracek
- **DEEP at Brazoria NWR**—January 10, 15, 24, 29, and 31; contact Tom Schneider
- **BCPD Trail Day**—Refuge Headquarters Office, date TBD, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg

Phil Huxford asked for volunteers to perform on-going maintenance of the Bryan Adams Memorial Water Garden at BNWR Discovery Center and provided a sign-up sheet.

**Christmas Bird Counts**—**Bill Ahlstrom** provided some additional information on several, local Christmas Bird Counts (see notes, above).

**Whooping Crane Trip**—Tom Morris conducted an informal survey of those interested in going on a whooping crane trip in February (arrive for dinner on a Tuesday night with trip on Wednesday). Approximately 30 people expressed interest.

**Eel Mop Project**—John Boettiger announced that Christmas Eve was the cutoff for project reports.

**Advanced Training**—Larry Ruhr announced that AT time is available for first-time attendees to the DEEP program. Potential docent volunteers follow a student group for the day to gain an overview of each of the five sessions. Larry also reminded members to register for the Bonus AT Day on January 26 (via the invitation, email, or Calendar) or Larry will register for you.

He then presented John Boettiger with a certificate for Texas Waters Certification. Larry added that he would like to meet in February with certified individuals to strategize ways to keep the momentum going for certification and projects.

**Election of Officers for 2019**—**Dave Brandes** introduced the current COT Executive Board and reminded members that the Board recommended the same for 2019:

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

He then asked for nominations from the floor. There being no additional nominations, Neeta Allen moved to accept the slate and Mike Mullenweg seconded the motion. Dave then requested a voice vote of the motion, which was unanimously elected.



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.  
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with the Holiday Celebration to follow. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," one 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, [Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu)