



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 11:42 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. She thanked those members leaving the board for their contributions and welcomed the 2019 elected officers and appointed board members. Kristine then reviewed chapter accomplishments in 2018.

Attendance—77 members were in attendance and one guest, Pam Hellman.

Host’s Report—**Pam West** thanked this month’s snack team, Christina Hartman, Ellen Lasseter, Michael Lasseter, Ruby Lewis, Candace Novak, and Lorna Witt.

Pam again circulated the 2019 General Meeting snack list and sign-up to bring snacks or a dessert to the January Bonus AT Day, adding that several more volunteers were needed for the monthly snack list. In addition, members need to register for the Bonus AT Day so that she will have an accurate head count for lunch.

Treasurer’s Report—**Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for December 2018.

1 December – 31 December 2018, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,022.20
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,064.12
Expense Summary	(\$ 288.57)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 8,797.75

Don said that the ConocoPhillips check to match a member’s volunteer work had been received and deposited in December and one TMN textbook was sold; expenses for the month included the cost of new-member (intern) name tags and name plates for the awards plaques in the lobby. Don is now accepting the \$25 member dues for 2019.

Membership—**John Boettiger** presented the following award recipients, impact data, and VT and AT information. Afterwards, he asked each member to provide him with the names of three potential COT members.

Initial Certification Achieved	Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	1000-Hour Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin)
Debbie Nance Jim Nance Mary Schwartz Regina Tippet Rose Wagner Taylor Wilkins	Julia Geisler Mary Helen Israel David Plunkett Regina Tippet (2018 Intern)	Jimmy Salinas Robert Salzer	Karen Leder



Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
2018 YTD Totals—December 31	14,624	35,384	50,008

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
2018 YTD Totals—December 31	17,527	1,767	107

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

- **DEEP at Brazoria NWR—PENDING, BASED ON END OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN;** January 10 (notice of cancellation received during the meeting), 15 (notice of cancellation received after the meeting), 24, 29, and 31, February 7 and 12; contact Tom Schneider
- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day—**February 23
- **Brazoria Heritage Day—**March 2.

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—**January 10, 24, and 31, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor cctaylor@tamu.edu
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day—**January 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Days—**every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Pearland Natural Resources Work Day—**First Thursday each month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **BCPD Trail Day—**Third Thursday each month, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; **CANCELLED FOR JANUARY**; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Big Tree Registry Project—**Dates TBD; contact Chris Kneupper.

Oron indicated that work on the Big Slough is on hold due to the government shutdown and weather. He then introduced Chris Kneupper, who introduced a new volunteer opportunity.

Big Tree Registry—Chris Kneupper announced that he had submitted a VPAR to and received approval from the COT Board regarding the reestablishment of a Brazoria County Big Trees Registry. The purpose of the registry is to foster interest in native trees and to gather interesting and potentially-important data—especially in the case of champion trees. According to his research, the last time any entity published a listing of various species’ largest known Brazoria County specimen was 1999, under the auspices of the Master Gardeners, including Master Gardener and COT members Carole Wenny and Barbara Burkhardt.



Chris is suggesting a “low-key” effort that would involve soliciting potential big tree and/or rare tree candidates from the public via the COT website and newspaper and magazine articles. Volunteers from COT would be dispatched to measure trees using the Theodolite app or other app and following Texas Forest Service guidelines. Volunteer hours are applicable for surveying time.

Kristine added that the board had approved a small expenditure to purchase special measuring tapes for project use.

Candace Novak indicated that the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science is desperate for volunteers, without whom the museum cannot be open.

Migration Celebration—Lisa Myers, FOBWR Vice President, presented a slide that included all Migration Celebration 2019 dates. She indicated that more than 160 volunteers are needed to run the event and urged members to volunteer when she solicits help in February.

- March 22, Nature Photo Contest deadline
- April 1, photo judging
- April 12, Migration Celebration Kickoff Dinner
- April 27 and 28, event dates, with setup on April 26 and cleanup on April 29.

Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR)—Dick Schaffhausen, FOBWR Treasurer, provided a brief overview of the organization and indicated that most FOBWR officers and members are also COT members and are involved with FOBWR outreach via DEEP, Migration Celebration and other events and activities. He distributed FOBWR membership brochures and urged COT members to join and support the organization.

Advanced Training—Bob Whitmarsh reminded members to register for the Bonus AT Day on January 26 (via the emailed invitation, Calendar or website). He presented the following opportunities, all of which he said would be posted on the Calendar by the end of the week:

- **Cradle of Texas Bonus AT Day: “A Little R&R”**—January 26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., AgriLIFE Building, Angleton; approved for up to six hours of AT; register via <http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/BonusAT-2019/index.html>; must register to attend in order to receive lunch
- **Monarch Workshop “Train the Trainer”**—January 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Dennis Johnson Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, Texas 77373; <http://online.nwf.org/site/Calendar?id=108921&view=Detail&src=flyer>; approved for five hours AT (no credit for lunch hour)
- **Surface-Water, Quality-Monitoring Training, Water-Quality Measurement and Hydrology**—March 18, University of Houston Clear Lake; cost is \$175; <https://www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/outreach/continuing-education/surface-water-quality-monitoring-training>; a three-day class is also offered March 19-21 for \$600; this includes the one-day course
- **Birding 101—January 12, 9 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. or January 19, 1:30 p.m.**; Galveston Island State Park, West Galveston Island; registration required; (\$5 park entry fee per person over age 13); approved for one hour AT; <http://www.galvestonnaturetourism.org/nature-events/>
- **Beachcombing 101—January 12 or 19, 10:00 to 11 a.m.**, 14901 FM 3005, Galveston Island State Park, West Galveston Island; registration required; (\$5 park entry fee per person over age 13); approved for one hour AT; <http://www.galvestonnaturetourism.org/nature-events/>



- **Texas Ornithological Society: Know Your Gulls**—January 26, 4 to 5 p.m.; Holiday Inn Meeting Room, 5002 Seawall Blvd, Galveston
- **Texas Water Webinar—ABC’s of Apple Snails and eDNA**—January 16, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; approved for one hour webinar AT (maximum of four hours of webinar AT can be applied to the eight-hour recertification requirement);
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2123673019572210178>.

Kristine added that she is conducting two events on January 17.

Chapter Advisor—John O’Connell announced two advanced-training opportunities:

- An urban riparian conference from February 27 through March 1, which entails a registration fee and hotel cost, but he can provide vanpooling for up to 15 people
- Local training for Bullseye assessment.

Whooping Crane Trip—Tom Morris indicated that he had previously emailed information on this year’s February 20 trip and a report on the last trip. He circulated a sign-up sheet and said he was ready to accept the \$60 per person charter fee.

State Representative—Connie Stolte advised members that the board is in the process of revising the Chapter’s Policy and Procedures Handbook (PPH) in order to make it more consistent with new Chapter Management and Operating Guidelines and new Chapter Bylaws developed by the state office. The new document, which will replace the Chapter’s PPH, is called the Chapter Operating Handbook or COH. Once the board approves the document, it will be submitted to chapter members for review and approval. She plans to email the document to members at least 10 days before the February meeting; the “old” document is on the COT website. Connie asked that questions be directed to her, Kristine or another board member.

Nature Notes—Chris Kneupper spoke on “Rare Oaks of Brazoria County,” using a presentation prepared by him and Robert Salzer. Afterwards, Chris indicated that he would post to the COT website a pdf file of today’s presentation and the 1999 Big Tree Registry. He briefly explained the functions of the Theodolite app that he uses and recommends for measuring big-tree specimens. Chris asked that members report to him specimens of the various rare oaks he discussed in today’s Nature Notes.

Kristine announced a 15-minute break.

Speaker—Joy Columbus, Vice President, Horticulture Houston Botanic Garden, spoke on “Creating Houston’s First Botanic Garden.”

T E X A S



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The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," 1.5 hour(s)
- 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