



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 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—74 members were in attendance and four guests: Joan Ickes, Jim Martin, Allen Neissar, and Archie Pratt.

Host’s Report—**Pam West** thanked this month’s snack team, Julia Geisler, Becky Huff, Jo Myers, Jim Nance, John O’Connell, and George Valadez. She also thanked those members who helped clean up after the Bonus AT Day event.

Treasurer’s Report—**Don Sabathier** presented the financial report for January 2019 and said that he is still collecting 2019 member dues.

1 January – 31 January 2019, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,797.75
Revenue Summary	\$ 1,734.13 ¹
Expense Summary	(\$ 1,124.98) ²
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 9,406.90

¹ Revenue includes 2019 dues, Bonus AT Day donations and an annual, anonymous donation.

² Expenses include Bonus AT Day food and supplies, and intern-class shirts.

State Representative—**Connie Stolte** noted that she had recently emailed members the revised Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) for review. Connie added that the document’s addendums were being worked on; however, the “old” addendums are available on the web as is the revised COH.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
To approve the December 2018 version of the TMN-COT Chapter Operating Handbook	Peggy Romfh	Pete Romfh	Motion approved by majority voice vote of members present

Membership—**John Boettiger** circulated eel-trap project information and then presented the following award recipients, impact data, and VT and AT information.



Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—January 31	419	231	650

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—January 31	980	367	72

Initial Certification Achieved	Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	Recertification 2019 (Golden-cheeked Warbler Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	1000-Hour Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin)
Brenda Martin Kristin Plunkett	John O'Connell	Lisa Myers Kristine Rivers	Roger Allen	Pam Peltier

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

- **DEEP at Brazoria NWR**—February 14, 21, 26, 28, March 5, 7, 19; contact Tom Schneider
- **Brazoria Heritage Day**—March 2, 9 a.m.; contact Ruby Lewis or David Plunkett.

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 at <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/Calendar.html>.

- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Work Day**—February 14, 28, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—February 21, 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**—February 21, Hanson Riverside County Park; (third Thursday each month), 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Big Tree Registry (FR) Project**—dates TBD; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary Trail Maintenance**—March 16, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; contact Tom Taroni
- **Nurdle Patrol**—Ongoing until further notice; contact Jace Tunnell
- **TMN Coastal Prairie Chapter (CPC)**—April 13; 3-4 COT members are needed to host approximately 35 CPC members visiting the area for birding; contact Oron Atkins.

Pete and Peggy Romfh said that a few Spring Fling host-station, volunteer openings remain.



Jackie Hicks announced Brew on the Bayou, a major fundraiser for GCBO. Volunteers are needed for the March 23 event that runs from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tricia Patton is the GCBO contact and tickets are \$20 each in advance and \$25 at the door.

Nurdle Patrol—Oron Atkins showed a short PowerPoint presentation on Nurdle Patrol. It is a new, citizen-science project begun last November by the Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (www.MissionAransas.org, jace@utexas.edu) to collect data on how many nurdles (industrial plastic pellets that escape into the environment through mismanaged handling activities) are on Texas Gulf Coast beaches and where they are located. Since surveying one spot on the beach takes relatively little time, Peggy Romfh suggested that volunteers enter a minimum VT time of 30 minutes.

Brazoria County Big Tree Registry—Chris Kneupper indicated that a webpage for the project was rolling out today and could be accessed via a link on the COT website. The project webpage contains various links to champion trees, historical trees, iNaturalist, etc.

Migration Celebration and USFWS Volunteer Lunch—Lisa Myers, FOBWR President, asked members to “save the date” for the USFWS Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex volunteer recognition lunch on Tuesday, March 26, at 11 a.m. at the Clute Event Center, 100 Parkview Drive. She added that more information would be sent soon via email.

Lisa also circulated volunteer sign-up sheets for Migration Celebration.

Marty Cornell, coordinator for the Migration Celebration Kickoff Dinner, asked members to “save the date” for the Friday, April 12, event. Tickets will be available in the next week or two. The dinner is the main Migration Celebration fundraiser.

Advanced Training—Bob Whitmarsh presented the following opportunities, all of which are posted on the Calendar:

- **Birding 101**, Galveston Island State Park, West Galveston Island—Every Saturday until March 15, 1:30 p.m.; approved for 1 hour AT
- **Monarch Butterflies: Train the Trainer**, San Antonio Zoo
- **Monarch Butterflies: Each One Counts**, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Galveston—February 22, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; approved for 2 hours AT
- **Artificial Reefs**, Brazosport Museum of Natural Science—February 26
- **Webinar: Mapping Cross-Scale Transitions in Rangelands**—February 26
- **Webinar: Western Monarch Populations Down 99%, How You Can Help**—February 26
- **Webinar: Recovering America’s Wildlife Act**—March 18.

Bob also requested feedback on the January Bonus AT Day and circulated a comment sheet.

Nature Notes—Tom Morris spoke on “Pelagic Birding.”

Project Wild and Aquatic Wild Workshop—Mary Holler announced this all-day workshop to be held on Wednesday, March 27, at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Discovery Center, and she provided a sign-up sheet. Up to 15 people can attend, and the cost of materials is \$50.



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

Kristine announced a 15-minute break.

Speaker—Stephen Curtis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Aquatic Biologist, spoke on “The American Eel Project.”

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting were:

- Presentations Code: "AT: I Received Training," 1.5 hours
- 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