



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

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 10am – 12:25pm
AgriLife Extension Bldg.
Angleton, Texas

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Attending Elected Members of the Board: Mike Mullins (President), Ed Barrios (State Representative), Jerry Eppner (Membership Coordinator), Gerald Forrest (Treasurer), Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator), Becky McClendon (Secretary) and Peggy Romfh (Vice-president).

Absent Elected Members of the Board: None

Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Barbara Burkhardt (Past President), Jerry Krampota (Chapter Host Coordinator), Neal McLain (Media Coordinator), Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Coordinator), Ruby Lewis (Outreach Coordinator), Joycelynn Grigson (2014 Training Class Representative), and Breana Kitchen (2014 Training Class Representative).

Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.) Mary Holler (LEEP Coordinator), John O'Connell, (Chapter Advisor, AgriLife® Extension Agent), and Tom Morris (Advanced Training Coordinator).

Guests: Chris Kneupper

Breana Kitchen will replace Sherri Wilson as 2014 Training Class Representative.

Quorum: 11/13 of the Elected and Committee Coordinator members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

Minutes:

Mike Mullins, President, presented the following minutes for approval:

Meeting Minutes	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
August Board	Barbara Burkhardt	Ed Barrios	Minutes approved by voice vote with one correction to remove VPAL comment.
August General	Barbara Burkhardt	Peggy Romfh	Minutes approved by voice vote with corrections to guests' names and total number of members of public impacted by volunteer efforts.

Action Items were reviewed and updated at this time in the meeting. **Table of Action Items** is included at the end of the minutes.



Treasurer's Report:

Gerald Forrest, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's reports for August.

Date	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
8/1/14 thru 8/31/14	\$6,589.32	\$6,328.82
Revenue Summary		
Dues Payments		\$0
Interest		\$1.38
Expense Summary		
Items for display case		\$32.05
Postage and Nameplates		\$86.00
President Awards Cake		\$49.99
Speaker's Gift Books		\$93.84
	Total Expenses	\$261.88

Mike asked Gerald for the beginning balance of 2014. Gerald reported that in January 2014 we started with a balance of \$5,344.92.

Membership:

Jerry Eppner, Training Coordinator, reported that members have been slow to report hours. Sandy Henderson and Neal McLain are close of receiving their 5000 hour pins.

Training:

Roy Morgan, Training Coordinator, has a list of 16 potential interns for the 2015 class.

Advanced Training:

Mike Mullins reported for Tom Morris, Advanced Training Coordinator. Tom has approved "Texas Invaders" citizen scientist training for 3 hours of Advanced Training. It will be set up and recorded like webinar training.

*Action Item – Neal McLain will add TEXAS INVADERS to webinar list for AT credit.

*Action Item – Mike Mullins will send reminder to the chapter about webinar AT and coding.

Past President, Barbara Burkhardt, needs time at the September General Meeting to address members.

*Action Item – Mike Mullins will appoint two members to the nominating committee to assist Barbara Burkhardt.

Media:

Neal McLain, Media Coordinator, will contact Barbara Bruyere about the progress of the library.



Programs Update/Gallery:

Peggy Romfh, Vice-President, reviewed the scheduled speakers for the coming meetings through October.

- September – Teri MacArthur - Mushrooms
- September – Advanced Training, Cathy Downs - Monarch Butterflies
- October – Mary Carol Edwards, Stormwater Wetland Coordinator, Texas Coastal Watershed Program – Support for the Stormwater Wetland Program in Brazoria County at the Pearland Nature Center and Kost Pond in Alvin
- November – Johnney Pollan – Antebellum Plantations in Brazoria County
- Peggy will schedule January's speaker before leaving office in 2015.

At the September General Meeting, Peggy needs a tentative count of members planning to attend the special AT day, September 18 with Cathy Downs. Cathy is preparing workbooks. Chris Kneupper is bringing milkweed plants for members to take home after the meeting. Members need to be made aware that the workshop is "admission" free.

Cathy is staying an extra day to share her monarch presentation with Danbury ISD. She will be working with the school's librarian. Chris will also have milkweed plants for the children to take home.

Photo Gallery:

Peggy shared that the photo gallery has now reached 40,000 views and has added 200 new species this year with a total of 829 species to date.

Outreach:

Ruby Lewis, Outreach Coordinator, reported on TMN-COT outreach for August.

- Brazoria Wildlife Refuge had a one day activity that involved Dave Brandes, 30 youths and 6 adults.
- West Columbia Library had a one day activity with Carolyn May-Monie, 29 youths, and 3 adults.
- Kids Day @ Brazos Mall on August 9 netted 9 TMN-COT volunteers working 43 hours and an estimated 300 members of the public

Upcoming Events include:

- September 13 & 20 - Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza – GCBO needs volunteers as well as the TMN-COT booth and help with reptiles. Ruby will have a sign-up sheet at the September General Meeting.
- September 18 – Danbury ISD Monarch Presentation
- September 22 – Hudson Woods (WHEEP) starts scheduling schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Tom Schneider is in charge of scheduling)
- October 14 – Birds of Prey – Angleton Library 6:30 pm
- October 18 – Kids Day on Buffalo Bayou
- November 22 – Festival of Lights in Lake Jackson (We will need to provide a canopy.)

*Action Item – Ed Barrios volunteered to check with David Plunkett about ordering a sturdy canopy for the chapter.



Roy Morgan made a motion that the chapter spend up to \$300 on a canopy. Gerald Forrest seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with no dissention.

Volunteer Updates:

Pete Romfh, Volunteer Service Coordinator, reported that he had been contacted by Gretchen Minor about programs to take area children fishing, Kids Fish. Gretchen put together a VPAR with CCA and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Pete is recommending this project.

Stormwater Wetlands project efforts are starting tomorrow, September 4 at the Clear Lake Nursery site. Chris Kneupper expressed a need for carpooling efforts. Mike Mullins will send a notice of all members about meeting spots and time to carpool to Clear Lake Nursery site. For future volunteer opportunities tied to this project, members should get on Mary Carol's email list to receive updates on scheduled times and places.

Chris Kneupper has been working with Tom Schneider and Thomas Adams on the possibility of a milkweed project. Nothing concrete has been worked out.

Ed Barrios, State Representative, needs time at the September General Meeting to discuss background checks for members volunteering in the school programs.

Host Report:

Jerry Krampota, Chapter Host Coordinator, reported the following:

- The Brazoria County Library System will bring breakfast for the TMN-COT September general meeting as a thank-you to the volunteers for all the summer presentations on Reptiles and Wild in the City.
- Members who volunteered to bring refreshments for the September General Meeting will be asked to bring them to the special AT day, September 17.

October 1 Board Meeting will be at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson at 10am.

Action Items:

Mike Mullins reviewed existing action items, as shown below and updated to reflect the current status of outstanding items. New action items are included on this table. All new items or updates are highlighted in **yellow**.

- Peggy suggested that the budget was completed. Members agreed.
- GCWR VPAL is awaiting signed agreement. Pete is contacting Sandy Henderson.
- Ed Barrios has sent an email to Michelle Haggarty and is waiting for a response concerning VT hours.
- Ed Barrios downloaded 501(C)(3) application form from US Government website. Peggy volunteered to look it over.



Cradle of Texas Board Action Register July 2014				
Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/P ending	Comments
Review of 2014 budget	Gerald Forrest, Mike Mullins	Aug. 1, 2014	Completed	Review and send out current year budget as aid for board to determine needs for 2014.
Target budget for members	Jerry Krampota, Peggy Romfh, Ruby Lewis, Roy Morgan, Neal McLain	September 1, 2014	Completed	Note – training lunch should be included in training budget. If committee or function requires funds, board members should identify as part of budget planning process.
Obtain approval from COT membership for PPH update for travel reimbursement	Mike Mullins	Sept. 10, 2014	Pending	
Send courtesy note to Harris County Chapters about COT volunteer support for George Observatory, Challenger Learning Center, and Houston Arboretum	Mike Mullins	Sept. 10, 2014	Pending	
Notify members about state rules on volunteer activities that are not covered for VT.	Jerry Eppner	Aug. 6, 2014	Pending	
Contact interns from 2014 class to provide coaching on filling out timesheets and to verify that intern has linked up to desired volunteer activities	Roy Morgan, Joycelynn Grigson, Sherri Wilson	Aug. 6, 2014	On-going	
Schedule discussion of Training Coordinator and a team to coordinate training in 2015.	Mike Mullins	Sept. 10, 2014	Pending	
Submit articles of interest to area newspapers such	Neal McLain, Dick	Sept. 10, 2014	On-going	Neal created a folder in drop box and posted articles there.



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as the <i>Tockonhon Naturalist</i> column and the President's Call to Service Award recipients	Schaffhausen Chris Kneupper			Dick has access to the folder to use for publicity.
Pete Romfh will renew and update VPAL with GCWR.	Pete Romfh, Sandy Henderson		Pending	VPAL should read 3 hours or time spent per shift on Hotline for VT hours. Awaiting signed agreement.
Ed Barrios will check with Michelle Haggarty concerning legitimate VT hours.	Ed Barrios		Pending	Episodic events and serving on boards of partners.
Ed Barrios will look into paperwork required to file for 501(c)(3) status.	Ed Barrios Peggy Romfh		On-going	Peggy will look over application.
Mike Mullins will appoint 2 members to help with nominating committee.	Mike Mullins Barbara Burkhardt		Pending	
Neal McLain will add Texas Invaders to webinar list for AT credit	Neal McLain		Pending	
Mike Mullins will send reminder to chapter for webinar AT and Coding	Mike Mullins		Pending	
Ed Barrios will check with David Plunkett about canopy for purchase by chapter.	Ed Barrios David Plunkett		Pending	

After a short break, the board reviewed the Training Coordinator's job. After much discussion and many suggestions, nothing was definitively decided.

President Mike Mullins adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Submitted by Becky McClendon, Secretary of TMN-COT



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Date	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Board Members													
Barrios, Ed	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				8
Burkhardt, Barbara	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				8
McClendon, Becky	1		1	1	1	n/a		1	1				6
Eppner, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				8
Morgan, Roy	1					n/a	1	1	1				4
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				8
Mullins, Mike	1	1	1		1	n/a	1	1	1				7
Romfh, Peggy	1		1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				7
Sponsors													
O'Connell, John		1	1			n/a	1						3
Stolte, Connie	1	1		1		n/a							3
Committee Coordinators													
Romfh, Pete	1		1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				7
Krampota, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				8
Lewis, Ruby	1	1		1		n/a		1	1				5
McLain, Neal	1	1	1		1	n/a	1	1	1				7
Morris, Tom	1	1				n/a							2
Quorum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	Y	Y	Y				
Training Class Representatives													
Kneupper, Chris	1	1	1	1		n/a	1	1	1				7
Schaffhausen, Dick	1	1	1			n/a							3
Joycelynn Grigson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1		1				2
Sherri Wilson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1		-	-	-	-	1
Breana Kitchen									1				1