



Cradle of Texas Chapter
Brazoria County Extension Office
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515-8903
<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>

Minutes: Board Meeting, January 9, 2007

President, Ed Barrios called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. then reviewed agenda.

1. Chili Cook-off

The Chili Cook-off between the Brazoria County Master Gardeners (BCMG) and COTMN, scheduled for Thursday, February 15th, has been postponed until sometime in March by the BCMG. No reason for the postponement was given.

2. Counting Sea Center Hours toward COT Volunteer Time

John Marshall, Volunteer Service Chair, talked to Connie Stolte, Sea Center TX (SCT), about ways that COT members can count their volunteer time at SCT and COT. Previously, COT volunteers could not count time at both places because of the double reporting to the state by SCT and the TX Extension Service. SCT is one of the main volunteer venues for COT members. This has resulted in COT members not being able to count SCT hours toward service awards.

Service hours at SCT will now be counted towards a volunteer's service hours, but will not be included in the total number of service hours reported to state by the Extension Service. In this way, hours can be counted toward service awards hours but not skew the total hours reported by the two state departments.

Connie will supply the hourly data to Tom. Ed will check with Tom to determine how Tom wants to handle the data.

It is estimated that SCT accounts for 1500 to 2000 volunteer hours/year.

3. Expanding Voting Privileges to Include Standing Committee Chairpersons

The COT Policies and Procedures permit only the elected members of the board to vote on questions before the board. Other chapters allow elected members and standing committee chairpersons to vote. Ed proposed that the Policies and Procedures be amended to allow all board members to vote.

The main doubt about such action was raised because the chapter officers are elected by the general membership, while the committee chairs are appointed positions. This might not give as much accountability to committee chairs. However, membership chair have a great deal of responsibility and should be allowed a vote to determine board actions that might affect them. After discussion, Rich Tillman moved, Jerry Eppner seconded a motion to allow committee chairs a full vote on the board of directors. The motion carried.

The action will be presented to the general membership for approval.

4. Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs

Outreach: Marty Cornell will continue with Jerry Eppner's good work from '06 and will add a few new opportunities. Marty is open to new and better ways of educating the public about the TMN/COT organizations. He plans to give presentations at different civic and service organizations to acquaint them with what MN has to offer in the way of education and volunteer service. He would appreciate input from members on different organizations to visit. He will continue with our outreach display at various functions, but we get little response from these outings towards new members. Laura Brandes suggested that we give all members copies of the brochures that the TMN and COT chapter put out, to give to friends and others they feel would be interested in becoming MN. The goal is to have a full fall class of 25 interns.

Treasurer: Jan Kater ('06) gave his final report and gave out copies of his transaction register. The register contains all information needed for repayment. The 2007 budget and actual expenditures are posted on the website. (A copy is included in the Secretary notebook.)

Jerry Eppner ('07) reminded us that dues for '07 are now due. A discussion of the necessity of dues again ensued with Marty feeling that class fees covered the necessary operating expenses of the chapter for a fiscal year. Others, Jerry/Jan/Barbara, felt that dues were necessary to give us a "cushion" and maintain a positive balance.

Ed appointed the Audit Committee: Ed Barrios, John Marshall, and Jerry Eppner. Jerry and Jan will work together to get the books in auditable condition.

Volunteer Service Chair: John Marshall thanked '06 chair, Carolyn May-Monie for the excellent job she did in '06 and for all the help she gave him in bringing him up to speed on his responsibilities as committee chair. He will focus in on what activities count toward volunteer hours and a prioritization of current COT projects. He hopes to give the membership a better understanding of the projects and promote opportunities for our volunteers. The projects will be ranked according to benefits of the projects, how they relate to each other, and the rankings of our partners of their projects. John will be helped on prioritization by Dave Brandes and Jerry Eppner. (Also see #2, Sea Center Volunteer Hours)

Vice President/Programs: Justina Dent asked about general business meeting for '07. She reminded us that, in the past, we had AT training and business meetings on an every other month rotation. Should we resume that practice or continue to have AT every month with only short business meeting before the speakers? It was decided that business meeting would be held once/quarter. This will still allow enough AT time to meet recertification requirements for the year.

Justina also pointed out that there are many AT opportunities available in the area. We need to communicate these opportunities better and encourage members to use the Advanced Training Page on our website. Members should also be encouraged to network and form car pools when attending lectures in nearby locations.

Marty and Laura suggested Mammals-David Heinecke, Prairies—David Rosen, as '07 AT topics. Justina suggested Mushrooms and Dragonflies. She asked for further suggestions and Laura added "Jetties and the Deeper Gulf Waters. Marty said that Al Clark's son is an entomologist with the Forrest Service and might be interested in giving one of our programs.

Secretary: Barbara Burkhardt reported that she had been given the notebooks containing meeting minutes from past years. She will get a new notebook organized for '07. She will meet with Cecilia Riley, GCBO, to discuss the garden projects at the GCBO headquarters and at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary.

President: Ed asked for input into the best time to hold monthly board meetings. Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Extension Service Bldg., in Angleton. This is one week before general meetings.

Sponsor: Texas Co-operative Extension Service—Rich reported that he has had a great deal of positive feedback from folks who benefit from our educational programs. The kids are getting a lot from them. Dunes Day is Saturday, January 20th.

Chapter Host: Jerry Krampota will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting so members can sign up to bring refreshments for the '07 meetings. He will call or e-mail to remind folks of their dates. Mary Helen will also include a reminder in the monthly newsletter. The chapter saves between \$250.00 and \$300.00/year by our member's generous gifts of food.

It was suggested that another person be asked to help Jerry during the fall classes. This would help Jerry in not having so far to travel for classes held in the southern part of the county.

News Letter: Mary Helen Israel thanked everyone for their contributions to the news letter. She asked that everyone be prompt in getting their information in before the deadline. She will include reminders of meeting hosts in the newsletter. Mary Helen will also include reminders about recruiting for the fall MN class.

Past President: Carl Dodson reported that there were two INEOS tours scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd and Friday, March 9th. Volunteers are needed.

Web Master: Neal McLain handed out a report on the status of the website, which is included in the secretary's notebook. He reported that the "**COT Resources**" forms have been removed from the Forms page because they need revision. If you would like to help, please contact Neal.

He also needs the latest versions of the State By-laws, State Operating Procedures and the Chapter Policies and Procedures. Barbara B. will send him a copy of the Chapter P/P. Ed said that he had gotten a copy of the State OP, but that they were in e-mail form, not an electronic copy. He will send this to Neal.

Neal also requested updates for the calendar AT programs, as soon as the dates are filled. He would also like photos for the scrapbook.

Advanced Training: Roy Morgan has been unable to get in touch with John Thayer. Roy needs to get contact and other information from John so that he can compile a list of AT opportunities to send out to COT members. He hopes that our partner organization will take a more active role in providing AT for the membership. Training obtained from them is automatically approved as AT. He plans to send an e-mail to the membership asking suggestions for topics from the membership.

Training: Laura Brandes reported that she and Dave have had meetings with Marty to coordinate the change over of training chairmen. They have been reviewing areas that need to be strengthened, such as mammals and prairies.

She questioned the need for purchasing the state curriculum book, since class surveys show that they are rarely used by the interns. However, this book is required by state for all interns.

The 2007 classes will begin on Wednesday, September 5th and runs through Wednesday, November 14th. Laura suggested that we start getting a written agreement from the speakers, since we had several problems with last minute cancellations this year. She also asked the board for suggestions for a list of back-up speakers.

A guest at the Cathy Adams Clark Photography class last summer was an artist. He sketched some of the members during the class. These sketches were given to ED and he shared them with the board. The original sketches will be presented to the subject at the general meeting.

There being no further business, Roy moved, Marty seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted:
Barbara Burkhardt
Secretary