

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



Minutes: Board Meeting, September 24, 2007

President Ed Barrios called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Present: Ed Barrios, Carl Dodson, Dave Brandes, Tom Morris, John Marshall, Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Justina Dent, Roy Morgan, Meal McLain, Ellis Burkhardt, Barbara Burkhardt

Agenda:

Topic	Desired Outcome	Lead
Liability Issues at Volunteer Locations	Understanding of coverage we are afforded	Ed Barrios
Financial Report	Review current financial reports	Jerry Eppner
New Training Class Update	Review latest information regarding the new class	David / Laura Brandes
GCBO Gardens/Work Days	Communication of requests from GCBO	John Marshall
Partner Needs, Prioritization	Understanding of demands on our chapter	John Marshall
Prairie Restoration, Wetland Construction	Update on project status	Ed Barrios
TMN-COT T Shirts	Agreement to proceed	Barbara Burkhardt
Report from other board members & committee chairs	Discuss any issues / projects that the board should be aware of	All

Liability Issues: It was brought to Ed's attention that the chapter may not be fully aware of the liability coverage requirements offered from TPWD and TCE. While, the formal partner agreements allow us to be covered by TPWD insurance, we need to fill out the Liability Release forms every year and make sure that the state gets copies of the forms. We also need to supply TPWD with a membership roster each year. It was proposed that the Liability release forms be filled out when members pay their dues. Ed will talk with a TCE lawyer about this.

The BCMG add a \$1.00/year fee to their dues to cover cost of insurance. Ed will get more information from the Master Gardeners. Ed will also talk to Sonny about insurance requirements.

501(c)(3) organizations receive limitation on liability. The chapter should pursue getting 501(c)(3) status.

The topic will be discussed at another board meeting after the information is gathered.

Financial Report: Jerry reported a balance of \$5157.51. Collection of 2008 dues will begin November 1, 2007.

The liability release forms for 2008 will be collected at the same time.

Training Class Update: Dave reported that the training classes are going well. This group likes to get outside for the field trips. There is a visitor coming to take a class he missed during the training at the Lindheimer Chapter's (Comal County) training sessions.

GCBO Gardens/Work Days: John had a conversation with Cecilia Riley at the XRX earlier in the month. Cecilia needs help with the gardens. GCBO is willing to provide: materials, machinery and some man power. Cecilia would like for us to help by scheduling three to four workdays. GCBO will prepare a list of items they would like for us to accomplish on these workdays. Barbara will help John with the schedule and project planning. Barbara will set up a meeting with Cecilia, Susan and Carole for after November 1. This has already been approved as a Chapter project.

Volunteer Demand: John went over the slides he presented to the '07 class informing them of volunteer opportunities. We are being asked to help more and more organizations. We have 73 active members and 15 interns in the new class. There is just no way we can do everything our partners would like us to do.

As of September 1,'07, members had turned in just over 6000 hours or 133 hours/person. John asked if there was anyway to break down the hours according to partner organizations. There is no way to do this at the present time. We need to prioritize our partner list and the projects they request us to do. We may need to drop some of the partners we are not actively interested in. This should be considered by the first of 2008.

Prairie Restoration/Wetland Construction at Master Gardeners' Education Station: We were asked by the BCMG to help with design and planning of a wetland prairie at the Education Station. John Thayer, Susan Severance, Marty Cornell and Ed have agreed to help with the project. Justina will supply a list of native plants from the Native Plant Society to help with the project. The MG have money to construct a wetland from grants they have received.

MN Shirts: Barbara reported that she has been asked by several members to get regular style t-shirts with the MN/COT logo. She looked into this and found that creating the silk screen for the logo will cost between \$100.00

and \$125.00. The cost of the Jerzees 50/50 shirts will be 12.00 each. Barbara asked for approval to get EDP to design the silk screen logo exactly like the embroidered ones. Jerry moved, Ellis seconded that we proceed with getting the silk screen done and shirts made up.

2008 Election of Officers: Ed appointed the nomination committee of Carl Dodson, chair, Carole Wenny and Mary Helen Israel. The slate of officers will be presented at the November meeting. Elections are in December.

Sea Turtle Project: Dr. Andy Landry is writing a grant proposal for the study of sea turtles along the Texas gulf coast. He has requested a letter of recommendation from the chapter to enclose with the grant. Ed will write the letter for Dr. Landry.

Committee Chair Reports: Marty is putting together a roster of the COT Chapter which will include photos. The new interns will be included in this roster.

Carl needs volunteers for the October 12th class at INEOS.

Barbara will send a sympathy card to Cherie McBride for the death of her mother, Dickie Nowlin.

Service Awards: Certification: Pam West

Recertification: Rich Jespersen, Georgia Monnerat, Ramah O’Gorman, Carole Wenny, Robert Woods

Bronze Award (250 hrs): Susan Severance

Silver Award (500 hrs): Jim Calvert, Ramah O’Gorman, Carole Wenny

There being no further business Ellis moved, Jerry seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 11:03 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Barbara Burkhardt

Secretary