



Cradle of Texas Chapter
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
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<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>

Minutes: Board Meeting, May 7, 2008

President Dave Brandes called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with a review of the meeting agenda.

Present: Dave Brandes, Laura Brandes, Earl Roberts, Joan Simonsen, Ed Barrios, Ellis Burkhardt, Neal McLain, John Marshall, Justina Dent, Jerry Krampota, Rich Tillman, Mary Helen Israel

Agenda:

Safety or Naturalist Culture Moment:

Mary Helen shared the pride and delight she experienced when her eight year old grandson caught a spider, researched its identity and saw its babies hatch. **Laura** watched with interest when students crabbing found no crabs, but instead seized the moment to start examining the surrounding grass for other creatures of interest such as insects or spiders. **Earl** noted that Gordon the 300 pound Grouper at Sea Center Texas would be placed in isolation for a couple of weeks with an eye infection. Gordon's upcoming birthday party would be cancelled. An Atlanta veterinarian was being consulted for Gordon's treatment. It was suggested the TM COT membership might be solicited for "Naturalist Moments" to include in the COT Monthly Newsletter.

ConocoPhillips INEOS Program with Sweeny Elementary:

Rich has agreed to head the co-ordination of the INEOS volunteers replacing Carolyn May- Monie who has had to step down to attend to family matters. He thinks there may be an opportunity to do some research as to the effectiveness of the education program for the

P-K through fifth graders who participate in the program by looking at their TAKS stats. The schedule has been set for this fall beginning Oct 8. **Dave** will e-mail Tracie Teague for course descriptions. **Ed** reminded Dave to have the partnership agreement with INEOS signed.

Review Action Register:

*Ed reported that he has the COT By-laws and recommended changes. He is in the process of updating these and plans to have them ready for the next board meeting. COT liability waivers need to be signed annually. These papers are still coming.

*John Marshall and Joan reported on the current updating of the active and inactive roster. Joan contacted inactive members for their current status. John Marshall has all the data he now needs to compile the official list. A board discussion on the official definition of what constitutes an active member led to the general consensus that an active member is one who has been initially certified, pays dues and/or reports volunteer hours. A voting member is one who has paid dues for the current year.

*Dave reported that he would kill the action item for Cactus Moth handouts since the reporting period had passed.

Training Update:

Laura reported all class speakers for the fall intern training are now complete. Bryan Adams will be the graduation speaker for the fall intern class. She has already signed Gary Clark up for the 2009 intern graduation speaker.

Outreach:

Laura reported that past results have shown that new members come from two main sources: personal contact and newspaper articles. A newspaper article will be coming out in May advertising the fall intern training. Two recent outreach events were deemed limited in effectiveness. Enviofest's TMCOT exhibit had two people express interest. The Volunteer Fair was not well attended. The vendors visited each other's displays. Board members discussed other avenues of getting the TMCOT known in the area: GCBO newsletter,

Coastal Expo, Fishing Fiesta, retirement planning seminars, and BassPro classes.

Announcements:

*Dave gave an update on the TAMU Floating Classroom. The class of twenty-five has been filled for May 19.

*Earl reported that four AT hours would be given for the TAMU field experience.

*Dave has had another request from Varner- Hogg State Historic Site for additional help in identifying and care of their flora. Although they are no longer COT partners, Dave will mention this need at the May General Meeting.

Roundtable:

*Mary Helen gave the newsletter deadline as Friday.

* Ed reported that the week of June 6 school teachers from the state would be participating in training. Volunteers are needed for Friday afternoon sessions at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. He will have available a sign-up sheet at the May General Meeting.

*Neal announced that one can seek information from the TMNCOT Web page for contact people such as interest in carpooling.

*Justina inquired about summer social activities for members. Suggestions were possibly a Monday night at Sea Center Texas, an ice cream social and a fish fry. Last year's COT social was June 8 and well attended. No action was taken.

Action List:

*Mary Helen, include requests for Safety or Naturalist Culture Moments in the monthly newsletter.

*John Marshall, provide a membership roster of members, their city, and phone number for Mary Helen to include in the newsletter. .

* Dave, suggest Bryan Adams for a speaker at the State Fall Meeting.

*Dave, e-mail Tracie Teague for ConocoPhillips course descriptions.

*Dave, sign ConocoPhillips partnership agreement.

*Ed, prepare By-law changes for June board meeting.

*Ed, continue search for COT liability waiver forms.

*Ed, prepare sign-up June 6 sheet for May General Meeting.

*Rich, contact Carolyn May-Monie for ConocoPhillips coordinating information.

* Laura, submit Fall COT Intern Training article to newspapers.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Simonsen
Secretary

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