



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

## **TMN COT February 4, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes**

**President Dave Brandes** opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. with a review of the agenda.

**Action Register:** Jerry is continuing his work of the check-up of the membership roster which is necessary for certification records.

**Present:** Ruby Lewis, Justina Dent, Sandy Henderson, Mary Helen Israel, Jerry Krampota, Connie Stolte, Jerry Eppner, Carolyn, Schein, Laura Brandes, Dave Brandes, Neal Mc Lain, Earl Roberts, Joan Simonsen

### **Naturalist Culture Moments:**

Justina was pleased to hear people in her local county store talking about the nearby eagle nest with two babies. Several people had excitedly reported spotting the eagles by CR 1462 and the Brazos River.

### **COT Invader's project update and approval:**

Dave reported that 30 plus people, 25 of them from COT, attended the recent Texas Invader's Workshop sponsored by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and TPWD. Dave will plan some field trips for the groups to survey area parks and refuges. He has already gotten approval from Richard Hurd and Jennifer Sanchez for such surveys. The COT board approved the Texas Invaders as a COT project.

**Intern Training Update:**

Laura gave the Board the news that we have seven active interns who have now finished their four hour basic classroom instruction. All have turned in their respective plans for further study. She has worked with John Boettiger about fitting AT with intern curriculum. Presently she has planned a training class on Birds for Feb. 23, and future classes being planned include plants and archeology. The Board reviewed an intern application's request for a waiver on fees and approved a \$20 discount.

**Treasurer Update and Transfer:**

Sandy stated that the transfer to being the new treasurer went well. She has devised an invoice form to be used for people requesting funds for their project expenses. She discovered several unclaimed TMNCOT shirts in the upstairs storage room. It was suggested she offer to sell them to interested members at the next General Meeting.

**Brazoria County Park Department Day Camp Program:**

Dave reported that upon meeting Richard Hurd, BCPD Director, one of the first things he did was compliment the COT members, naming specifically Jerry Krampota for the great work done on the Camp Mohawk trail project. He wants to develop a Day Camp program at Camp Mohawk. It would be a four- hour morning summer program which would run one to two weeks per session over a possible six week period. He would like TMN planning input for session activities and eventually volunteers to assist with the Day Camp Program. Laura volunteered to be his contact person, and Laura, Ruby and Joan volunteered to explore camp activities with Richard Hurd.

**State Requirements for Reporting Time and Suggestions for Home Citizen Science Projects:**

The state requires that TMN members report as a log the date, activity and hours for approved projects. They suggest that at Home Citizen Science projects be of the nature that can the data can be entered into a database that will be published or open to the public for study. These projects, while certainly valuable, do not address the

TMN mission as much as other projects as few people are directly affected. Therefore, they suggest volunteer hours turned in be limited.

In accordance with the state suggestion, the Board approved the following motion: For Home Citizen Science projects conducted entirely at home the (turned in) limit is two hours per week per Home Citizen Science Project. Any variance to this rule may be appealed to the Board for extenuating circumstances.

### **Roundtable Items:**

Earl - Brazos Bend State Park will be having a Birds of Prey program which will count for AT. He will send the information to Mary Helen. He, also, stated he is mentoring two interns.

Joan - read excerpts of a Houston Chronicle news article "Run-in with a Hawk," written by Gary Clark in which three COT members were listed by name: as Master Naturalists, Ellis and Barbara Burkhardt, and as a Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescuer, Sandy Henderson.

Jerry K. - stated that COT hosting is going well. There are only three more people needed to volunteer for summer dates. The committee uses three people per month to provide refreshments. He will seek to fill the final slots at a General Meeting.

Laura- said her intern training job is both challenging and rewarding.

Carolyn - has been investigating advertising fees and getting COT feature stories submitted for local newspapers. Feature coverage appears somewhat iffy at this time. Some companies require a two week notice.

Mary Helen- reminded Board members news articles are due this weekend. She has been working with a reporter of The Facts about getting information into their paper in the future.

Connie - thanked the COT members in advance for their helpful volunteers who will serve at the upcoming Feb. 28 Nature Day at Sea Center Texas. One of the activities will be a scavenger hunt. She expressed her appreciation, also, to the Board for holding their

meeting at Sea Center Texas every three months so she can attend the meetings.

Jerry - after three months as Membership Chair he is working through the glitches with Neil and Dave's help.

Sandy - GCWR will have a workshop Feb 24. at 8:30 a.m. The fee is \$5.00 and will count for 3.5 AT. The workshop will be held at the Brazosport Arts and Science Building in Clue.

Justina and Ruby - will circulate a volunteer request form at the Feb. General Meeting for Nature Day volunteers. They wondered what outreach events did COT participate in last year. Dave will send the information from last year's calendar to them.

Neal - reminded the Board that the Migration Celebration Website information is up and running. It will be held April 17, 18 and 19 at SBNWR.

Dave - reported for John Boettiger that AT for March 11 will be Hurricane Ike Impact on Upper Texas Coast Salt Water for Fish and Hatcheries by Robert Vega, Marine Hatcheries Program Leader, TPWD.

### **Action Items:**

Dave - will pull out outreach events from last year's calendar and forward to Ruby and Justina.

Ruby and Justina will prepare a Nature Day volunteer sign-up sheet For the General Meeting.

Jerry E. - will continue his work on up-dating the active member roster.

Dave - will e-mail the Run-in with Hawks article to Neal for placing on the website.

Jerry K- will get the last three slots filled for hosting refreshments for the General Meetings.

Earl - will e-mail Mary Helen the BBSP Birds of Prey program information.

Sandy -will provide members and opportunity to buy the extra TMNCOT shirts at the General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Joan Simonsen  
Secretary

Jhs: MN\_Min\_Feb\_Board\_Final

