



Cradle of Texas Chapter
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
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TMN COT April 1, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Present: Laura Brandes, Dave Brandes, Neal McLain, Mary Helen Israel, Sandy Henderson, Earl Roberts, Joan Simonsen, Jerry Eppner, Justina Dent, Ed Barrios, Rich Tillman, Carolyn Schlein

Safety or Naturalist Culture Moment

Laura reported a too close encounter with a three- inch, female blue crab which bit her when Marty Cornell handed it to her at a recent DEEP class at BNWR.

Justina was impressed by the one billion people worldwide who shut off their lights for one hour in support of environmental concerns.

Joan learned the difference between a raven and a crow when a crow appeared in her yard.

Jerry announced that GCBO has an open desk at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary for birding enthusiasts every afternoon from 12:00 to 4:00 in April with a guided walk at 3:00 p.m.

Rich informed Board Members of this Saturday's Water Workshop being held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the West Columbia Civic Center by the Galveston/ Houston Area Council of Nature Conservatories.

Laura reminded everyone of the Night Nature walk being held that evening and the Dunes to Beach intern trip Monday, April 6.

Mary Helen reported that Saturday, April 4, the city-wide E-Waste Collection site would be at Dow.

Intern Shirt Order

Laura inquired of the board their desire for the manner in which intern shirts were to be ordered. Should it be individually as interns graduated or stock them as the intern class begins? It was decided that she would use the intern applications for the number and size for a group order. Presently, there are three or four shirts left over from previous classes. These and any future left-over shirts would be put up for sale at \$10 each for COT members at the general meetings.

President Dave reported a 12% response to the 24 letters sent out to uncertified members inquiring of their desires concerning certification. Some expressed an interest in completing their certification and some do not go on-line to get our announcements of meetings and events.

Migration Celebration

Ed reported that there are 150 slots for volunteers with most of them already filled. He will present the list at the April General Meeting to fill those places. More volunteers are needed this year because additional activities have been added by popular demand on Sunday. The number one attraction is the marsh buggy ride. Ed reminded the members of the bake sale this week.

Camp Mohawk Summer Day Camp

Laura reported that the next planning meeting will be a sack lunch event following the April COT General Meeting at the AgriLife Extension Office. A program is still needed for the Saturday Family Wrap-up following each June 15 and 22 week. It was suggested that perhaps Robert and Kaye Lookingbill would present their bird banding of raptor show. The group is scheduled to meet again May 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Camp Mohawk to finalize the Day Camp plans.

Sheldon Lake State Park and Armand Bayou

Ed presented these two projects for Tall Grass Prairie Restoration. The board approved these as projects to support. Intern Steve Upperman will be the contact person representing COT.

Follet's Island Dune Project

Richard Hurd, BCPD Director, has requested a commitment letter approving his dune project. Plantings on the dunes would be monthly beginning in February through May. The board approved his request.

It was suggested to have him present the dunes project to a General Meeting for COT members to become acquainted with the details.

Time Sheet Questions

Jerry discussed with the board questions which have occurred about how volunteer hours are determined and reported. He reminded the board that TMN guidelines state that one can not count hours for which one is compensated.

Intern Pilot Program

Laura presented a comprehensive review of the present COT intern class progress. Two sets of groups have entered the COT training program since January. She explained revisions in the intern packet needed for clarification and record keeping which has been her biggest problem. She suggested that the certified COT volunteers who help with the training be willing to present a class twice a year. One class would be between January and March and another again in the fall between September and Thanksgiving. She suggested the COT brochure be updated every two years. She has found the best days for classes has been Monday, Friday and Saturday.

She stated the interns are eager, enthusiastic and appreciate the chance to select their areas of interest. She sets up their required classes and keeps a copy of their time sheets on which they report weekly. They will not enter their timesheets on the COT website until their training is completed when they will be given the needed instructions. The interns were especially pleased with their recent class on March 28 given by Johnney Pollan, Brazosport College, who spoke on " Archaeology". After a three hour lesson they had three interesting hours of hands on experience at the Lake Andrew Jackson Plantation. April 6 a required class is planned for "From the Beach to the Coastal Prairie" with Rich Tillman, Brazoria County AgriLife Marine Agent.

Roundtable

President Dave asked Board Members for their feedback concerning interaction with the present intern class. He has found

them interested and was glad to see how well they received their field experience with the Archeology class.

Sandy has met several of them who are also Master Gardeners. They expressed appreciation for the flexibility of the class and liked the DEEP program at BNWR.

Joan discovered they are friendly and was pleased to see so many of them participating by attending the General Meeting, AT and DEEP program.

Neal said he would be willing to put intern class information on the COT website.

Earl wished to commend Laura and Dave for all work they have done. He suggested the pilot program be presented at the state meeting in October. He has enjoyed meeting the interns at his greeting station for General Meetings.

Rich asked for an update on the Sweeny Education Program. Mary Helen reported that due to Hurricane Ike the classes were cancelled this year, but she anticipates they will be resumed.

Mary Helen reminded Board Members that newsletter articles are due Saturday, April 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joan Simonsen
Secretary

Jhs: MN_Min_Mar_Board_Final

