



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

## **TMN COT June 3, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

**Present:** Dave Brandes, Laura Brandes, Steve Zilliox, Clyde Zilliox, Earl Roberts, Mary Helen Israel, Carolyn Schlein, Joan Simonsen, Ed Barrios, Neal McLain, Sandy Henderson, Jerry Eppner, Ruby Lewis, Jerry Krampota, Juntina Dent

### **Naturalist Culture Moment:**

Jerry E. at Sea Center Texas saw a red-eared slider turtle lay eggs. They will hatch in about 60-90 days.

### **Review Action Register:**

President Dave presented the Guidelines for Volunteer Service. The changes made were approved by the COT Board.

### **Matagorda Trip:**

As trip organizer Steve Zilliox reported on the May trip. A balance of \$707.52 was left from the budget due to last minute cancellations. The COT Board approved the room fee of \$40 be returned to those unable to attend. They also approved the motion that the absentees be placed on the bottom of the Matagorda list for the fall trip.

Ed Barrios reported that there were many good comments from the trip but two concerns of attendees. First, some objected to a couple from Oregon joining the group when the boat was exclusively

chartered by COT. Second, it was suggested clarification for the next trip might include information that people can take of a change of clothes for bay and ocean seining and a small lunch ice chest. There is a place to store their backpacks and lunches at the classroom which also has bathroom facilities available. It would have been helpful to know a covered trailer took the group from place to place as it seems a few people cancelled because they thought they would have to carry all their belonging on an all day hike.

The Board approved seven and one half hours of Advanced Training and five hours of travel time for the Matagorda trip.

### **Volunteering Out of Our County:**

The need for understanding on this matter involved interns who have come from the northern part of the county who have participated in adjoining county activities. The Board stated that Volunteer Time can be counted, but the activity needs to be approved ahead of time as a COT Chapter project unless they are working for an approved partner in Texas.

### **Finalize What to Do with Inactive Letter Results:**

Following discussion, President Dave suggested that these people be removed from the regular active roster at the end of the year: Linda David, Al Kinback, Carolyn Livanec, Therese McAuliffe, Cherie and Glen McBride, Cherly McMullen, Betty VanHoeven and Pat Weeks. Don Bush does not have e-mail and will be added to Secretary Joan list of those receiving General Meeting information via postal mail.

### **Intern Training Update:**

Laura reported that presently there are 14 COT interns. Five interns have completed their training. Three have certified and nine are presently pursuing their training. Laura has scheduled 28 hours of training from September 2009 to May 2010.

Evaluation for the pilot intern project was discussed. It was suggested a comparison with previous classes be done. Laura stated that the key to recruiting all 14 interns came from one-on-one contact. They have all become involved right away in COT activities. Her main problems upon them entering the program involved volunteering already going on outside of Brazoria County and aiding them in

creating a balance between training and volunteer hours. She had to revise their time sheets four times in order to simply record keeping.

Measures suggested by President Dave to evaluate intern training include:

- Number registered
- % graduated within 15 months
- % certified within 15 months
- Number of VT hours of those who graduated within 15 months
- % who attended general meeting within 15 months

Future General Meeting Minutes are to include the number of people who attended recorded within the minutes. Presently the sign-in sheet has been the record of attendees which is a separate format.

Laura has two suggestions concerning advertising. First, publicity needs to be somebody besides the training leader. Secondly, the COT pamphlet needs updating for helpful outreach use. These are regularly placed in the COT booths at area functions.

**Announcements:**

Freeport Fishing Fiesta - July 3-4. The COT display booth will need volunteers from noon to 6:00 p.m. to assist Dave and Ruby.

The reptiles will also be on view. Ruby will solicit volunteers at the June General Meeting.

**Roundtable:**

Ed - David Heinicke, Park Naturalist at Brazos Bend, will now be leading monthly kayaking trips. The next trip is scheduled for Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Ed - July 14 the TMN Coastal Prairie chapter will tour Sea Center Texas. An informal meeting following the tour will be held with some COT members to discuss projects, programs, training approach and ways in which the two chapters can work together more closely.

Jerry K - New signs will be ready for the Camp Mohawk Loblolly Pine Trail in time for the upcoming Mid-June Nature Day Camp. Samples of these colorful, sturdy signs were shown to the Board. They will be installed by the Boy Scouts.

Ruby - Navasota fourth graders provided fun for Ruby at her recent herps presentation. Although everyone gained from the experience of live creatures, one little girl overcame her great fears enough to be photographed not only touching a turtle but holding a hog-nosed snake.

Carolyn - As state representative, Carolyn asked the Board about a project to present. It was suggested that a project be considered instead for next year after our pilot intern program has had time to be completed with measureable data for evaluation.

Steve - Buffalo Bayou Partnership will sponsor pontoon boat tours of the Waugh Drive Bridge Bat Colony every second and fourth Friday from March to October. The COT interns are scheduled for a trip September 12. For further information, see <http://www.buffalobayou.org/WaughBatColony.htm>

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,  
Joan Simonsen  
Secretary

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