



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

TMN COT May 12, 2010 General Meeting Minutes

President David Brandes opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Brazosport Planetarium in The Center for the Arts & Sciences, Clute, Texas.

Awards

Jerry Eppner, Membership Chairman, presented the following awards:

2010 Recertification – Howard Allen, Ellis Burkhardt, Ed Johnson, Jim Renfro, Susan Severance and Joan Simonsen

TMN Certification – Don Rosebury

250 Hours Volunteer Time – Ed Johnson

500 Hours Volunteer Time – Joan Simonsen

Special U.S. President's Call To Service Award

Chapter President Dave Brandes presented Jim Renfro with the President's Call To Service Award. Folks are eligible for the President's award after 4000 hours, however, Jim received his award in conjunction with receiving his 5000 Volunteer Hour TMN Award. The award included a Personalized Certificate, a lapel Pin, and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.

Jim also received a letter of commendation from Michelle Haggerty, the TMN Coordinator for the State of Texas.

Jim expressed thanks for the recognition and commented on his belief that volunteerism is an original American trait; that it stems from our frontier heritage of helping others. He stated that based upon things such as these he is glad to be an American.

Training Director

Laura Brandes noted that Don Mc Creight has completed his internship and is now a new Texas Master Naturalist and will be recognized as such at the June meeting. She reported that there are 12 new interns as a result of the TMN COT booth at Migration Celebration, with 6 previous interns continuing toward certification.

Laura asked for assistance for this fall and summer with the Intern program. Following her upcoming surgery she will need help teaching the required introductory classes.

Camp Mohawk Family Day Exposition, Saturday, May 15, 2010

Everything is in readiness for Saturday, May 16th. Volunteers may arrive at 9:00 a.m. and activities begin 10:00 – 4:00.

Matagorda Island Trip, Sunday, May 16, 2010

Steve Zilliox summarized that all is in order for travel on Saturday the 15th with a dinner gathering that evening and the island trip Sunday.

Environmental Education Committee

Chairman John Battle reminded the group that the first planning meeting will be held next Wednesday, May 19th, 10:00-12:00, at the AgriLife Extension Service Building in Angleton.

Volunteer Fair Booth, Saturday, May 22nd, 10:00 – 2:00

Candace Novak will take the place of Justina Dent as coordinator for the event that day.

Migration Celebration

Marty Cornell reported that the 3-days of activities were very successful, with positive fund raising results. Most who came were new attendees. This activity definitely had a successful year.

Dow Woods Trail Building Workday, May 8, 2010

There were 37 volunteers who began the South Loop trail construction, installing side rails and compacting cement base. The expected Southwest Airlines Employees volunteer group did not participate. Marty Cornell cooked and served hot dogs for the workers who were present.

Photo Contest – Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges - Migration Celebration

Denis Mudderman reported that judges Kathy Adams Clark and Larry Ditto noted the outstanding overall quality of the photos. Later the winners and photos can be seen on www.migrationcelebration.org. Award certificates and ribbons will be mailed to those whose photos won 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or honorable mention. Next year the categories will be the same, with digital photo files being required, and again the judges Clark and Ditto will return, with Kathy Adams Clark being the banquet speaker. Denis noted that Several TMN members won awards:

Jerry Eppner - Best of Show and
First Place, Wildlife of the Western Hemisphere
Eppner's entry, titled Nature's Palette, was a
Photograph of a Cuban Tody taken in Cuba.

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Ellis Burkhardt - Honorable Mention, Wildlife of the Western Hemisphere

Steve Zilliox - Honorable Mention, Wildlife of the Western Hemisphere

Ed Johnson - Second Place, Wildlife of Texas Mid-Coast

Irama Wesselman – First Place, Habitat & Ecosystems of Texas Mid-Coast
Honorable Mention, Texas Mid-Coast NWR Complex Photo

Summer Library Programs

Mary Helen Israel announced for Ruby Lewis, in Ruby's absence, the need for volunteers. Mary Helen passed around a sign up sheet with the schedule of planned presentation dates for the TPWD Trunk Program. The beginning date is July 6th.

Advanced Training, 9:30 a.m.

Denis James introduced the presenter, Judi James

Topic: "Night Skies"

Topic: "Distant Galaxies"

**Presented by: Judi James, Executive Director,
Brazosport Planetarium**

Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.