

TMN – COT

Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, March 2, 2011 The AgriLife Building - Angleton, Texas

Attendees: Ed Barrios, Dave Brandes, Laura Brandes, Barbara Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, Justina Dent, Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson, Mary Holler, Mary Helen Israel, Jerry Krampota, Ruby Lewis.

Start Time: 10:03

The Minutes from the February Board meeting as corrected from e-mail comments were approved (moved by Jerry Eppner, seconded by Dave Brandes).

Treasurer's Report: Sandy Henderson reported February expenditures of \$28.80 for badges and \$80.32 for postage and mailing supplies, and income of \$1,330 from dues; fees for intern training; and deposits for the upcoming chapter trip to Matagorda Island, leaving a balance of \$6,6619.03.

Program Chair Mary Holler reported that the next four months of presentations at our General Meetings are confirmed; these are:

- March 9th, Felipe Chavez of GCBO discussing whooping cranes;
- April 13th, Bryan McAuley of the Texas Historical Commission to cover the Levi Jordan Plantation;
- May 11th, at GCBO, will cover dragonflies and damselflies, and
- June 8th, Candace Novak will address parasites.

A lively discussion ensued on crediting AT for the whooping crane talk to those members who participated in the January COT trip to view the "whoopers" at Aransas NWR. It was noted that at least two years must have passed before AT can be credited on a subject previously taken by a member. Thus many members will not be able to take AT for this March training (but they may report VT instead). It was also noted that the content of Felipe's talk might be different and/or expanded over that given during the Aransas trip, and thus could be considered AT for the Aransas attendees. This determination will be made after next Wednesday's presentation.

Mary Helen Israel was charged to ask Candace Novak (AT Chair) to write a memo for our newsletter that reviews our policy on AT for repeat subjects.

Camp Mohawk Summer Camp:

Since the Brazoria County Parks Department (BCPD) wants to hold this camp the week of June 20th, which is a week later than our presumed target, Ed Johnson will not be able to serve as our activity leader. A new activity leader is thus needed. Joan Simonson and Susan Severance have agreed to help organize this four-day event.

Concern was expressed that BCPD did little to publicize, prepare, or help execute last year's camp. The Board thus will require a clear written understanding of the respective roles and responsibility of the BCPD and COT in developing and running the 2011 summer camp. Barbara Burkhardt and Ed Barrios will meet with James Glover and Richard Hurd before the April board meeting to develop this document.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reviewed the preparation for the upcoming Heritage Day in Brazoria and Nature Day at Sea Center Texas, both occurring this Saturday, March 5th. She has adequate volunteers signed up, but noted that it would be desirable for COT to have our own pop-up tent so that we don't need to rely on finding one to borrow for our many outdoor outreach activities. Jerry Eppner thus moved, and Ed Barrios seconded, for COT to buy a 12'X12' pop-up. The motion was unanimously approved. Sandy Henderson volunteered to buy this shelter.

Migration Celebration:

Ed Barrios reported that the MC11 food service might be provided by a group called the Lighthouse Charity Team, based in Friendswood. They are a 501(c)3 non profit dedicated to serving food for fundraising by charitable organizations and needy people. They provide all kinds of equipment and volunteers and only want the cost of the food covered. Friends could keep the profit. See lighthousecharityteam.com. This service would help to reduce the volunteer burden.

Mary Jean Adams of Gulf Coast Kayak Adventures has not responded to Ed's request to once again supply kayaks for Migration Celebration, so we may need to find more personal kayaks to use.

Marty Cornell noted that the local art league would like to display the MC11 photo contest entries at the Center for the Arts during the month of June.

COT board members were encouraged to **bake cookies for the MC11 bake sales**, including the April 8th sale at the Lake Jackson Wal-Mart.

Summer Library Program: Ruby Lewis stated that all of the dates for this program are posted on our web calendar. She will ask for volunteers at our April General Meeting.

Ruby also thanked Laura and Dave Brandes for their presentation on bats at the Angleton library, which was attended by 33 adults and 32 children on February 28th. This talk was the initial activity in a pilot program by Layna Lewis to provide family events (as contrasted to existing programs targeted solely to children or to adults). This month, the Friends-sponsored Birds-of-Prey talk will be given, followed by Ed Barrio's talk on insects in April and Barbara Burkhardt's talk on hummingbird gardening in the fall.

COT has been invited by the Angleton Chamber of Commerce, at a cost of \$25, to set up a booth for their inaugural March 26th Market Day at the County Fair Grounds. Their intention is to repeat this bi-annual event in November. The board declined to participate, but asked **Ruby Lewis to check out the March Market Day to judge its fit to our mission.**

ConocoPhillips has not responded to Mary Holler's inquiries about reinstating their fallow environmental education program with the Sweeny ISD. The planned February 10th meeting was cancelled due to icy weather.

COT's 10th Anniversary Celebration at our September general meeting will be attended by Michelle Haggerty and Sonny Arnold. Ed Barrios volunteered to organize the festivities, including special invitations and recognition for the 22 members who certified in our first class in 2001.

Training: Laura Brandes reported that we have two new interns, that Kathleen Murray has completed her training, and that Charlie Clements has certified as a Master Naturalist.

Chapter Shirts: **Barbara Burkhardt has agreed to replenish our stock of TMN-COT polo shirts** to supply graduating interns. After this meeting, Barbara reported that she ordered two dozen shirts of various sizes.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner reported that "Two or three members" have certified for 2011, and almost 1,000 hours of VT has been submitted YTD.

Background Checks, as reminded by Ruby Lewis are to be completed every five years. No action resulted from this discussion.

Review Action Items

The action items, all highlighted in yellow in the above text, were reviewed.

Incomplete action items from previous meetings include:

Candace Novak is to report on AT opportunities (from the Jan. 2011 board meeting);

A discussion of additional recognition levels (tabled from the Feb 2011 board meeting.);

Neal McLain is to suggest a common format for partnership agreements (from the Feb. 2011 board meeting);

Barbara Burkhardt is to contact Cheryl Rogers of Houston's Wildlife Rescue and Education about their request for COT help in building a raptor flight cage.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19

Marty Cornell

Secretary,
Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter