

TMN – COT
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 5, 2011
Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, Texas

Attendees: Ed Barrios, Dave Brandes, Barbara Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Marlies Greenwood, Sandy Henderson, Mary Helen Israel, Carol Jones, Ruby Lewis, Neal McLain, Tom Morris, Connie Stolte.

Start Time: 3:02

Agenda: The board accepted the meeting agenda as revised to remove Mary Holler's program report because of her absence. The following items reflect the agenda sequence.

Action Items: President Barbara Burkhardt noted that all action items from the last meeting were either complete or will be addressed at next week's general meeting.

Minutes: Ed Barrios motioned and Sandy Henderson seconded to approve the minutes of the September board meeting as revised by e-mail editing; this motion was accepted with no objections.

Treasurer's Report: Prior to this meeting, Sandy Henderson reported a balance of \$5238.20. Income (return of the \$100 deposit for the room at the Lake Jackson Community Center used for our 10th anniversary celebration) and expenses submitted at this board meeting resulted in the financial statement shown on Page 4.

Noting that the bill from the caterer, Affairs to Remember, for our 10th anniversary luncheon was under budget, it was asked if the gratuity was included in this bill. A discussion followed and led to a motion by Marty Cornell to pay a gratuity of \$125 if the gratuity was not included in the bill. This motion was seconded by Dave Brandes and the motion unanimously passed. **Mary Helen Israel agreed to check with AtR on the status of the gratuity, and if not included to notify Sandy for payment.**

Tenth Anniversary Luncheon: Ed Barrios commented that all input showed this celebration to be a success with 67 people attending. The food was quite good, as were the appetizers. He noted that a darkened room would have been preferable to show the slide show of ten years of COT experiences.

A discussion followed on the best format to submit a post-event news release of our celebration to The Facts. It was noted that The Facts "Nature Notes" section wants a maximum of 500 words; perhaps less if a photo is used. **Barbara Burkhardt will work within these guidelines to compose a press release on our 10th anniversary celebration.**

Programs: Program chair Mary Holler was not able to make this meeting, but Barbara Burkhardt reminded the board that next Wednesday's general meeting will be at the Brazosport Planetarium for a presentation by Judi James on fall skies. Thomas Adams of the USFWS will highlight the November meeting with his talk on edible plants. After the officer elections at the December general meeting, the membership will adjourn to Ed Barrios' home for the 7th annual Hog Wild Party. Dave Brandes is targeting January to talk about plankton. Barbara Burkhardt recommended that outside expert intern training speakers be scheduled during our spring general meetings so that the whole membership might benefit.

Membership chairman Jerry Eppner reported that 49 members have turned in 7,958 hours of VT, totaling to 101,994 hours since the inception of the COT chapter. He noted that we are considerably behind the hours reported through September of 2010. Andy Smith and Sandy Henderson have recertified.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reviewed a full calendar of upcoming activities over the next couple of months:

The Brazoria County Fair, Saturday October 22nd, has asked COT to participate; after discussion it was decided to decline the participation.

The Sea Center Texas "Spooktacular" will be held on Sunday, October 30. COT will probably participate in conjunction with the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges.

Heritage Day at Brazos Bend State Park will be held on November 5th. Ruby stated that this is a welcomed event for COT members in the northern part of Brazoria County, and that recruitment of other volunteers will not be likely.

The Brazoria County Parks Department will hold their second Nature Day at Hanson Park on Saturday, November 12th. Unlike last year, which was plagued with The Facts publishing the wrong day for the event and with competition from Lake Jackson's Festival of Lights, this year's event portends to generate respectable attendance. Ruby and Ed Barrios will coordinate the COT effort.

Outreach (continue) The Festival of Lights will be held on Saturday, November 19th. It is believed that the City of Lake Jackson requires exhibitors to be official non-profit organizations as identified by their 501(c)(3) status. Because of the large crowds, this board would like to participate with a booth contiguous with the booth of the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. **Ruby Luis will check with the City of Lake Jackson for our permission to participate as an associate of the Friends.**

Nature Night at county libraries continues to draw good attendance. Barbara Burkhardt's talk on hummingbirds drew 27 people at the Angleton Library, instigating requests by the Brazoria and Freeport libraries to repeat this talk at their locations in the spring. Ed Barrios' talk on insects also drew 27 participants. Curtis Jones will talk on snakes at the October 24th Nature Night in Angleton. City habitat gardening will be presented in February at the Angleton library.

At the instigation of COT member Jeanie Manry, Ruby organized a "Coastal Expo" event on September 22nd at St Timothy's Church in Lake Jackson for their "Gathering Place" program. This program brings demented seniors and their caregivers together for outside activities, giving relief to their tedious regime. Six COT volunteers worked with 14 participants and felt it was a very worthwhile experience. The Angleton Gathering Place organization has asked for this program, but no commitment has been made.

Nominating Committee: Dave Brandes reported that he and his nominating committee members Ed Barrios and Joan Simonsen had almost a full slate of candidates to present to the membership with the exception of Chapter Host. Ed Barrios commented that Jerry Krampota would once again assume that role if he had help, and further that Carole Wenny and Rainbo Johnson had agreed to help Jerry. The slate is thus as shown below:

Office	Incumbent	Nominee
President	Barbara Burkhardt	Dave Brandes
Vice President	Mary Holler	Mary Holler
Secretary	Marty Cornell	Marty Cornell
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson	Sandy Henderson
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner	Jerry Eppner
Training Director		Ed Johnson
State Representative	Ed Barrios	Ed Barrios
Past President	Dave Brandes	Barbara Burkhardt

Committees	Incumbent	Nominee
VT Chair	Neal McLain	Neal McLain
AT Chair	Tom Morris	Tom Morris
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis	Ruby Lewis
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota	Jerry Krampota (with assistance from Carol Wenny and Rainbo Johnson)
Webmaster	Neal McLain	Neal McLain
Newsletter	Mary Helen Israel	Mary Helen Israel

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Marty Cornell commented that it would be desirable to have more board participation from members living in the northern part of Brazoria County.

Training: Barbara Burkhardt has been trying to identify the training needs of current interns (12) and potential new interns who have expressed an interest in our program (10). The discussion that followed identified three additional intern candidates that will be contacted: Becky McClendon, Sue McMillan, and Denise ?? whom Ed Barrios contacted while at the Leo Martin automobile dealership. Barbara's survey has been stymied by faulty contact information for some of our interns.

Lydia (Lee) Jacobs is one intern not included in the above count because her cancer prevented her from coming to the classes. After discussion, Marty Cornell moved and Ed Barrios seconded to accept the return of her unused TMN state manual and to refund the \$30 cost of this manual. The motion passed without dissent.

State Meeting:

Marty Cornell admitted that he was in the fixin-to stage of composing the content for our state project; the Dow Woods Trail development. He committed to having this done by the end of next week.

Tom Morris reported that the Lightning Whelk shadow box gift for Sonny Arnold (to celebrate Sonny's retirement) is being finished at Hobby Lobby. Tom will take photos of the finished product for our records. Barbara will transport the gift to the state meeting.

The COT chapter budget allocates \$90 to offset the cost of one member attending the TMN state meeting. Traditionally this money has been awarded to the chapter State Representative, but this year our State Rep will not be attending the meeting. Tom Morris moved and Jerry Eppner seconded to award this stipend to President Barbara Burkhardt. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara solicited items for the silent auction at the state meeting.

GCBO

After the 10th anniversary celebration, founding president Tom Collins wrote a note suggesting that COT increase its interactions with the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. This note instigated much e-mail discussion and resulted in the GCBO developing a proposal, presented to the board by COT member and GCBO employee Carol Jones. It was noted that Cecilia Riley of GCBO had just signed the renewed VPAL.

GCBO has no one assigned to coordinate volunteer activities and indeed Carol was not aware that COT's John Marshall had been assigned to act as our liaison a couple years ago, but gave up because of lack of cooperation by GCBO personnel. Carol explained that the paid staff has other full time responsibilities and has no time to coordinate. It was observed that this position reflects the importance that GCBO attributes to volunteers. Carol said that Cecilia would like a coordinator to handle all volunteers, not just TMN members. This statement did not elicit a response.

GCBO proposed that COT organize and run a "Bio Blitz" on a series of nature topics to be held on one Saturday per month, with a different topic each month. We would be given a key for access to the facilities. They would prefer that these sessions be on a different Saturday than the monthly bird banding conducted by the Lookingbills, because it would increase weekend opportunities for the public and we would not conflict with mist netting operations. But they are open to a joint event. GCBO would provide background training of the flora and fauna of their site.

In response to this proposal, several board members suggested that weekend participation by a GCBO representative is essential. It was also suggested that this representative could be a non-salaried board member. This program would be environmental education, and it was noted that at all other such activities at our other partners (DEEP, SCT, INEOS, Brazoria County Parks Department) host personal are always engaged.

Tom Morris volunteered to be the COT liaison, and Jerry Eppner and Marty Cornell agreed to help. Sandy Henderson moved to officially appoint Tom as our liaison to GCBO, Marty Cornell seconded and the board approved this motion. Tom will lead the development of a response proposal to GCBO.

Partnership Agreements: Neal McLain that seven partners have returned signed VPALs, with four partners remaining to return them: Brazos Bend State Park, ConocoPhillips, INEOS, and the Brazoria County Library System.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm

Marty Cornell

Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter

CRADLE OF TEXAS 2011 INCOME AND EXPENSE BUDGET as of 5Oct11

INTERN CLASS REVENUE/EXPENSES		2010 Actual	2011 Budget	2011 Actual
Revenue				
	Class fee	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$500.00
	Intern manual payment	\$270.00	\$450.00	\$240.00
Expenses	Intern Manual purchases	\$608.82	\$700.00	\$0.00
	Social expenses, name tags, postage, shirts	\$462.56	\$500.00	\$231.90
	Ad for TMN Training	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$325.50
	Net Gain (Loss)			\$182.60
NON-CLASS REVENUE/EXPENSES				
Revenue				
	2011 dues paid in 2011	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$180.00
	2012 dues paid in 2011	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
	Interest Income	\$32.50	\$35.00	\$11.11
	Matagorda Trip payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	10th Anniversary Lunch and T-shirts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,958.00
	Misc. Income	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$156.00
	Total income			\$3,305.11
Expenses				
	Administrative Expenses	\$89.93	\$100.00	\$820.75
	Drinks and supplies for social events	\$225.13	\$200.00	\$0.00
	Matagorda trip	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$980.00
	10th Anniversary Lunch and T-shirts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,184.98
	Officer badges	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$23.80
	TMN Meeting Registration	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
	Misc. Expenses	\$92.00	\$100.00	\$272.10
	Total Expenses			\$4,281.63
	Chapter Profit / (Loss)			-\$793.92
	Carry over from 2010			\$5,757.12
	TMN-COT Account Balance			\$4,963.20