



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 5, 2012
AgriLIFE Extension Bldg, Angleton, Texas

Attendees: Ed Barrios, Dave Brandes, Barbara Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson, Mary Helen Israel, Edgar Johnson, Jerry Krampota, John Marshall, Neal McLain, Mike Mullins, John O'Connell.

President Barbara Burkhardt called the meeting to order at 1:58 pm.

Action Items outstanding from the previous meeting were reviewed:

- Ed Barrios has not yet discussed the yearly background requirement of the Brazosport Independent School District (BISD) with the school officials. He will do this, noting the requirement of AgriLIFE and our ongoing effort to insure compliance of COT members.
- A committee of Jerry Eppner, Ed Barrios, and Mike Mullins developed a strawman definition of "active member", and other categories of membership, which is discussed below.
- Ed Barrios has contact James Glover of the Brazoria County Parks Department and confirmed that COT will help on the November 10th Nature Day at Hanson Riverside County Park as we did last year.
- Jerry Eppner obtained a plaque recognizing the help of Corrie Bowen as a chapter adviser in the interim between Rich Tillman's and John O'Connell's serving this role. This plaque will be presented to Corrie at next week's general meeting of the chapter.
- Mike Mullins is still planning to develop a plan for recruiting new members. Board members are to e-mail recruitment suggestions to Mike, copying Ed Johnson.

Minutes of the August Board Meeting, as amended via e-mail, were unanimously approved after a motion by Ed Barrios and a second by Dave Brandes.

Treasurer Sandy Henderson reported the account statement attached hereto on Page 4.

A total of \$750 has been expended to date for membership background checks.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner noted that Justina Dent has recertified for 2012. Transferred member Angelika Fuller will have her year-to-date volunteer hours from the Goodwater Chapter moved to the COT account. Jerry reported that Michelle Haggerty has confirmed the receipt of our chapter's paper and electronic time sheets.

The chapter's Google list update by Neal McLain is on hold pending the resolution of membership status (discussed below).

In the absence of **Program** Chair Mary Holler, Barbara Burkhardt reported that the training topic for the October general meeting will be bats and will be presented by the team of Kelli Wright and John O'Connell.

John has received DVDs from Green Fire Productions that are designed to teach about ocean ecosystems. They range from a short 22 minute overview to a more detailed one hour presentation. John suggested that they might be used as a general meeting advanced training topic. Marty Cornell agreed to look at the longer DVD and to provide the board with a review.

John O'Connell reported that all but four people on the list of Cradle of Texas active members have responded to our current **background screening** initiative. The contact information and address of Jan and Jean Kater are not current; they have thus been moved to the inactive category. Irama and James Wesselman have previously notified us that they have both returned to full-time employment. The board thus agreed to move them to the category of lapsed membership. With these changes, almost all current COT members are now in compliance with AgriLIFE requirements for background screening of volunteers engaged in activities with youth.

A certificate certifying that a volunteer has passed background screening will be issued to the volunteer. The certificate will include an expiration date.



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John reported that the Texas Senate Bill 1414 of the 82nd Legislative Session now requires employees engaged in certain volunteer activity with youth to pass an on-line course about child sexual abuse. The Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service has made an independent administrative decision to require a similar awareness course for AgriLIFE volunteers. The awareness course for volunteers is under development. More specifically, the Child Protection Training will be required for volunteers "that are assisting in a multi-day or overnight event where they are chaperoning or have full supervisory duties over youth kept apart from their parent(s) or legal guardian(s)."

It was noted that the Camp Mohawk Nature Camp would fall under this category for the Cradle of Texas chapter. The ensuing discussion by the board concluded that the chapter organizer of volunteers for any such multi-day or overnight event would be responsible for ensuring compliance by participating volunteers. Our Brazoria County AgriLIFE office would keep the records of compliance of these volunteers. Our chapter's Policies and Procedures Handbook will need to be amended to reflect the final version of this AgriLIFE requirement, once it is available.

Training Chair Ed Johnson presented his first draft of the next January to May training schedule. All but two speakers (on the Columbia bottomland forests, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and on prairies) have been scheduled. A new topic, Zoology, taught by Ann McLain, has been added to the COT training schedule. Ed noted that the course on insects would be of benefit to the general membership as well as for intern training, and thus requested that the board approve entomology as the advanced training topic for the March 13, 2013 general meeting. Marty Cornell so moved, Dave Brandes seconded this motion, and the motion passed with no objections.

A general discussion ensued on the recruitment of interns for this training class. Ed Johnson noted that he knows of two people who are interested and Barbara Burkhardt said that she has received the names of ten people in Brazoria County who have inquired about the Texas Master Naturalist program through the state web site. The board was reminded that Mike Mullins has agreed to propose a plan for attracting interns, and it was agreed that recruitment ideas should be passed on to Mike and Ed Johnson. [Secretary's note: the membership can be solicited for input on recruitment at the next general meeting] **Mike will present his recruitment proposal at the October board meeting.**

It was noted that our outreach display is upstaged by our typical presentation of reptiles at these external events, and thus little membership recruitment occurs at outreach events. It was thus suggested that a second table be set up, separate from the reptile activity, specifically to recruit membership, beginning with the upcoming Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza on September 8th and 15th. **Barbara Burkhardt agreed to supply another table at the XHX.**

A discussion followed on the fee to charge interns. It was noted that the current fee of \$80 covers costs, presuming that there will be no increase in the cost of the state curriculum. One observation was that a higher cost would discourage recruitment, another was that the chapter has sufficient funds to cover minor potential overrun of training cost over fee income; last year a surplus of \$182 resulted from the training class. It was concluded that the training fee will remain at \$80.

Pending Volunteer Events include the aforementioned XHX, the beginning of the fall DEEP classes on September 25th, and the fall INEOS EE program field trips. See the chapter calendar for details. <http://tmn-cot.com/calendar/>

The **Texas Master Naturalist State Meeting** in Navasota, per Barbara Burkhardt, has already filled available on-site rooms. Overflow is being directed to local hotels and motels. There is no known limit on attendees. COT member Ellis Burkhardt is in charge of the photo contest, which will for the first time will use judges to determine the awards for photography (Mark Klym and Ruth Hoyt) and for Scrapbooks/Newsletter/Flyers (John O'Connell and Mickey Dufilho).

Membership Definitions

The need to assure that all active members of the Cradle of Texas (COT) chapter are in compliance with AgriLIFE background screening requirements has stimulated a review of the COT definitions of our various membership categories. The president-appointed committee of Ed Barrios, Jerry Eppner, and Mike Mullins presented their first-round suggested revisions to such definitions. COT member John Marshall joined this ad hoc committee in the development of these suggestions. Ed Barrios noted that three board members, Dave Brandes, Barbara Burkhardt, and Marty Cornell responded to the committee's solicitation for comments to their draft.

Since changes in the definitions of membership categories would require changes in the COT Policies and Procedures (P&P), the committee also scanned the P&P for other items that might need revision. It was decided to informally canvass the board at this meeting for input on the committee's proposed changes in order to revise their draft for future board sanction. Upon sanction, the proposed P&P revisions would be presented to the general membership for approval.



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There was considerable discussion about the suggested Membership Category B 1. A. ii., that is 1. *active member*, → a. To be an Active member, one must comply with the following requirements during the current calendar year, documented by the Membership Chair: → ii. Attend at least 2 chapter general meetings during the previous year; members that work or have other conflicts can [sic, should be “may”] submit a written request to waive this requirement. Sandy Henderson moved and Dave Brandes seconded the motion to remove sub-item ii. Two board members voted in favor and two members voted against with other members abstaining. Being a tie, the motion failed.

This discussion on membership definitions then turned to the meaning of “Honorary” membership, with several believing that such a classification should require the recipient to have prior certification as a Texas Master Naturalist. It was recognized that several of our longstanding members are of an advanced age that prevents them from active participation, yet because of their considerable past contributions, we wish to keep them on our roster. It was suggested that a preferred definition of “emeritus” would be appropriate for these members; dues, meeting attendance and inputting volunteer time would not be required of them.

This ad hoc committee is to present their revised draft of membership definitions at the October board meeting.

Per the chapter P&P as required at the September board meeting, a committee for the recruitment and recommendation of chapter officers for 2013 was announced. Led by Past President Dave Brandes, other **nominating committee** members are John Marshall and Carole Wenny.

A review of action items was suspended, deferring instead to these minutes as highlighted.

The September 2012 Meeting of the COT Board of Directors was adjourned at 3:55 pm

Submitted by

Marty Cornell

Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter.



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Cradle of Texas Chapter CHECKING ACCOUNT

Date	Check #	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Comment	
1/1/2012	Beginning Balance					\$5,037.64
1/7/2012	Deposit		\$80.00		2012 dues	\$5,117.64
1/11/2012	Deposit		\$645.00		2012 dues and interns	\$5,762.64
1/19/2012	Deposit		\$160.00		2012 intern	\$5,922.64
1/23/2012	Deposit		\$80.00		2012 intern	\$6,002.64
1/31/2012	Dividend			\$1.22		\$6,003.86
2/1/2012	Chk 1298 - Barbara Burkhardt	\$648.26			Intern manuals and notebooks	\$5,355.60
2/1/2012	Deposit		\$240.00		2012 intern	\$5,595.60
2/8/2012	Chk 1299 - Marty Cornell	\$119.91			Intern field books	\$5,475.69
2/9/2012	Deposit		\$15.00		2012 dues	\$5,490.69
2/29/2012	Dividend			\$1.13		\$5,491.82
3/7/2012	Chk 1300 - Marty Cornell	\$31.96			Pails and sand (anchors for tent)	\$5,459.86
3/14/2012	Deposit		\$25.00		Speaker donation	\$5,484.86
3/31/2012	Dividend			\$1.19		\$5,486.05
4/30/2012	Dividend			\$1.13		\$5,487.18
5/9/2012	Chk 1301 - Barbara Burkhardt	\$96.00			Name tags	\$5,391.18
5/9/2012	Deposit		\$42.00		Name tags reimbursement	\$5,433.18
5/23/2012	Chk 1302 - Carole Wenny	\$53.01			Social supplies	\$5,380.17
5/8/2012	Chk 1303 - Marty Cornell	\$54.54			Intern lunch	\$5,325.63
5/31/2012	Dividend			\$1.16		\$5,326.79
6/13/2012	Chk 1304 - Extension Account #255003	\$340.00			Background checks	\$4,986.79
6/30/2012	Dividend			\$1.10		\$4,987.89
7/3/2012	Chk 1305 - Extension Account #255003	\$80.00			Background checks	\$4,907.89



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Date	Check #	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Comment	
7/11/2012	Chk 1306 - Dr. McAlister	\$100.00			Honorarium	\$4,807.89
7/11/2012	Chk 1307 - Extension Account #255003	\$90.00			Background checks	\$4,717.89
7/13/2012	Chk 1308 - Extension Account #255003	\$80.00			Background checks	\$4,637.89
7/19/2012	Chk 1309 - Marty Cornell	\$413.66			Dragonfly cardholders	\$4,224.23
7/31/2012	Dividend			\$0.99		\$4,225.22
8/1/2012	Chk 1310 - Extension Account #255003	\$90.00			Background checks	\$4,135.22
8/14/2012	Chk 1311 - Extension Account #255003	\$60.00			Background checks	\$4,075.22
8/31/2012	Chk 1312 - Extension Account #255003	\$10.00			Background checks	\$4,065.22
9/4/2012	Deposit		\$45.00		2012 dues	\$4,110.22
	Totals	\$2,267.34	\$1,332.00	\$7.92		