



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

**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 3, 2012**  
**Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, Texas**

**TMN-COT Attendees:** Dave Brandes, Barbara Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson, Mary Holler, Mary Helen Israel, Ruby Lewis, John Marshall, Neal McLain, Mike Mullins, John O'Connell, Pete Romfh, Connie Stolte. In addition to chapter adviser Connie Stolte, adviser John O'Connell was also present.

President Barbara Burkhardt called the meeting to order at 2:07 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.
- Mike Mullins is still planning to develop a plan for recruiting new members.
- Neal McLain's update of out chapter's Google List is tabled pending the resolution of membership definition (discussed below)

**Minutes of the September Board Meeting**, as amended via e-mail and at this meeting, were unanimously approved after a motion by Marty Cornell and a second by Sandy Henderson.

**Treasurer** Sandy Henderson reported the following account statement attached hereto on Page 4:

Sandy noted that the ten dollar per-person fee for background checks has been paid for 75 members.

**Membership** Chair Jerry Eppner noted that as of September 30, fifty-one members have submitted time sheets. A total of 6,235 Volunteer Time hours has been reported so far this year. Per Jerry, this is excellent! Members to be recognized at our October meeting will include Betty Bouley, Susan Conaty, Rainbo Johnson, John Marshall and Archie Pratt; all recertifying for 2012. Also, Kathleen Murray has reached the 250 hr VT mark. Jerry reminded the board that now is a good time to for those that have not yet done so to "get your game plan together on how to meet the commitment to submit time sheets.

**Program** Chair Mary Holler reported that the advanced training topic for next week's general meeting will be on Bats and will be presented by John O'Connell. John Jacob of TAMU-Galveston will be our guest speaker in November; he will address the subject of soils and native grasses. The December general meeting, as is the chapter's tradition, will have no training topic, but instead will cover the election of officers to serve in 2013. Additionally, changes in the Cradle of Texas Chapter Policies and Procedures Handbook (P&P), as proposed by this board, will be presented at this end-of-year meeting for chapter approval. Following the December general meeting, the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hog Wild party, privately hosted by Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, John Marshall, and a few other members of the COT chapter, will take place.

A potential topic for the January, 2013 meeting is the *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary* on the Texas continental shelf.

**Background Screening:** John O'Connell reported that four active members have yet to respond to the submission of the background check form; Gardner Campbell, Denis Mudderman, Clyde Zilliox, and Steve Zilliox. A quick phone call to Denis, who resides in Minnesota in the summer and fall, resulted in his electronic completion of the form, which was transferred to John O'Connell for processing. **Barbara Burkhardt will personally contact the remaining three members to complete this round of background screening.**

**Training** Chair Ed Johnson was not able to attend this board meeting; however he reported via e-mail that a second person has paid the fees for next year's intern training class. Counting the two individuals who have officially signed up for these classes, there are 27 individuals that live in the Brazoria County area who have indicated an interest in attending the upcoming classes.



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**Outreach** Chair Ruby Lewis reported that outreach events in September reached 306 children and 664 adults, for a total of 970 residents of Brazoria County:

Date	Event	Location	Adults	Children	COT Volunteers
4Sep	Boy Scouts	Danbury	4	14	4
8Sep	XHX	GCBO	215	100	32
11Sep	Family Nature Night	Pearland Library	7	4	4
15Sep	XHX	GCBO	357	146	50
15Sep	Boy Scouts	Camp Mohawk	14	11	1
17Sep	Senior Citizens	Freeport	42		1
18Sep	Family Nature Night	Brazoria Library	7	0	1
25Sep	Family Nature Night	Angleton Library	18	31	2
Totals			664	306	95

Marty Cornell announced that the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex has decided to host a “Hands on Nature” day at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. This event will celebrate National Wildlife Refuge week, and will feature EarthQuest® birds-of-prey shows at 11:00 am and at 4:00 pm. In between these two shows, the public will be invited to participate in environmental education activities at six stations: Pond Life, Microscopes, Skins-Skulls & Scat, Seining, Bird Watching, and the Discovery Center lobby exhibit. Volunteers are needed to staff each station plus to help prepare and serve a hot dog lunch, which will be free to volunteers. [Subsequent to this meeting, President Barbara Burkhardt agreed to staff a COT display at this “Hands on Nature day.”]

**Membership Definitions**

Jerry Eppner, representing the ad hoc committee appointed to draft revised definitions of categories of chapter membership, led this discussion. Other members of this committee are Ed Barrios, John Marshall, and Mike Mullins. This committee is also examining the whole Policies and Procedures Handbook (P&P) document to suggest other changes that may be warranted to eliminate inconsistencies and to reduce redundancy. Board members were sent copies of the proposed changes prior to this meeting.

The Membership Definition Ad Hoc Committee (MDAHC) proposed five categories of membership and three sub-categories of the Texas Master Naturalist category:

- A. *Texas Master Naturalist in Training*
- B. *Texas Master Naturalist*
  - 1. *Active Members*
  - 2. *Inactive Members*
  - 3. *Lapsed Members*
- C. *Certified Texas Master Naturalist*
- D. *Emeritus Texas Master Naturalist*
- E. *Honorary Member*

Each category and sub-category has proposed definitions and qualification statements.



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Another much-discussed topic of the proposed P&P revisions concerned the inclusion of the requirement of quorum and the definition of these quorums that would be required for decisions either by the board or by the general membership. This discussion resulted in the suggestion that “quorum” would be defined as 25% of the active membership or 50% of elected officers of the board, separately applicable according to the type of business being conducted as per the P&P. Part of the rationale for the general meeting percentage of 25% was that attendance for the December general meeting, when officers for the coming year are elected, is historically less than 50 percent of the active membership. Setting the quorum level to one quarter of the membership would thus be prudent to assure that the business of officer elections could be officially conducted.

The current emphasis by Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension, to ensure that all of their volunteers who work with children have passed current background screening, instigated this effort to clarify the definitions of chapter membership. The draft revised P&P would require such screened volunteers even for episodic events where children are accompanied by their parent(s) or other responsible adult. After discussion, the board decided to retain this requirement.

Discussion also occurred around Addendum G, which concerns P&P revision policy. The current wording is ambiguous in defining if it is the board or general membership that has the authority to give the final approval of revisions to the Policies and Procedures. The board consensus was that active general members should hold the authority for final approval of any such revisions. **The MDAH was asked to wordsmith the P&P Addendum G to so unambiguously state.**

No decisions of the board were asked by the MDAH at this meeting. Rather, **the committee will incorporate suggested revisions into their draft and will submit this revised draft at the November meeting of the COT Board of Directors for board pre-approval. A board-sanctioned draft will then be distributed to active members for their consideration prior to the December general meeting. These proposed changes to the COT P&P will then be introduced at the December general meeting for final approval by the general membership.**

The October 2012 Meeting of the COT Board of Directors was adjourned at 3:58 pm

Submitted by:

Marty Cornell

Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter.



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### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Date	Check Number/Payee	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Comment	Balance
<b>01/01/12</b>	<b>Starting Balance</b>					<b>\$5,037.64</b>
01/07/12	Deposit		\$80.00		2012 dues	\$5,117.64
01/11/12	Deposit		\$645.00		2012 dues and interns	\$5,762.64
01/19/12	Deposit		\$160.00		2012 intern	\$5,922.64
01/23/12	Deposit		\$80.00		2012 intern	\$6,002.64
01/31/12	Dividend			\$1.22		\$6,003.86
02/01/12	Chk 1298 - Barbara Burkhardt	\$648.26			Intern manuals and notebooks	\$5,355.60
02/01/12	Deposit		\$240.00		2012 intern	\$5,595.60
02/08/12	Chk 1299 - Marty Cornell	\$119.91			Intern field books	\$5,475.69
02/09/12	Deposit		\$15.00		2012 dues	\$5,490.69
02/29/12	Dividend			\$1.13		\$5,491.82
03/07/12	Chk 1300 - Marty Cornell	\$31.96			Pails and sand	\$5,459.86
03/14/12	Deposit		\$25.00		Speaker donation	\$5,484.86
03/31/12	Dividend			\$1.19		\$5,486.05
04/30/12	Dividend			\$1.13		\$5,487.18
05/09/12	Chk 1301 - Barbara Burkhardt	\$96.00			Name tags	\$5,391.18
05/09/12	Deposit		\$42.00		Name tags reimbursement	\$5,433.18
05/23/12	Chk 1302 - Carole Wenny	\$53.01			Social supplies	\$5,380.17
05/08/12	Chk 1303 - Marty Cornell	\$54.54			Intern lunch	\$5,325.63
05/31/12	Dividend			\$1.16		\$5,326.79
06/13/12	Chk 1304 - Extension Account #255003	\$340.00			Background checks	\$4,986.79
06/30/12	Dividend			\$1.10		\$4,987.89
07/03/12	Chk 1305 - Extension Account #255003	\$80.00			Background checks	\$4,907.89
07/11/12	Chk 1306 - Dr. McAlister	\$100.00			Honoraria	\$4,807.89
<b>Date</b>	<b>Check Number/Payee</b>	<b>Checks</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Balance</b>



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07/11/12	Chk 1307 - Extension Account #255003	\$90.00		Background checks	\$4,717.89
07/13/12	Chk 1308 - Extension Account #255003	\$80.00		Background checks	\$4,637.89
07/19/12	Chk 1309 - Marty Cornell	\$413.66		Dragonfly cardholders	\$4,224.23
07/31/12	Dividend		\$0.99		\$4,225.22
08/01/12	Chk 1310 - Extension Account #255003	\$90.00		Background checks	\$4,135.22
08/14/12	Chk 1311 - Extension Account #255003	\$60.00		Background checks	\$4,075.22
08/31/12	Chk 1312 - Extension Account #255003	\$10.00		Background checks	\$4,065.22
08/31/12	Dividend		\$0.89		\$4,066.11
09/04/12	Deposit		\$45.00	2012 dues	\$4,111.11
09/05/12	Chk 1313 - Jerry Eppner	\$43.64		Plaque, postage	\$4,067.47
09/14/12	Deposit		\$100.00	Dues, intern fee	\$4,167.47
09/17/12	Chk 1314 - Void			background checks	<b>\$4,167.47</b>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,310.98</b>	<b>\$1,432.00</b>	<b>\$8.81</b>	