



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.
 21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903
<http://tmn-cot.org>

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 5, 2012
AgriLIFE, Angleton, Texas

TMN-COT Attendees: Ed Barrios, Barbara Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson, Mary Holler, Mary Helen Israel, Ed Johnson, Jerry Krampota, Ruby Lewis, John Marshall, Mike Mullins, Peggy Romfh, and Pete Romfh. Chapter advisors and members John O’Connell and Connie Stolte were also present.

President Barbara Burkhardt called the meeting to order at 1:59 pm.

Action Items outstanding from the previous meeting were not addressed in the past month:

- Ed Barrios has been unsuccessful in contacting BIRD to get clarification of their policy on volunteer background checks; he will keep trying.
- Mike Mullins will not, at present, pursue the development of recruitment concepts.
- The revision of the chapter Google list will be postponed until the new year when it will be clear who qualifies as members based on dues having been paid, VT having been submitted, background screening requirements having been met, and attendance at a chapter meeting having occurred (with exceptions as noted in the chapter Policies and Procedures Guidelines (P&P)).
- The remaining three members have authorized their background screening, thus completing this action item.
- The revised P&P, as amended at the November board meeting, was e-mailed to the general membership for their review prior to the November general meeting.

Minutes of the November Board Meeting, as amended via e-mail, were unanimously approved after a motion by Jerry Eppner and a second by Ed Johnson.

Minutes of the November General Meeting, as amended via e-mail, were unanimously approved with no abstention after a motion to so do by Jerry Eppner and a second by Ed Johnson. During the discussion, John O’Connell noted that copies of the final approved minutes are not being distributed to the board. Marty Cornell agreed to henceforth do so.

Treasurer Sandy Henderson reported a balance of \$4,139.22. One check for \$50 was written in November, this to John Jacob to compensate for his travel costs. \$30 was spent in November for the final three background checks. Income consisted of \$20 in dues.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Starting balance 1/1/11						\$5,037.64
Date	Check Number	Checks	Deposits	Interest	Comment	
01/07/12	Deposit		\$80.00		2012 dues	\$5,117.64
01/11/12	Deposit		\$645.00		2012 dues and interns	\$5,762.64



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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 Speaker donation	\$5,459.86
03/14/12	Deposit		\$25.00			\$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
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	\$4,167.47
09/30/12	Dividend			\$0.86		\$4,168.33
10/31/12	Dividend			\$0.89		\$4,169.22
11/15/12	Chk 1315 - Dr. John Jacob	\$50.00			Honoraria	\$4,119.22
11/15/12	Deposit		\$20.00		2012 and 2013 dues	\$4,139.22
	Totals	\$2,360.98	\$1,452.00	\$10.56		



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Membership Chair Jerry Eppner reported that so far this year, 59 members have submitted 8,988 hours of VT, vs. 68 members turning in 13,775 hours for the twelve months of 2011. A couple members with a lot of volunteer time have yet to provide their time sheets.

The state TMN on-line activity time recording process is still under development, with beta testing slated to begin on February 13, 2013. Discussion ensued around Michelle Haggerty's invitation to the Cradle of Texas Chapter to participate in this testing, with her preference being for the whole chapter to be involved. Since our current method of recording VT and AT would need to be used concurrently during the testing period, several board members felt that many of our members would rebel at the added burden of keeping two records. Connie Stolte noted that participants in the beta testing have the opportunity to influence the final product, and thus she encouraged us to become involved in the development process. It was agreed that **Jerry Eppner will approach Michelle with our proposal that members of the COT board and up to ten general members to be part of the beta testing exercise.** Connie Stolte will help our chapter set up the required interfaces.

The on-line system of activity registration would use designated "approvers" of submitted AT and VT. Upon entry into the system, individuals would set up a personal profile that would cover their expected volunteer activity. There is room for ad hoc activity additions.

The **President's Call to Service Award** for volunteering might be given to those who have certified 4,000 hours of service. The current practice of the Texas Master Naturalists is to apply for this award after 5,000 hours of VT, however Michelle Haggerty is reconsidering this requirement and may begin to apply for the President's Call to Service Award after 4,000 hours. Several COT members would qualify. Six COT members have previously qualified for this award. See website: <http://tmn-cot.com/files/2010/07/download32.pdf>

Program Chair Mary Holler gave her preview of coming general meeting topics; December focused on the election of chapter officers for 2013, January will feature a talk on the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, and Ann McLain will present on zoology at the February general meeting. The intern training classes for the second Wednesdays of February, March, April, and May will be held at the general meetings. The topic for April is still undecided. See the chapter calendar for details. <http://interntraining-2013.blogspot.com/>
<http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/#AT2013>

At the annual TMN state meeting, the development of the **Texas Junior Naturalists** was promoted to all of the chapters. As follow up, Barbara Burkhardt passed information about the pilot Refuge Junior Naturalist program being run by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. No further discussion on this topic occurred at this board meeting.

Training Chair Ed Johnson summarized the 2012 training efforts as:

- Nine interns went through the training and all of them completed the requirements to be recognized as "Texas Master Naturalists" at the graduation ceremony upon completion of the training classes.



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- Four interns also concurrently completed the requirements and were recognized as “Certified Texas Master Naturalists” at the graduation ceremony: Neeta Allen, Mike Mullins, Peggy Romfh, and Pete Romfh.
- Three additional interns this year have subsequently completed requirements for, and been recognized as “Certified Texas Master Naturalists”: Anne Bettinger, George Bettinger, and Leo Novak.
- Two interns, Mike Mullins and Peggy Romfh, have surpassed the 250 volunteer hour milestone and received the special recognition for that accomplishment.
- Two interns, Mike Mullins and Pete Romfh, were selected to serve on the 2012 board of directors, bringing fresh input and ideas from the new members training class and volunteer experiences.

Through November, the applications for next year’s intern class remain at three people.

Ed Barrios reported that the concept of certification and recertification by new members in the same year (“double certification”) has been added to the state By-Laws. Since this policy is established by the state, it will be noted in our chapter P&P, but the process of chapter approval for this change is not needed.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reported that since last board meeting, two outreach events reached 460 people:

Date	Event	Location	Attendees	COT Volunteers
10Nov	Family Day	Hanson Riverside County Park	60	10?
17Nov	Festival of Lights	Lake Jackson	400	9
Totals			460	19?

There were no Nature Night at the Library sessions in November. Participation at some of the Nature Night at the Library events has been low; in October no one showed up at one event at the Pearland Library. In some cases, the library has failed to promote the activity. Ruby Lewis will meet with Tom West of the Brazoria County Library System to discuss this problem and steps forward.

For the year, the COT outreach activities reached over 7200 people, not including those who attended the Migration Celebration.

Officer Elections: It was decided that Dave Brandes, as chair of the Nominating Committee, will prepare a ballot that includes a write-in column for next Wednesday’s elections of chapter officers.



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Revisions of the P&P Per the requirement of the P&P, the general membership having approved the proposed revisions as noted in the minutes of the November general meeting of the Texas Master Naturalists, Cradle of Texas Chapter, a motion was made by Marty Cornell to sanction the Policies and Procedures Guidelines as revised and approved. Sandy Henderson seconded the motion. A discussion ensued as to the advisability of further revising the COT P&P to include the double certification provision as just authorized by the TMN state organization. It was decided to forgo further revisions at this time. Marty Cornell called the question and the revisions of the P&P were accepted by unanimous vote.

Ed Barrios will send out an explanation of the new double certification policy to the general membership.

A flyer describing the Cradle of Texas chapter is being developed for the Commissioners' Breakfast on December 18th. The board suggested several revisions, including the addition of a "registration tab" designed for applying for membership.

Miscellaneous items:

- John O'Connell is developing a water conference program for Brazoria County, as mandated by the State of Texas.
- The Houston-Galveston Area Council is hosting a Bastrop Bayou watershed protection meeting on December 19 at the Angleton AgriLife extension office.
- Because of objections to "legalese" wording, the Nature Conservancy has refused to sign a volunteer partner agreement with our chapter; this VPAL was intended to cover our volunteer activity on the Nash Prairie Preserve. As an alternative, Neal McLain, in consultation with COT member Susan Conaty, will submit a Volunteer Project and Activity Request (VPAR) to the Board for approval.
- Members of the Friends of the River San Bernard have approached a couple of COT members on potentially working with them on projects. Neal McLain will contact them to get a better idea on specific project proposals.
- Member Denis James asked board member Marty Cornell to tell the COT board of his objections to wording on the AgriLife form that authorizes background screening. Denis views the form to invasively include authorization for probing into an applicant's personal financial matters [via the wording "...any and all background information about or concerning me, including, *but not limited to...*"]. He also objects to the "Hold Harmless" clause of this document.

The December 2012 Meeting of the COT Board of Directors was adjourned at 3:31 pm

Submitted by:

Marty Cornell
Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter.