



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

**Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING of the
Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter
WEDNESDAY February 13, 2013
AgriLIFE® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas**

Attendance: 44 active members, one inactive member, nine interns, and three guests attended this general meeting. The guests were Faith Dimitt and Theresa Harper, who are both considering joining the current intern class, and Ann McLain, our guest speaker.

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Mike began the meeting by asking each of the eight interns to introduce themselves; they are Roger Allen, Dee Eddins, Michelle Hague, Randy Holcomb, Chris Kneipper, Patsy Lepper, Becky McClendon, Dick Schaffhausen, and Pat Wilson. Ed Johnson then introduced our two guests.

Mike reviewed several items:

- Angelika Fuller has volunteered to manage the chapter Facebook page.
- Neal McLain has moved our website to GoDaddy.com in order to enhance formatting capabilities. The web address has not changed.
- The family of deceased member Carl Dodson has donated his collection of nature books to the chapter. They will be available for member use.
- The February 23rd training by our partner, Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue, is approved for AT hours.
- The March 9th Birds and Bottomlands Blitz at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is another opportunity to accumulate AT hours.

Whooping Crane Trip: Tom Morris announced that he is organizing another field trip on March 3rd to view the whooping cranes at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and additionally to visit the nearby King Ranch for a tour led by member Kirby Rapstein's daughter.

Migration Celebration: Ed Barrios gave a brief overview of plans for the 19th Migration Celebration (MC13) on April 20th and 21st, with the fundraiser kickoff dinner to be held the week before, on April 12th. Marty Cornell noted that the feature speaker at the kickoff event will be Felipe Chavez of the GCBO, who will address whooping crane ecology and conservation. Denis Mudderman referred the membership to the MC13 website for protocol to enter the event's photo contest; entries are due by March 29th. For details, see the Migration Celebration website.

<http://migrationcelebration.org/>

Denis Mudderman announced that the grand opening of the 1.6 mile **Otter Slough Trail** at the headquarters of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge will consist of three Saturday open houses (this part of the refuge is normally closed on weekends) on February 16th, March 2nd, and March 16th. Members were also invited to participate in a Muckers survey of flora and fauna to be held on the 20th of February 20th. For details, see the TMN-COT Calendar.

<http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/index.html>



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Membership Chair Jerry Eppner noted that 72 members reported 13,652 hours of VT and 1,222 hours of AT for 2012; this compares to 68 members reporting 13,775 hours of VT and 938 hours of AT for 2011. At an in-kind value of \$19.50 per hour, as recognized by the state, our contribution was worth \$266,214 of support to the Texas Master Naturalist organization. COT members with over 500 hours of VT were Phil Huxford (835 hrs.), Sandy Henderson (732 hrs.), Barbara Burkhardt (716 hrs.), Ed Johnson (653 hrs.), Marty Cornell (563 hrs.), and Ed Barrios (508 hrs.)

Jerry noted that retaining active membership status requires:

1. Turning in a timesheet,
2. Attending at least one general meeting (work exceptions apply),
3. Paying dues, and
4. Complying with youth protection regulations.

Certification and Achievement Recognition since the December, 2012 general meeting was made by Jerry Eppner:

Member	Status
Julia Geisier	Certified
Jim Hillis	Certified
Ed Barrios	Recertified
Janet Clemenson	Recertified
JoAnna Harlan	Recertified
Candace Novak	Recertified
Lois Peltier	Recertified and 500 hr. VT Silver
Carolyn Schlein	Recertified
Sherry Summers	Recertified
Pete Romfh	250 hrs. VT Bronze
Fred Lewis	500 hrs. VT Silver
Carol Jones	500 hrs. VT Silver
Mickey Dufilho	Recertified and 1000 hrs VT Gold
Susan Conaty	250 hrs. VT Bronze
Jim Calvert	2500 hrs. VT Platinum
Denis James	2500 hrs. VT Platinum

Program Chair Peggy Romfh distributed a survey for the members to indicate their interest in various proposed advanced training topics.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reviewed upcoming outreach activities (see the chapter calendar for a listing)

The chapter business meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm and was followed by a talk on zoology given by Ann McLain.

Submitted by:

Marty Cornell