



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday May 1, 2013
AgriLIFE Conference Room, Angleton, Texas

Attendees: Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Mary Helen Israel, Jerry Krampota, Ruby Lewis, John Marshall, Neal McLain, Mike Mullins, Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 9:59 am.

Outstanding Action Items were reviewed:

- Ed Barrios reported that the background checks conducted by the Brazosport Independent School District cover only Texas; they are not national in scope.
- Michelle responded that signing the TMN hold-harmless agreement will activate liability insurance coverage for the Master Naturalist. Signing the HH is not currently obligatory, but it will be a condition of being a Master Naturalist in the near future.
- Mike Mullins is fixin to send Patty Clements a note of thanks for donating the nature books of deceased member Charlie Clements to our library.
- Elaine Crews and Kathleen Murray have paid their dues, and Howard Allen, who has not been active in chapter activities because of consulting work, has indicated his intent to reengage with COT. Susan Severance is preparing to move back to England.
- Ruby talked to Bette Long and found that Bob has been diagnosed with leukemia and is undergoing treatment. They hope to be able to soon become active once again in chapter events.
- Ed reported that BISD is willing to conduct background screening of all active COT members as long as there is no cost to the school district.
- Jerry Eppner has provided the roster of active, emeriti, and intern members of COT to Mary Helen Israel; Mary Helen will print hard copies for distribution at the May 8th general meeting.
- John O'Connell will contact AgriLIFE staff artisan on cost to print "card rack" brochures designed to recruit new members.
- Neal McLain is to check on the cost to print tri-fold recruitment brochures at Kinkos and the UPS Store.

Secretary Marty Cornell presented the **minutes of the April board meeting**, as amended by email editing, for approval. Jerry Eppner **moved to accept these amended minutes**; the motion was seconded by Barbara Burkhardt and the motion was **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer John Marshall reported the income and expenses as shown below:



CRADLE OF TEXAS 2013 TREASURES REPORT

April, 2013

	Current Month	Year to Date
Beginning Balance	4,688.11	5,098.07
Revenue		
Training Fees Paid in 2013		400.00
2013 Dues	35.00	707.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.99	15.98
Interest		
Total Revenue	35.99	1,122.98
Expenses		
Training Expenses 2013		296.57
Administrative		90.00
Miscellaneous		999.94
Extraordinary - Board approved		110.44
Total Expenses	0.00	1,496.95
Net Income Gain, (Loss)	35.99	(373.97)
Ending Balance	4,724.10	4,724.10

81 members have paid their dues for 2013.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner reported that year-to-date 26 members have submitted timesheets for total of 2,388 hours of volunteer time. 14 members have certified or recertified to date; recertifying since the last board meeting are Denis James, Gerald Forrest, Angelika Fuller, and Anne Bettinger. Becky McClendon, who will graduate from this year's intern class next week, has also certified.

Jerry noted that Michelle Haggerty is suggesting that auditing of time sheet electronic signatures and "contact information" (the email address of each member will serve this purpose for COT) should be considered. No specific action is currently required.

Program Chair Peggy Romfh noted that next week's general meeting will have no advanced training. Leo Novak will provide the nature quiz for this meeting, and Tom Morris will lead the nature quiz in June.

Peggy reported that the chapter **photo gallery** has 970 photos, and is receiving about 1500 visitors each month.

Training Chair Ed Johnson emailed a status report of the current intern training:



"We can indeed begin celebrating! All of the final eight members of this year's spring 2013 Intern Training Class are going to be qualified to become Texas Master Naturalists by the May 8th Graduation to be held at the May Member Meeting.

In addition to that, five Interns are qualifying for first time certification. Several individuals in this class have already done extraordinary volunteer service. All of the Interns will be submitting their updated and current member time sheets to Jerry Eppner by this Thursday or Friday. I have been personally reviewing and working with each individual the past several nights to help them finalize their forms and hopefully everyone will be capable of future independent submissions.

I have the new magnetic Name Tags ordered and will pick them up this Thursday. Shirts for all the Interns are on hand. All seems ready for graduation!

While you are meeting today, the incoming new Texas Master Naturalists and I are participating in the final scheduled class of this training cycle, Herpetology, at Brazos Bend State Park.

All of you have helped in many ways, as you always do, and most of you have actually assisted directly in one or more of the training classes. I truly appreciate all the support and participation of all of you. These interns have yet to fully comprehend what you have done for them. I know though that they too thank you. They are another group of extremely nice, giving men and women who will continue to fit right in alongside our current members and they too will find even more ways to contribute to our TMN goals.

At the May 8, 2013 Graduation day Member Meeting, the Interns will present their Field Study Projects to the membership as a final note of training completion, and be recognized for their accomplishment.

I hope to see you at the June board meeting."

Mike Mullins announced that Ed Johnson does not intend to be the training chair next year.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reported that the only activity during April was our COT display at Migration Celebration; this display was located in the Exhibition Hall next to the display of photo contest entrants, where both displays were attended to by COT members Denis Mudderman, Peggy Romfh, and Pete Romfh. Four people indicated an interest in our next training program. Peggy suggested that a "child activity" at the COT display would draw more visitors.

On May 13th, Nature Night at the Angleton library will feature owls and include dissecting owl pellets (the owl pellets have been donated by INEOS).

On May 21st, 42 special needs teenagers from Angleton High School will attend a nature activity designed for them using the Coastal Expo display. This event will take place at the MSR racetrack north of Angleton. It is being coordinated by John Bernzen, who is the District Executive of the Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Ruby will recruit the nine volunteers needed for this event at the May 8th COT general meeting.



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Barbara and Ellis Burkhardt attended the "Wings over the Hills" nature festival in Fredericksburg on April 26th through April 28th. Barbara reported that a couple hands-on activities for children were impressive, including their butterfly exhibit, a class promoting birding skills led by junior naturalists, and birdhouse building. It was suggested that Barbara present these activities to the Migration Celebration planning committee.

Mike Mullins noted that the COT Facebook page is getting about 70 hits per week. Since Angelika Fuller will be moving in June, a new manager of this site is needed.

Miscellaneous Items

- Mike Mullins announced that Pete Romfh has agreed to serve as the chapter coordinator of volunteer time, replacing Neal McLain in this role.
- The June board meeting will be held at Sea Center Texas.

President Mullins adjourned the meeting at 11:06.

Submitted by Marty Cornell

Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter