

**Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING of the  
Texas Master Naturalist Program - Cradle of Texas Chapter  
WEDNESDAY June 12, 2012  
AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton, Texas**

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

**Attendance:** 46 members and two guests: John O'Connell introduced Chinatu Gladrich, Matagorda County Extension agent who is doing a six-week internship with John. Pam Peltier introduced her Godchild, Savanna.

**Business:** Mike presented the actions by the board at the June 5 meeting:

**P&P Handbook:** Corrections are being made to the chapter's Policies and Procedures Handbook (P&P). Ed Barrios is heading this up and will present the changes for vote at the July meeting. These include:

1. Mike explained the significance of signing the insurance waiver.
2. Pete reported on the progress being made on establishing photography guidelines for the chapter which will be added to the P&P as an Appendix.
3. Voting rights for the board members will be brought up to date to conform with the state standards. Previously, COT had allowed only elected board members the privilege of voting. This will be changed to allow all board members the privilege of voting.

Other duties will also be voted on at the July meeting.

**Facebook Page:** Our current Facebook editor, Angelika Fuller, is moving to a new position north of Houston. She will no longer be able to manage the chapter Facebook page. Mike requested that anyone interested in assuming this responsibility contact him. (*Dick Schaffhausen has volunteered to manage the COT Facebook page.*)

**TMN listserv:** Barbara has been forwarding many messages for state resources which she receives from the state TMN listserv. This results in duplicate messages for many members. Instructions for subscribing to the state listserv are posted on the chapter website. Go to <http://tmn-cot.org/> and click on "Email Lists". Barbara will no longer forward most of the messages.

**Membership:** Mike reported for Jerry Eppner.

Certified: Randy Holcomb

Re-certified: John Boettiger

500 Hours Pins: Pete Romfh, Peggy Romfh and Fred Lewis

**Outreach:** Ruby Lewis explained the outreach activities for June and July. These include the June reptile programs and the July Mini Coastal Expo programs at the county libraries. She passed around sign-up sheets for the volunteers to choose their times. Ruby will notify everyone by e-mail, three days before the events to remind them they have volunteered. If you cannot make it, please contact Ruby so that she can arrange your replacement.

Other Outreach activities include:

1. Fishin' Fiesta: July 6, 10:00 to 7:00, RiverPlace, Freeport, Texas  
There are two shifts: 10:00-2:00, 2:00-7:00 pm. However, we are usually done by 5:00 pm.
2. Lake Jackson Historical Museum's Science Festival, Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-1:00, Lake Jackson Historical Museum, Lake Jackson
3. Kid Fest, Saturday July 7, 2013, 10:00-3:00. Freeport location to be determined.

## **Minutes of the General Meeting June 12, 2013 (continued)**

Kathleen Murray encouraged members to sign up for the children's programs. They are very rewarding and lots of fun. They also help to educate folks about reptiles and other flora and fauna in Brazoria County.

Camp Mohawk Nature Camp, in conjunction with the Brazoria County Parks Department, is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Ed Barrios is in charge of the activities. Please check the COT website for details.

**T-Shirts:** Edgar Johnson has inventoried the green shirts. There are some extras which are up for sale at the front of the stage.

Mike, on behalf of the entire chapter, expressed our condolences to Roy Morgan on the death of his wife Lois. While she was not a member, she contributed much to the chapter.

### **Vacancies:**

- 1. Training Director:** Edgar Johnson has requested a replacement for his position as Training Director. This is being done in advance of the usual October-December nominating/election time frame, so that Edgar can work with/train the new Training Chair in planning the 2014 class schedule. Barbara Burkhardt, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a short summary of the duties of the training chair to educate the general membership. She also stated that the board would like to have an assistant Training Chair to help with the duties and fill in if it was necessary for the chairman to be absent from a class. She requested that those interested contact her or Edgar after the meeting. (*Roy Morgan volunteered to be chairman. Howard Allen and Kirby Rapstein volunteered to assist him.*)
- 2. Historian:** The chapter has not had a historian to archive the activities of the chapter for several years. This will not be done through electronic media instead of scrapbooks. Please contact Barbara if you are interested.

**PROGRAMS:** Peggy Romfh listed the programs for:

**July--** *Squids and Squid dissection*, Brittney Zepeda, Educator, Sea Center Texas

**August—***Sea Turtles*, Tasha Metz, PhD, TAMU, Galveston

**September—***Big Cats of Texas*, David Heinicke, TPWD, Brazos Bend State Park

Tom Morris presented the June Nature Quiz. The topic was Wading Birds. A link to this quiz, with answers, can be found on the COT website on the Scrapbook page.

[http://www.tmn-cot.org/Quizzes/2013-06\\_Morris.pdf](http://www.tmn-cot.org/Quizzes/2013-06_Morris.pdf)

The general meeting ended at 9:40 am and was followed by a lecture on the *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary*, presented by Kelly Drinnen, Education and Outreach Specialist. Two and a half (2.50) hours of advanced training were credited for the program.

Submitted by

Barbara Burkhardt, Acting Secretary, TMN-COT