



TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday July 10, 2013
AgriLIFE Conference Room
Angleton, Texas

Attendance: 48 members and seven guests attended this meeting. The guests were:
Dawn Logan and Sharon Tischler, who are considering membership.
John Minkert, who was an intern in 2010
Andrea Sanchez, a TAMU student interning with the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory this summer.
Andrea's mother Linda Sanchez.
Brittney Zepeda, our guest speaker from Sea Center Texas (SCT).
Allie Bond, who is interning at SCT this summer.

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and began by noting changes in leadership positions of our chapter:

- ✓ Roy Morgan will become the Training Director, with assistants Howard Allen, Barbara Burkhardt, and Kirby Rapstein.
- ✓ Dick Schaffhausen will manage the COT Facebook page, replacing Angelika Fuller who has moved from Brazoria County.
- ✓ Chris Kneupper will serve on the board as a representative of this year's intern class, replacing Roger Allen who was unable to serve because of work conflicts.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner presented the 2013 Monarch Butterfly recertification pin to eight COT members: Neeta Allen, John Boettiger, Susan Conaty, Phyllis Gerdes, Chris Kneupper, Leo O'Gorman, Joan Simonsen, and Carole Wenny. Kathy Speights also recertified, but was not present to receive her pin. Phyllis was recognized for attaining 250 hours of VT, and Mike Mullins was recognized for surpassing 500 hours of volunteer time.

Jerry reported that year-to-date, 40 members have submitted 4773 hours of volunteer time, which increases the total VT from the Cradle of Texas Chapter's inception to 126,663 hours. 25 members have either certified or recertified this year.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reported that the June summer library program drew 2,163 participants at 19 presentations at 12 libraries in Brazoria County. She thanked Mary Helen Israel, Justina Dent, John Boettiger, and Carole Wenny for helping at these events.

The July summer library program features sea shore activities, e.g. shells, fish printing, and rod casting. The two programs held thus far drew 108 participants; 65 at the Brazoria Library and 43 at the West Columbia Library. Nine volunteers are needed for each session.

The COT display and reptile exposure at the July 6th Fishin' Fiesta went well, although attendance was off from last year.

COT will participate at the July 13th Kid Fest to be held at the Freeport Museum.

Ed Barrios reported that 36 children participated at the four-day Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park. Fourteen TMN-COT volunteers were assisted by nine other people from the Brazoria County Parks Department and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TPWD stocked the lake with catfish and helped with the fishing session.



TMN-COT General Meeting Wednesday July 10, 2013 continued

Program Chair Peggy Romfh is converting the nature quizzes from COT general meetings to a flash card format; Peggy showed a prototype using the "Wading Birds of Texas" quiz. Member comments were quite supportive of this effort. One suggestion was to include the TMN-COT logo on the cards. The quizzes can be found in the Scrapbook section of the chapter's web site.

Peggy reviewed the AT topics that will be featured at the next three general meetings of the Cradle of Texas Chapter:

- ✓ August 14th; Tasha Metz of TAMU-Galveston will discuss *Sea Turtles/Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles*
- ✓ September 11th; David Heinicke of Brazos Bend State Park will talk about the *Big Cats of Texas*.
- ✓ October 13, Flo Hannah, Urban Sanctuaries Manager, Houston Audubon, will talk about native grasses.

The meeting ended with a nature quiz on sea shells conducted by Peggy.

Following the meeting, Brittney Zepeda of SCT gave a talk on the habits and physiology of squid, and then instructed teams of two or three through squid dissection.

At the end of this advanced training session, Mike Mullins reminded the membership that, at the next general meeting in August, we would be voting on several items including the ability of "members-in-training" to accrue VT and AT, and on the expansion of voting privileges at board meetings to include appointed positions. Mike will also describe the photo policy guidelines that have been approved by the board.

This AT session ended at 11:47 am.

Submitted by
Marty Cornell
Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter