



Draft of 21Aug13

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

TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING Wednesday August 14, 2013 AgriLIFE Conference Room Angleton, Texas

Attendance: 49 members and five guests attended this meeting. The guests were Dawn Logan and Lorna Witt, who are considering membership; John Minkert, who was an intern in 2010; Scott Brooks, Environmental Coordinator for Port Freeport, and Emma Clemenson (Janet's daughter).

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 8:56 am and began by reviewing recent actions of the Board of Directors, including one that requires approval of the membership:

- ✓ The Board has approved *Photo Publication Guidelines* that have been included as an addendum to the chapter's *Policies and Procedures Handbook (P&P)*. Hard copies of this document were available of the members.
- ✓ The Board recommended the adoption of a new Member Category, "Member-in-Training", which would allow an intern or pending intern to begin to accrue volunteer time (VT) after the candidate has paid intern fees, has complete all chapter entry paperwork, and has successfully completed a background check. A motion was made by Rich Tillman, and the motion was seconded by Phil Huxford, to approve this proposed Member Category. The motion passed by voice vote with no objections. Hard copies of the full description of "Member-in-Training" were made available to the attendees, and the full description may be found in the revised P&P.
- ✓ A description of the insurance policy covering TMN members while engaged in activity for the Texas Master Naturalists has been included in the addendum of the COT P&P.
- ✓ Although COT board meetings are routinely scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month, January 1st is the first Wednesday of 2014. The Board thus thought it prudent to move the January Board meeting to the 8th, and thus the General Meeting to January 15, 2014.

President Mike covered several other items:

- ✓ Although the Burkhardts will not be attending this year's state TMN meeting at the T-Bar Ranch (October 25 – 27), other COT attendees have agreed to assume the Burkhardts' traditional role in running the photo contest. COT attendees were asked to volunteer for time slots at the photo display area.
- ✓ In December, Thomas Adams of the USFWS TMCNWRC, will organize a day to transfer native prairie grasses from a section of the main unit of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge to the Eagle Nest Lake Unit of the refuge. Details are under development.
- ✓ Mike thanked the chapter members for their contributions to Jami Geserick's gift at her baby shower.
- ✓ Mike asked the members to consider moving the October general meeting to the recreation center on the property of Phillips Petroleum in Old Ocean. The speaker for this meeting will be Flo Hannah, who will address prairie grasses. Following the morning meeting, it is proposed that those interested would gather on surrounding prairie for in-field grass identification training, perhaps with Flo if she is willing. The members agreed that this proposal should be pursued.

Ed Barrios reviewed the decision by INEOS to end their eleven-year hosting of environmental field trips for third grade students from the Angleton Independent School District. The main reason for this decision seems to be the lack of volunteer support from INEOS employees.



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TMN-COT general meeting minutes, Wednesday August 14, 2013 (continued)

Ed noted that he and others are working on a proposal to reestablish the Angleton ISD environmental education program at the *Brazoria Environmental Education Center* ("BEES"), the facilities and gardens of the Brazoria County Texas Master Gardeners Association. The idea would be for members of the BCMGA and the TMN-COT Chapter to team up to conduct sessions with the AISD students. The sessions would continue to be on Fridays during the school year. INEOS has agreed to donate their EE supplies and equipment to the revamped program. A new training building has been constructed at the BEES, and now includes sufficient bathrooms to accommodate a busload of students.

Ed notified the members that volunteers to the DEEP program will need to fill out a background screening form from the Brazosport Independent School District every year. Ed passed out forms to interested COT members. Copies of the form are available on the Chapter website at:
http://tmn-cot.org/Forms/Volunteer_Authorization_Form_BISD.pdf

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner noted that seven COT members have recertified during the last month: Jim Calvert, Jerry Eppner, Jim Hillis, John Marshall, Roy Morgan, Pam West, and Shelia Williams. Jerry recognized Randy Holcomb for completing his certification.

Jerry reported that year-to-date, 46 members have submitted 5660 hours of volunteer time, which increases the total VT from the Cradle of Texas Chapter's inception to 127,551 hours. 33 members have either certified or recertified this year.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reported the activity below since the July general meeting:

Date	Event	Location	Volunteers	VT	Children	Adults	Total
7/6/2013	Fishin' Fiesta	Freeport	10	84.00	670	330	1000
7/13/2013	Kidsfest	Freeport	10	56.00	1335	665	2000
7/15/2013 and 7/22/2013	Kid's Kollege (Reptiles)	Brazosport College	2	8.00	90	2	92
July	Sea and Shore Mini Coastal Expo	10 programs at 10 Libraries	30	212.50	328	201	529
8/5/2013	Reptile Programming	Freeport Memorial Childcare (Daycare)	2	4.00	66	11	77
Totals for the month				364.5	2489	1209	3698
Totals for the Year				858.8	18,944	4,376	23,320

Ruby announced that the *Lake Jackson Historical Society* will host a nature day at the Abner Jackson Plantation on September 7th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. COT will participate with our reptile experience.

Six volunteers are needed for the Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza on the mornings of Saturday, September 14th and Saturday September 21st.

Dick Schaffhausen encouraged members to use the Chapter's Facebook page.



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Program Chair Peggy Romfh reviewed the AT topics that will be featured at the next two general meetings of the Cradle of Texas Chapter:

- ✓ September 11th; David Heinicke, Park Naturalist at 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*. Note the tentative venue location change discussed above.

Peggy also reviewed the bonus AT day to be held at the AgriLIFE center on September 18th, from 8:30 am to noon. The two speakers will be Mark Tyson of TAMU, who will present a session on *Feral Hogs in Texas*, and Mike Warriner, Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, who will discuss *Native Bees*.

Marty Cornell notified the members that the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges will be holding a fall fundraiser to support refuge environmental education activities on Friday, November 1st [the date has subsequently been changed to November 15th]. This fundraiser has been dubbed *A Taste for Nature* and will feature a silent auction and tastings of eight outstanding wines, paired with cheeses and canapés. Tickets are \$60.

The meeting ended with a nature quiz on vines conducted by Jerry Krampota and Peggy.

This meeting ended at 9:47 and was followed by a presentation on *Sea Turtles* by Dr. Tasha Metz, Instructor, TAMU, Galveston.

Submitted by

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