



FINAL 04Sept13

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

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday September 4, 2013
AgriLIFE® Conference Room, Angleton, Texas

Attendees: Ed Barrios, Jerry Eppner, Mary Helen Israel, Ed Johnson, Chris Kneupper, Jerry Krampota, Ruby Lewis, John Marshall, Neal McLain, Mike Mullins, John O'Connell, Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh, Dick Schaffhausen

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes: Ed Barrios moved and Jerry Eppner seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August, 2013 board meeting, as amended with email input. This motion **passed** with no dissent. Ed Barrios moved and John Marshall seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August, 2013 general meeting. This motion passed with no dissent.

Treasurer Report: John Marshall

CRADLE OF TEXAS 2013 TREASURER'S REPORT

August, 2013

	Current Month		Year to Date
Beginning Balance	4,530.70		5,098.07
Revenue			
Training Fees Paid in 2013	300.00	New Interns	700.00
2013 Dues	0.97		737.97
Miscellaneous Income	108.00	Contribution for Jami	181.81
Total Revenue	408.97		1,619.78
Expenses			
Training Expenses 2013	30.00	Background checks	378.57
Administrative			187.23
Miscellaneous	108.65	Gift for Jami	1,150.59
Extraordinary - Board approved			200.44
Total Expenses	138.65		1,916.83
Net Income Gain, (Loss)	270.32		(297.05)
Ending Balance	4,801.02		4,801.02



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Membership Report: Jerry Eppner

47 timesheets have been turned in; 35 members have certified or recertified; there are 6724 YTD VT hours and 128,145 Lifetime total of VT for TMN-COT. YTD AT hours were not reported. Angelika Fuller requested transfer to Gulf Coast chapter. Jerry has completed transfer. Marty Cornell has reached 5,000 VT level and will be recognized at the state meeting.

Board members suggested

- Bringing a sheet cake with congratulations to Marty for Sept. meeting. (Action: Jerry Krampota will organize.)
- Creating a 5,000 hour plaque that would hang in the AgriLife Building to recognize members of TMN-COT that achieved 5,000 VT hours while active members of the chapter. Current 5,000 hour awardees include Jim Renfro, Phil Huxford, and Marty Cornell. There was further discussion about including members emeriti on the plaque. (Action: John O'Connell will investigate where a plaque might be placed in the building. Post-meeting note from John 09/05/13: AgriLife Extension is exploring an option to use one of the display cases at the entrance of the building as a "Hall of Fame" for Extension's volunteers.) (Action: Plaque creation was deferred until final approval of hanging a plaque was obtained.)

Program Report: Peggy Romfh

- Special AT, Wed., Sept. 18th
 - Speakers: Mark Tyson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Feral Hogs; Michael Warriner, TPWD, Native Bees
 - Meeting space – confirmed with Jami for 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 - Est. attendance – 30 TMN-COT, 10 Beekeepers, 10 Master Gardeners
 - Seating – tables/chairs will be left in standard configuration
 - Snacks/coffee: Romfh, Jerry Krampota (Action: Mike will ask for additional volunteers at the Sept. general meeting.)
- Future Speakers confirmed
 - October, 2013: Flo Hannah, Grasses. Location change to Phillips Rec Center still under consideration
 - November, 2013: Dr. Susan Heath, GCBO, Oystercatcher Research
 - December, 2014: no program
 - January, 2014: Jim Renfro, TMN, Forest Birds Study Group, Research and Methodology
 - February, 2014: Andy Sansom, pending approval of travel funds and final acceptance of date by Mr. Sansom. Peggy Romfh reviewed the estimated costs for travel (at state rates) to include fuel, motel, and two partial per diem



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days. Ed Barrios moved and Ed Johnson seconded the motion to approve up to \$450 for Andy Sansom's travel. The motion carried without dissent from the board.

- o March, 2014: Mike Lange, FWS, Columbia Bottomlands/Forest Ecology

Outreach Report: Ruby Lewis

The following activities have occurred since the August board meeting or have been identified as a future outreach activity. Volunteers are needed for Oct. 19th Houston event to include photographers (2), butterfly encounter (6), reptiles (10). (Action: Ruby will recruit volunteers at the September general meeting.) There was a discussion of the need for two canopies at the Festival of Lights. Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR) has two canopies that should be available.

Date	Event	Organization/Location	# COT Volunteers	Volunteer hours	Youth	Adult	Total
8/10	Kids Day at Brazos Mall	With FOBWR	6	32	330	170	500
8/12	Earth Warriors	Pearland HS	1	2	6	2	8
	Future Outreach						
9/7	Abner Jackson Plantation Nature Day	Lake Jackson Historical Society					
10/19	Kids Day (Birds of Prey, Butterfly Encounter, Reptiles, Photography)	Mid-Coast Refuge loc. Buffalo Bayou, downtown Houston near Eleanor Tinsley Park					
9/14	Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (XHX)	GCBO					
9/21	Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (XHX)	GCBO					
10/21	Birds of Prey	Angleton Library 6:30 pm					



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Date	Event	Organization/Location	# COT Volunteers	Volunteer hours	Youth	Adult	Total
11/23	Festival of Lights	Lake Jackson					
Monthly totals			7	34	336	172	508
Year-to-Date Totals			176	892.75	19280	4548	23,828

Other Projects:

- BCMGA /TMN-COT program for former INEOS students. Report by Ed Barrios:
 - Angleton Independent School District is interested but wants all 3rd graders. We prefer pilot program with 3 schools that were part of INEOS. Sea Center is also a possible location. Program planning is just started.
- Katy Prairie Conservancy – development of a document on restoring and maintaining sections of coastal prairie and help in developing lesson plans for teaching youth about our prairies. Report by Mike Mullins: Susan Conaty talked with Lan Shin. Susan Heath with GCBO volunteered to be in group.
- Plant Restoration from San Bernard NWR to prairie at Eagle Nest Lake unit of refuge (Contact person – Thomas Adams of TMCNWRC). Report by Mike Mullins: Under discussion – transplanting bluestem vs. adding additional specie or both. Date not yet determined.
- Oct. board meeting – suggest Sea Center as location
- New member resource from Michelle Haggerty – may reduce time spent in class to go over material. Available also on web site. Already covered in intro classes but does provide a written copy for reference. Suggestion – Ed and Roy and committee review material to determine what of the material might be useful.

Training Report: Ed Johnson

- Roy Morgan will be training chair for next year pending confirmation vote of membership.



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- Applicants: Applications and fees for 2014 training have been received to date from Lorna Witt, Dawn Logan, and Louis Golish. Donna Jablecki, Cassie Mitchel, Paula Melton, and Sharon Tischler have expressed interest in participating but are waiting until later this fall to complete the application process. John Minkert, who started training in 2010, has expressed interest in resuming training.
- The training schedule 75% complete for 2014.

Advanced Training Report: Tom Morris – absent; no report

Website Report: Neal McLain – nothing to report

Media Report: Mary Helen Israel – nothing to report

Mike Mullins appointed Neal McLain as the Media Committee Chair. The board approved the selection without dissent. The committee will include web, newsletter, Facebook, and photo gallery members. In the future, the media report to the board will include all of these topics.

Facebook Report: Dick Schaffhausen. No complaints on Facebook content to date.

Volunteer Activities Report: Pete Romfh - nothing to report.

Policies and Procedures (P&P): Ed Barrios

Ed Barrios presented the revised policies and procedures for approval. [See Appendix to minutes for revised document.] Peggy Romfh moved and Pete Romfh seconded the motion to accept the changes. Discussion: Board members identified a correction on page 12 of the P&P to note that the past-president is normally an assumed position. Pete Romfh moved and John Marshall seconded the motion to accept the P&P with the proposed revision. The motion passed without dissent from the board.

Elections:

- The Nominating Committee of Barbara Burkhardt, Gerald Forrest, Barbara Bruyere was approved by the board without dissent.
- Selection of 2014 slate of officers will be done by the Nominating Committee.
(Action: existing elected board members were requested to notify the nominating committee by Sept. 20 whether they wish to continue on the board in their current position, in a different position, or not at all. They are also asked to identify any other members who might be asked to serve in a leadership position.)



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Budget 2014: John Marshall prepared options for budget for 2014 and presented them to the board. Costs were analyzed based on the past three years. An assumption was made that 5 TMN manuals would be needed and an ongoing approval of speaker expenses would be needed.

CRADLE OF TEXAS 2014 INCOME AND EXPENSE Report and Budget			
		2,014.00	
INTERN CLASS REVENUE/EXPENSES		Budget	
Revenue			
	Intern Registration Fees	1,000.00	based on 10 interns
	Total revenue	1,000.00	
Expenses			
	Social expenses, name tags, postage, shirts	484.65	3 year average
	Background Checks for iInterns	100.00	Background checks
	TMN Manual purchases	185.00	discretionary intern expense (purchase of 5 manuals)
	Total Training Expenses	769.65	
	Net Training Expenses	230.35	
CHAPTER REVENUE & EXPENSES			
Revenue			
	Total dues paid in Year	850.00	
	Interest Income	7.00	
	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
	Total revenue	857.00	
Expenses			
	Administrative Expenses	340.00	Allocated background checks
	Drinks and supplies for social events	200.00	Intern lunch, etc.
	Travel Expenses for guest lecturers	500.00	Estimated amount for 1 speaker and fuel expenses for 2 other speakers
	Web Charges	200.00	
	Misc. Expenses	600.00	Board approved + miscellaneous expenditures
	Extraordinary Expenses		
	Total Expenses	1,840.00	
			Active Members
			Est. Current members 85
			Dues needed/member for Zero
			Balance \$ 22
	Net Chapter Cost	-983.00	includes chapter revenue and expenses
	Total Chapter Cost	-752.65	includes training and chapter revenue and expenses
	Carryover Balance form Previous Year	4,500.00	
	TMN-COT Checking Balance	3,747.35	



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Discussion: John noted that we have been operating with deficit spending for the last two years and continue to draw down the TMN-COT carryover balance.

John's analysis showed that with 85 active members, \$22 dues/member would have to be collected to create a zero revenue/expense balance annually. His data showed that approximately \$752 - \$983 would have to be used from the carryover balance from previous years if the dues were not increased. Alternatively, expenses need to be significantly cut.

John Marshall moved and Jerry Eppner seconded a motion to raise member dues to \$25 starting in 2014, to eliminate the family dues category, to change the supporting dues category amount to \$50, and to change the lifetime dues category to \$400. The motion was approved by the board without dissent.

Fund Raiser by FOBWR to support the Refuges

Ed Barrios reported on plans for a November 15th fund raiser to support the refuges. The event will be free and will include both a live and silent auction. The location is the Center for the Arts and Sciences.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Submitted by

Peggy Romfh

VP/Program Chair

Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter