



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

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 7, 2014 10am-11:45am
AgriLIFE Extension Bldg.
Angleton, Texas

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

Attending Elected Members of the Board: Mike Mullins (President), Ed Barrios (State Representative), Jerry Eppner (Membership Coordinator), Gerald Forrest (Treasurer), Becky McClendon (Secretary), and Peggy Romfh (Vice-president).

Absent Elected Members of the Board: Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator).

Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Barbara Burkhardt (Past President), Jerry Krampota (Chapter Host), Neal McLain (Webmaster), and Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Manager).

Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Ruby Lewis (Outreach Chair), Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.) Mary Holler (LEEP Coordinator), Tom Morris (Advanced Training Manager), John O'Connell, (Chapter Advisor, AgriLIFE® Extension Agent), Dick Schaffhausen (Representative of the 2013 Intern Class), and Chris Kneupper (Representative of the 2013 Intern Class).

Quorum: 10/14 of the Elected and Committee Chair Members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

Minutes:

Secretary Becky McClendon presented the April Board Minutes for approval. Neal McLain asked about corrections he had requested. Changes were noted and with those corrections Peggy Romfh moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections. Barbara Burkhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Becky presented the corrected April General Meeting Minutes for approval. Pete Romfh moved the minutes be approved as corrected. Gerald Forrest seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gerald Forrest's report was from 4/1/14 thru 4/30/14. The beginning balance was \$7,331.71. The ending balance was \$7,024.04.

Revenue Summary included:

Dues payments	25.00
Interest	1.48

Total Revenues for April were: \$26.48



Expense Summary included:

Intern Curriculum Refund	76.34
Speaker Pauline Tom mileage expense	254.00
Postage expense – Jerry Eppner	5.81
Total Expenses for April were:	\$336.15

Membership:

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner reported 31 Members have turned in time sheets to date. Barbara Burkhardt and Dave Brandes have reached 4000 Volunteer Hours.

Training:

President Mike Mullins reported for Roy Morgan, Training Coordinator. All 2014 Interns are on track to graduate. The new intern representatives to the Board are:

Joycelynn Grigson
Sherri Wilson

Alternate intern representative is Breana Kitchen.

***June Board Meeting is cancelled due to lack of quorum. Several members will be out of town.**

Advanced Training:

There was no report. Tom Morris was absent.

Past President, Barbara Burkhardt, reported on the following:

- Gumbo graduation luncheon is planned. 10 members are preparing gumbo, 8-10 members have volunteered to prepare salads, desserts, and bread. There is a prize for the winning gumbo chosen by 3 judges. The judges are: Jami Geserick, John Gordy, and Michaele Gregory.
- Jane Eppner and Barbara are working on the display case for the plaques. The plaques are in but need to be engraved.

***Action Item for engraving plaques.**

Barbara also met with Tom Schneider to clarify Junior Naturalist volunteer opportunities. The following is a list of projects proposed by Tom for COT involvement.

- Special Christmas Program at Discovery Center December 27-1
- Acorn planting Jan – Feb
- Spring Break Open House at Discovery Center in March
- Summer – Special speaker at Discovery Center
- Summer – Kayaking at Cedar Lake Creek
- Fall – Quintana Beach Campout and Beach Cleanup
- Planetarium Programs
- Water Testing
- Plankton Study
- Photography



Tom's goal is to have a minimum of 6 activities during the year – one every two months. Activities would be open to all three classes of RJN (90 children). He thinks there could be 10-25 people at each activity.

Tom would also like some help organizing special activities, and getting parental buy-in and involvement. He wants to keep past classes involved.

Mike Mullins proposed a timeline for the May General Meeting to accommodate the Interns' presentations allowing approximately 20 minutes for each of the presentations.

Webmaster Report:

Webmaster Neal McLain reported that a yearly budget to maintain the website is usually \$150 but this year's payment was made last year.

Newsletter went out for May.

Our new 2014 Intern Representatives will take office in July instead of June due to meeting cancellation.

Programs Update:

Vice President Peggy Romfh reminded the Board of the guest speakers for the coming meetings through September.

- **June – Bill Ostrand – Ecological Theory for Amateur Naturalists**
- **July – Ken Johnson – Texas Crawdads**
- **August – Peter Woods – Aquatic Ecology / Pond Management**
- **September – Advanced Training opportunities with Cathy Downs on monarch butterflies**

Peggy opened a discussion about the cost of reimbursing guest speakers for their mileage. She supplied the Board with a chart on reimbursements based on IRS data and actual fuel costs. At the end of the discussion, it was decided that the PPH would reflect an average of the business cost per mile and the charity cost per mile to be "available" to speakers.

***Action Item for Ed Barrios to find the appropriate spot in the PPH for revised reimbursement policy.**

Outreach:

Ruby Lewis, Outreach Co-coordinator, was absent. Ed Barrios will talk with Ruby about volunteer needs for the June and July library programs.

***Action Item for Ed. He will get calendar obligation updates from Ruby Lewis.**

Upcoming events include the following:

- May 17, 2014 – Backyard Basics Expo (Resoft County Park Alvin)
- June 9-12, 2014 – GCBO Bird Camp
- June 23-26, 2014 – Camp Mohawk Nature Camp
- July 4th Weekend 2014 – Freeport Fishin' Fiesta

Volunteer Updates:



Pete Romfh, Volunteer Service Manager, reported that two of the new interns are very active in northern Brazoria County specifically at George Observatory and Houston Arboretum.

*Action Item for Pete. He will obtain VPALs.

PPH Updates:

State Representative Ed Barrios was asked by Mike Mullins to clarify page 26 of PPH so that there is a process for “appointed” board members. The discussion lead to no action needed.

Host Jerry Krampota asked Barbara if another gumbo was needed and offered to make a pot. Jerry will bring gumbo.

Action Items were presented by **Mike Mullins** for a review, as shown below and updated to reflect the current status of outstanding items. New action items are included on this table. All new items or updates are highlighted in **yellow**.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register March 2014				
Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/P ending	Comments
Apply to TPWD for a grant to support San Bernard Wildlife Refuge	Ed Barrios	TBD	Pending	Hold off until current monies have been spent.
Send out amended By Laws for review	Ed Barrios	TBD	Pending	
Target budget for members	Jerry Krampota, Peggy Romfh, Ruby Lewis, Roy Morgan, Neal McLain	September 1, 2014	Pending	
Junior Naturalist Program volunteer needs	Barbara Burkhardt	TBD	Pending	Tom Schneider gave a list of proposed projects to Barbara. See list in Junior Naturalists section of minutes.
Outreach Calendar Updates	Ed Barrios, Ruby Lewis, Barbara Burkhardt	June 1, 2014	Pending	Ed will get updates on Library Program leaders and other outreach obligations from Ruby. Barbara will talk with Carol Jones and Dave Brandes



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				about Bird Camp volunteer needs.
Rewording of PPH to reflect travel reimbursement available to guest speakers.	Ed Barrios	TBD	Pending	The mileage reimbursement that will be available to speakers will be set at the average of the IRS business and charity reimbursements per mile.
VPALs for George Observatory and Houston Arboretum	Pete Romfh	TBD	Pending	
Engraving of plaques for display case		TBD	Pending	

President Mike Mullins adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Submitted by Becky McClendon,
 Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter



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Date	2-Jan	5-Feb	5-March	2-Apr.	7 May									Attendance
Board Members														
Barrios, Ed	1	1	1	1	1									5
Burkhardt, Barbara	1	1	1	1	1									5
McClendon, Becky	1		1	1	1									4
Eppner, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1									5
Morgan, Roy	1													1
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	1	1	1									5
Mullins, Mike	1	1	1		1									4
Romfh, Peggy	1		1	1	1									4
Quorum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Sponsors														
O'Connell, John	0	1	1											2
Stolte, Connie	1	1		1										3
Committee Chairs														
Romfh, Pete	1		1	1	1									4
Krampota, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1									5
Lewis, Ruby	1	1		1										3
McLain, Neal	1	1	1		1									4
Morris, Tom	1	1												2
Intern Representatives														
Kneupper, Chris	1	1	1	1										4
Schaffhausen, Dick	1	1	1											3
														0
														0
														0
														0