



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 10am – 11:30am
Sea Center Texas
Lake Jackson, 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), Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator), Becky McClendon (Secretary) and Peggy Romfh (Vice-president).

Absent Elected Members of the Board: None

Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Barbara Burkhardt (Past President), Neal McLain (Media Coordinator), Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Coordinator), Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.), John O'Connell (Chapter Advisor, AgriLife® Extension Agent), and Breana Kitchen (2014 Training Class Representative).

Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Mary Holler (LEEP Coordinator), Jerry Krampota (Chapter Host Coordinator), Tom Morris (Advanced Training Coordinator), Ruby Lewis (Outreach Coordinator), and Joycelynn Grigson (2014 Training Class Representative),

Quorum: 12/13 of the Elected and Committee Coordinator members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

Minutes:

Mike Mullins, President, presented the following minutes for approval:

Meeting Minutes	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
September Board	Peggy Romfh	Gerald Forrest	Minutes approved by voice vote.
September General	Barbara Burkhardt	Ed Barrios	Minutes approved by voice vote with correction to BCLS donation of \$60.

Action Items were reviewed and updated at this time in the meeting. Table of Action Items is included at the end of the minutes.



Treasurer's Report:

Gerald Forrest, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's reports for September.

Date	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
9/1/14 thru 9/30/14	\$6,328.82	\$6,228.54
Revenue Summary		
Donation from BCLS		\$60.00
Dues Payments		\$50.00
Nametag		\$6.50
Interest		\$1.38
	Total Revenue	\$117.88
Expense Summary		
Mileage Reimbursement Monarch Program		\$203.00
Milkweed Seed Supplies		\$15.16
	Total Expenses	\$218.16

Mike asked Gerald for the beginning balance of 2014. Gerald reported that in January 2014 we started with a balance of \$5,344.92.

Peggy Romfh suggested using the \$60 donation from BCLS to help with the cost of summer library programs. Barbara Burkhardt made the motion to direct the \$60 to Ruby Lewis for gasoline reimbursement. Ed Barrios seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Membership:

Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator, reported that the chapter is behind last year's number of volunteer hours but several members have not reported hours. There will be a few members recognized for recertification at the general meeting.

Training:

Roy Morgan, Training Coordinator, has mailed 17 packets to potential members for the 2015 Intern Training Class. Roy will email COT members the contact information of the potential members.

***Action Item – Roy Morgan will email potential members' contact information to the chapter.**

Advanced Training:

Mike Mullins reported for Tom Morris, Advanced Training Coordinator that there is nothing to report at this time.

Nominating Committee:

Past President, Barbara Burkhardt, suggested Board members should look at October General Meeting attendees for potential candidates for the new board. There was further discussion of possible candidates.



Media:

Neal McLain, Media Coordinator, reported that the library is organized and in place ready for members to use. He suggested we use the honor system for check outs. The new book on fungi donated by Teri MacArthur needs to be cataloged.

Barbara Burkhardt said that two TMN-COT plaques have been found that are too large for the display case. It was discussed that the plaques be hung in the library. John O'Connell informed the board that the library may be moved in the near future so that the room can be used as an office for a new employee. The plaque placement discussion has been tabled.

Programs Update/Gallery:

Peggy Romfh, Vice-President, informed the board that she and Pete will not be at the October general meeting. She has spoken with Mary Carol Edwards. Mary Carol will start her talk at 10:15.

The Green Ash Borer Project is in danger of losing its funding. Peggy will find out if the project will continue and if TMN-COT members are needed to help collect healthy green ash seeds for the project.

***Action Item – Peggy Romfh will find out about the status of the Green Ash Borer Project.**

Photo Gallery:

Peggy shared that the photo gallery has now reached 42,000 views and has a total of 840 species to date.

Outreach:

Ruby Lewis, Outreach Coordinator, was not in attendance. Upcoming events were covered by Mike Mullins.

Upcoming Events include:

- Tuesday, October 14 – Birds of Prey – Angleton Library 6:30 pm
- Saturday, October 18 – KBR Kids Day on Buffalo Bayou (Volunteer sign-up sheet will be passed around at the October General Meeting.)
- Sunday, October 26 – Spooktacular @ Sea Center Texas 1-4pm
- November 22 – Festival of Lights in Lake Jackson

Volunteer Updates:

Pete Romfh, Volunteer Service Coordinator, recommended that we accept a VPAR with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. As citizen scientists, volunteers document wildflower species in our area that are native to the United States by submitting photos to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower website at www.wildflower.org.

Pete made a motion to accept the VPAR with the Lady Bird Johnson Center. Gerald Forrest seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Pete will talk to the members about this volunteer opportunity at the November General Meeting.



***Action Item – Pete Romfh will complete the VPAR and VPAL with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.**

Pete has authorized ¼ hour VT per submitted picture including appropriate data. Additionally, members may take up to 2 hours per week for locating and photographing specimens in the field.

Ed Barrios, State Representative, informed the Board that Friends of the Refuges will be supplying tents and butterflies for the KBR Kids Day. Ed will check with Tom Schneider about butterflies and milkweeds needed for that event.

Scheduling for DEEP and HWEEP has begun.

Peggy Romfh is working through the maze of 501(C)(3) required forms. She will have more to report in November.

Host Report:

Jerry Krampota, Chapter Host Coordinator, was absent. Mike reported that Jerry may not be back in time for the October General Meeting. Barbara offered to contact Carole Weeny about setting up coffee needs.

Mike Mullins reviewed extraneous items:

- ✓ Great turnout for the Monarch presentation by TMN-COT members and Master Gardeners.
- ✓ Texas Invasives Organization Newsletter had an article about Chris and Carl Kneupper and their efforts to report 100 species of invasive plants. Mike asked if we could look into getting the information into the local newspaper.
- ✓ Timetable for the October General Meeting
- ✓ Peggy Romfh and Mike Mullins have drafted a support letter for GCBO's wetland nursery grant.

Action Items:

Mike Mullins reviewed existing action items, 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**.

- Discussion about Training Coordinator for 2015. Roy Morgan accepted the position and will make decisions about his committee members and how they can help.
- Ed Barrios is waiting on a response from Michelle Haggerty about VT hours.
- Discussion about the canopy ended with the decision to borrow the one from GCBO and practice putting it up to determine difficulty and number of people needed to accomplish task.



Cradle of Texas Board Action Register July 2014

Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/P ending	Comments
Obtain approval from COT membership for PPH update for travel reimbursement	Mike Mullins	Sept. 10, 2014	Completed	
Send courtesy note to Harris County Chapters about COT volunteer support for George Observatory, Challenger Learning Center, and Houston Arboretum	Mike Mullins	Sept. 10, 2014	Pending	
Notify members about state rules on volunteer activities that are not covered for VT.	Jerry Eppner Ed Barrios	Aug. 6, 2014	Pending	Ed will contact Michelle Haggerty.
Contact interns from 2014 class to provide coaching on filling out timesheets and to verify that intern has linked up to desired volunteer activities	Roy Morgan, Joycelynn Grigson	Aug. 6, 2014	On-going	
Schedule discussion of Training Coordinator and a team to coordinate training in 2015.	Mike Mullins	Sept. 10, 2014	Completed	Roy Morgan to take position in 2015.
Submit articles of interest to area newspapers such as the <i>Tockonhon Naturalist</i> column and the President's Call to Service Award recipients	Neal McLain, Dick Schaffhausen Chris Kneupper	Sept. 10, 2014	On-going	Neal created a folder in drop box and posted articles there. Dick has access to the folder to use for publicity.
Pete Romfh will renew and update VPAL with GCWR.	Pete Romfh, Sandy Henderson		Pending	VPAL should read 3 hours or time spent per shift on Hotline for VT hours. Awaiting signed agreement.
Ed Barrios will check with Michelle Haggerty concerning legitimate VT hours.	Ed Barrios		Pending	Episodic events and serving on boards of partners.
Ed Barrios will look into	Ed Barrios		Pending	Peggy will look over



Cradle of Texas Board Action Register July 2014

Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/P ending	Comments
paperwork required to file for 501(c)(3) status.	Peggy Romfh			application.
Mike Mullins will appoint 2 members to help with nominating committee.	Mike Mullins Barbara Burkhardt		Completed	
Neal McLain will add Texas Invaders to webinar list for AT credit	Neal McLain		Completed	
Mike Mullins will send reminder to chapter for webinar AT and Coding	Mike Mullins		Completed	
Ed Barrios will check with David Plunkett about canopy for purchase by chapter.	Ed Barrios David Plunkett		Pending	Ed will look into borrowing canopy from GCBO.
Roy Morgan will email potential members' contact information to chapter.	Roy Morgan		Pending	
Peggy Romfh will find out about the status of the Green Ash Borer Project	Peggy Romfh		Pending	
Pete Romfh will complete the VPAR and VPAL with Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.	Pete Romfh		Pending	

President Mike Mullins adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Submitted by Becky McClendon, Secretary of TMN-COT



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
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Date	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Board Members													
Barrios, Ed	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			9
Burkhardt, Barbara	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			9
McClendon, Becky	1		1	1	1	n/a		1	1	1			7
Eppner, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			9
Morgan, Roy	1					n/a	1	1	1	1			5
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			9
Mullins, Mike	1	1	1		1	n/a	1	1	1	1			8
Romfh, Peggy	1		1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			8
Sponsors													
O'Connell, John		1	1			n/a	1			1			4
Stolte, Connie	1	1		1		n/a				1			4
Committee Coordinators													
Romfh, Pete	1		1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			8
Krampota, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				8
Lewis, Ruby	1	1		1		n/a		1	1				5
McLain, Neal	1	1	1		1	n/a	1	1	1	1			8
Morris, Tom	1	1				n/a							2
Quorum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Training Class Representatives													
Kneupper, Chris	1	1	1	1		n/a	1	1	1				7
Schaffhausen, Dick	1	1	1			n/a							3
Joycelynn Grigson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1		1				2
Sherri Wilson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1		-	-	-	-	1
Breana Kitchen									1	1			2