



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER  
AGRI LIFE EXTENSION BLDG.**

21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 3, 2015 10:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.**  
**AgriLife Extension Building**  
**Angleton, Texas**

**President Dave Brandes** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Attending Elected Members of the Board:** Dave Brandes (President), Leo Novak, (Vice President), Mike Mullins (Past President), Ed Barrios (State Representative), Gerald Forrest (Treasurer), and Linda Sluis (Secretary).

**Absent Elected Members of the Board:** None.

**Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** Pam West (Chapter Host), Ruby Lewis (Out-reach Coordinator), Don Sabathier (2015 Intern Advisor), Jerry Eppner (Membership Coordinator), and Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

**Attending Guest:** David Plunkett

**Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** John O'Connell (Chapter Advisor, AgriLife Extension Agent), Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator), Peggy Romfh (Advanced Training Coordinator), Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Coordinator), Neal McLain (Publications Coordinator), and Patty Brinkmeyer (2015 Intern Advisor).

**Quorum:** 11 of the Elected and Committee Coordinator members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

| Meeting Minutes     | Motion to Approve | Motion Seconded by | Vote  |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| February Board      | Gerald Forrest    | Linda Sluis        | Minutes approved by voice vote.   |
| May General Meeting | Gerald Forest     | Linda Sluis        | Minutes approved with the correction of Captain Shiska Bob by voice vote. |

**Table of Action Items is included at the end of the minutes.**

**Action Register: Dave**

- **Project BudBurst, Ed Barrios:** Emails were sent to Thomas Adams regarding what needs to be done next.



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- **Policies and Procedures Handbook, Ed Barrios:** The state has finalized the new by-laws. We need to split our policies and procedures and make deletions where necessary. Our policies will be called “Chapter Operations Guidelines.” Additional changes will be presented at the next general meeting for approval and forwarded to the state for adoption in August.
- **Partnership with Brazosport Planetarium, Jerry Eppner:** The request for a new partnership remains pending.

**Reports:**

**Leo Novak, Vice President/Programs** Dr. Robert Puckett was hired as the new Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist at Texas A&M University. He will present “Red Imported Fire Ants and Tawny Crazy Ants: Changing of the Guards” next week at the general meeting. Leo will prepare the nature quiz, “Same or Different.” Also, Marty Cornell, Monica Krancevik, and Ed Barrios are scheduled for presenting future nature quizzes.

Vicky Kirby will expand the Quintana Beach Team’s presentation on “The Impact of Sargassum on Quintana Beach.”

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**Gerald Forrest, Treasurer,** presented the Treasurer’s report for May:

| <u>DATE</u>                       | <u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u> | <u>ENDING BALANCE</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>05/01/2015 – 05/31/2015</b>    | <b>\$8,222.40</b>        | <b>\$8,013.35</b>     |
| Revenue Summary                   |                          |                       |
| Member payments for new shirts    | \$ 87.00                 |                       |
| Interest                          | <u>1.74</u>              |                       |
| Total Revenue                     | \$ 88.74                 |                       |
| Expense Summary                   |                          |                       |
| EPD Payment for new intern shirts | \$ 291.00                |                       |
| Postage                           | <u>6.79</u>              |                       |
| Total Expense                     | \$ 297.79                |                       |

**Outreach Coordinator, Ruby Lewis,** indicated the month of May was slow, but there were six DEEP programs scheduled:

- May 27: Lake Jackson Headstart (7 adults, 25 children, 1 volunteer- Ruby Lewis)
- May 29: Wild Peach Elementary School (10 adults, 150 children, 1 volunteer- Phil Huxford)
- June-July: Brazoria County Library System summer programs
- June 8 – 12: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Bird Camp
- June 13: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Brazoria, Texas. The times are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with setup at 8:30 a.m. in the Brazoria Heritage Museum.



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- June 20: Lake Jackson Historical Museum Science Day. The time is from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- June 29 – July 2: Camp Mohawk
- July 4: Freeport Fishing Fiesta & Coastal Exposition at the City of Freeport RiverPlace. Connie will get information regarding the details and send it to Dave and Ruby.
- October 17 is Buffalo Bayou Kids' Day. There was further discussion regarding the use of vans for transportation.

Discussion followed regarding the reschedule of "Buffalo Bayou's Back Celebration" to the fall, which is in conflict with the Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza. It was agreed that first priority must be given to the Hummingbird Xtravaganza.

**Chapter Host, Pam West**, expressed the need for the purchase of a 40-60 cup coffee pot. After discussion regarding the time required to make coffee in the larger pot, Roy and Gerald will each bring a 20-cup coffee pot to try. Dave indicated he may have one to donate.

**2015 Intern Class Advisor, Don Sabathier**, suggested that it would be helpful if presenters could have handouts available to insert into their notebooks.

**Chapter Advisor, Connie Stolte**, reported that 8<sup>th</sup> grade programs have just finished at Sea Center Texas. Three "Sea Center Mini camps" will be offered to children 8 years to 12 years of age. Three topics will be covered: "Wonderful Wetlands," "Aquariumania," and "Water World." The fee is \$20 per child per session. Additional information can be found on the Sea Center Texas website.

On Sunday, October 25, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Sea Center Texas will host its annual Halloween Spooktacular to provide local families with a safe, enjoyable trick-or-treat experience. There is additional information on the Sea Center Texas website.

**Celebration for receiving 10,000 and 5,000 volunteer hours**: A chapter celebration will be held following the July general meeting honoring Phil Huxford for 10,000 volunteer hours, Sandy Henderson, and Neal McLain for 5,000 volunteer hour achievements. Several venues were discussed, with Pam West taking the lead in planning. Ideas are to be sent to Dave and Pam.

**VMS Update: Jerry Eppner** reported that we will be going to an online time management system for reporting timesheets. The management system is currently under development, but he reported that hours must be reported within 45 days of the activities.

**Need to revise GCWR VPAL, Jerry Eppner**: There may be a need to review and modify home-rehabbing of non-critical species. This was referred to Pete Romfh.



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**Entomology Class Cost Sharing, Mike Mullins:** Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of cost sharing and the specific requirements for volunteer hours. Connie will address the item at the state meeting in September.

| <b>Cradle of Texas Board Action Register June, 2015</b>        |  |                      |                         |  |
|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Action Item</b>   | <b>Who?</b>  | <b>Due Date?</b>     | <b>Complete/Pending</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| iNaturalist website participation                              | Ed Barrios   | March 2015           | Pending                 | Ed will contact Cullen Hanks to request a presentation.    |
| 501(c)(3) Filing   | Ed Barrios,<br>Peggy Romfh,<br>Mike Mullins,<br>Gerald Forrest | Mid-year             | Pending                 | Ed will complete.  |
| See VT Coordinator Report                                      | Pete Romfh   |                      | Pending                 | Contact in Pearland is Michelle Graham.                    |
| Developing a new Partnership with the Planetarium              | Tom Morris   |                      | Pending                 | Jerry Eppner to make contact to request a new partnership. |
| Split the Policies and Procedures from the By-Laws             | Ed Barrios   | Mid-Year             | Pending                 | Changes to be presented at June general meeting.           |
| Celebration for recipients of 10,000 and 5,000 volunteer hours | Pam West   | June general meeting | Pending                 | Planning to be completed at June general meeting           |
| Animal-at-home rehabilitation VT hours                         | Pete Romfh<br>Jerry Eppner                                     | March meeting        | Pending                 | Review and possibly modify GCWR VPAL                       |
| Project BudBurst   | Ed Barrios   |                      | Pending                 | Email sent to Thomas Adams regarding next step             |
| VMS Update   | Jerry Eppner   | Pending              | Pending                 | Awaiting state direction                                   |
| Scholarship for state meeting                                  | Connie Stolte  | September            | Pending                 | Presentation at state meeting                              |

**President Dave Brandes** adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Sluis, Secretary of TMN-COT



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| Date                                  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr. | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <b>Board Members</b>                  |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Barrios, Ed                           | 1   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Brandes, Dave                         | 1   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Forrest, Gerald                       | 1   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Mullins, Mike                         | -   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Novak, Leo                            | -   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Sluis, Linda                          | 1   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                                       |     |     |     |      |     | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Advisors</b>                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| O'Connell, John                       | 1   | 1   |     |      | -   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Stolte, Connie                        | 1   | -   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Committee Coordinators</b>         |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Eppner, Jerry                         | 1   | 1   |     |      | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Lewis, Ruby                           | 1   | 1   |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| McLain, Neal                          | 1   | 1   |     |      | -   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Morgan, Roy                           | -   | -   |     |      | -   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Romfh, Peggy                          | -   | 1   |     |      | -   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Romfh, Pete                           | -   | 1   |     |      | -   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Schaffhausen, Dick                    | -   | 1   |     |      | -   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| West, Pam                             |     |     |     |      | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Quorum</b>                         | Y   | Y   |     |      | Y   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Training Class Representatives</b> |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Grigson, Joycelynn                    | 1   | 1   |     |      |     | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Kitchen, Brianna                      | 1   | -   |     |      |     | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Sabathier, Don                        |     |     |     |      | 1   | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                                       |     |     |     |      |     | n/a |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |