



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

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

**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 11:18 a.m.**  
**AgriLife Extension Building**  
**Angleton, Texas**

**President Dave Brandes** called the meeting to order and presented the agenda at 10:00 a.m.

**Attendance:**

<b>Elected Members of Board</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Appointed Members of Board</b>	<b>Present</b>
Dave Brandes (President)	X	Jerry Eppner (Membership)	X
Jill Carroll (Vice-President)	X	Neal McLain (Publications)	X
Jean Britt (Secretary)	X	Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service)	X
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	X	Peggy Romfh (Advanced Training)	X
		Carolyn May-Monie (Training)	X
		Laurel Owen (Training)	X
		Pam West (Chapter Host)	X
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach)	X
<b>Board Advisors</b>		Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)	X
John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension)		Kristine Rivers (Intern Representative)	X
		Larry Ruhr (Intern Representative)	X
		Mike Mullins (Past-President)	X
<b>Guests</b>		Ed Barrios (State Representative)	X
Becky McClendon (Training)	X		
		<b>Quorum</b>	Yes

**Minutes Approval:**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
August Board Meeting	Peggy Romfh	Don Sabathier	Minutes approved by voice vote.
August General Meeting	Peggy Romfh	Don Sabathier	Minutes approved by voice vote.

**Action Register Review** was led by Dave Brandes [See Table of Action items at end of minutes.]

**President:** Dave Brandes reviewed current plans for the General meeting and the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 14, 2016. Ed Barrios will speak about the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the General meeting. Jerry Eppner will present a plaque to Connie Stolte and Pam West will present a gift to Connie Stolte. Peggy Romfh will do a Power Point presentation and will rename the title to "Chapter Recognition". Mike Mullins and Becky McClendon have volunteered to bring ice for the tea and water.



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Dave wrote a letter of support for a grant for the Texas Coastal Watershed Program-as requested by Mary Carol Edwards. See Attachment A.

**Past-President:** Mike Mullins reported that he will put lids on the tumblers, which have arrived. Dave Brandes will also label the individual boxes of tumblers with the name of the intended recipient. Mike will bring the tumblers to the Lake Jackson Civic Center on the day of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Vice President:** Jill Carroll reported the update on Nature Notes presenters for the chapter meetings:

- October 12 General Meeting: Laurel Owen will give naturalist notes about the effects of flooding in Brazoria County.

Jill rescheduled the September speaker, Debra January Beavers, to November. She has sent out inquiries in regards to prospective speakers for the January and February meetings.

**Secretary:** Jean Britt had nothing new to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Sabathier presented the August Treasurer's report. He projected more expenditures for September.

**August COT Treasurer Report**

**Date:** 1 August – 31 August 2016

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,036.00
Revenue Summary	\$ 860.00
Interest	\$ 1.38
Expense Summary	\$ 2,462.89
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 6,434.49

**Membership Report:** Jerry Eppner showed us the plaque which will be presented to Connie Stolte at the 15<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Celebration on September 14. He also is in the process of updating award hours, the TMN list of members, and checking the current status of dues. Jerry recommended that when people go into inactive status they should have the opportunities removed so they cannot log hours.

**State Representative:** Ed Barrios will send out a spread sheet requesting volunteers for the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be held on November 12, 2016.

**Training Coordinator:** Carolyn May-Monie reported that Jimmy Salinas has been added to the Training Team for the intern classes. She announced that the team has been modifying some



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parts of the curriculum in an effort to better align with the new curriculum book, to emphasize the public school goals, and to help prospective interns to better impact the public. Under the new proposal, Ocean Habitat and Zoology will be deleted and Aquatic Systems and Urban Ecology will be added. Modules that will remain include two introduction classes, Ichthyology, Archaeology, Entomology, Mammals, Botany, Birds/Bird Migration, and Forests/Columbia Bottomlands. There was a discussion about incorporating Citizen Science into the program and using master naturalist expertise to supplement scheduled speakers or to support field trips.

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
To accept proposed curriculum with an amendment in the title of "Wetland Ecology" to "Wetland, Estuary, and Beach Ecology"	Peggy Romfh	Mike Mullins	Decision approved by vote from Board members present.

**Volunteer Service Coordinator:** Pete Romfh had nothing new to report.

**Advanced Training Coordinator:** Peggy Romfh had nothing new to report.

**Outreach Coordinator:** Ruby Lewis announced the following events:

- Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza- September 10, 17 8 a.m.-noon
- KBR Kids' Day at Buffalo Bayou- October 15
- Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas- October 30 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge-November 12
- Festival of Lights at Lake Jackson- November 19, 10 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Please see the calendar for further details.

**Chapter Host:** Pam West showed us the silver dragonfly pendant and chain from James Avery that will be presented to Connie Stolte at the 15<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Celebration.

**Publications Coordinator:** Neal McLain reported:

**Newsletter**

The September issue of *Chapter News* will be published on Monday, September 12, 2016 via the Google group. All submissions must be received by noon Saturday, September 10 (or earlier if possible).

**Website**

No change since last month.



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**Media Library**

A copy of the July-August issue of *Audubon* magazine has been temporarily placed in the library. This issue contains an article about the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Cuba. "Delusion is the Thing with Feathers" by Mac McClelland with photography by Greg Kahn. *Audubon*, May-June 2016, p. 26 ff.

No other changes since last meeting.

The Board made the decision to purchase one copy of the new curriculum book to place in the media library. Don Sabathier will include it in the curriculum book order.

**Publicity Coordinator:** Dick Schaffhausen had nothing new to report.

**Intern Report:** Kristine Rivers had nothing new to report.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
Reviewed at August meeting: 501(c)(3) Filing	Ed Barrios, Peggy Romfh, Mike Mullins	TBD	Pending	
Split the Operating Handbook from the By-laws and add the term "one time event" to the Operating Handbook.	Ed Barrios	TBD	Pending	By-laws are ready to take to the general membership for a vote.
Check to see if BISD background checks need to be done.	Ed Barrios	June	Done	A BISD background check will need to be done.
Research wireless speakers for future functions and programs at AgriLife Building.	Ed Barrios, Dave Brandes	TBD	Pending	Wireless technology is not working well due to frequency interference. Researching alternative options.
Check cost for monogramming polo shirts and sweat shirts with TMN-COT logo.	Barbara Burkhardt	August	Pending	Not happy with brand selections, but pricing for monogramming is good. Will check re availability of Jerzees brand.
Check the cost and availability of polo shirts and	Carolyn May-Monie	August	Pending	Brand selections, variety and pricing are good.



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sweat shirts from Ann's Custom Monogramming.				
Add an entry on website for new curriculum once we get information from Carolyn.	Neal McLain	August	Pending	
Add an entry on website for polo shirts once we get information.	Neal McLain	September	Pending	
Request approval from Michelle Haggerty to provide TMN logo EPS file to monogramming vendors.	Mike Mullins	September	Done	
Check cost of monogrammed polo shirts for interns with Ann's Custom Monogramming for comparison with EDP.	Carolyn May-Monie	September	Pending	
Check with bank re chapter debit card (preferably) or credit card.	Don Sabathier	September	Pending	
<b>New Action Items Added at Meeting</b>	Who?	Due date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
Check to see if the KBR Kids' Day at Buffalo Bayou will be held this year.	Ed Barrios	September	Pending	
Order copy of new curriculum book for Media Library	Don Sabathier	October	Pending	

**President Dave Brandes** adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jean Britt, Secretary

Attachment A:



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Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
Brazoria County AgriLife Extension Office  
21017 County Road 171  
Angleton, TX 77515-8903

August 25, 2016

Adrian Kyle  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg A  
Austin, TX 78753

Dear Mr. Kyle,

The Cradle of Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists (TMN-COT) is pleased to offer its support of the Green Infrastructure for Texas (GIFT) project. TMN-COT supports the restoration work and educational initiatives that align naturally with the goals and intention of the Chapter and the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

The mission of the TMN-COT is three-fold: educate ourselves, educate others in the wise use of our natural resources, and act as good stewards of our natural environment. To those ends we are actively participating in Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP) wetland habitat restoration and stormwater wetland treatment projects. Over the next 12 months, we anticipate that our chapter members alone will provide over 300 hours of service and training with TCWP at an equivalent value of \$7533.00 (documented volunteer hourly rate for Texas is \$25.11 per [http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)). We anticipate continuing our volunteer service for the life of this project (36 months).

The recognize loss of wetlands has enormous impact on plant, bird, and invertebrate populations in our natural environment. The ongoing expansion of population in Texas coastal counties with concurrent roads, buildings, and parking lots has led to more storm water runoff. Insufficient stormwater wetlands and other green infrastructure means that current runoff goes directly to storm drains and/or causes local flooding. With implementation of green infrastructure projects such as the proposed stormwater wetlands, we believe there will be significant positive outcomes to the environment.

TMN-COT expects to participate in this project as a partner organization, providing trained volunteer mentors who will guide and teach student volunteers during workdays. In addition, we expect to assist the Texas Coastal Watershed Program with plant propagation and installation as part of the restoration and throughout the duration of the project.

Sincerely,

Dave Brandes, President  
Cradle of Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists



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Date 2016	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Elected Board Members</b>													
Brandes, Dave	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
Britt, Jean		X	X		X	X	X		X				
Carroll, Jill	X	X	X		X		X	X	X				
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
<b>Advisors</b>													
O'Connell, John	X												
Stolte, Connie	X		X			X		Retired 8/31/16					
<b>Appointed Board Members</b>													
Barrios, Ed	X	X	X		X	X			X				
Eppner, Jerry	X	X	X			X		X	X				
Lewis, Ruby		X			X	X	X	X	X				
May-Monie, Carolyn	X						X	X	X				
Owen, Laurel								X	X				
McLain, Neal	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
Mullins, Mike		X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
Romfh, Peggy	X	X	X		X		X		X				
Romfh, Pete	X	X	X		X		X		X				
Schaffhausen, Dick		X				X		X	X				
West, Pam		X	X			X	X	X	X				
Becky McClendon									X				
<b>Training Class Representatives</b>													
Kristine Rivers						X	X	X	X				
Larry Ruhr						X	X		X				