

Minutes of the COT GENERAL MEETING,

WEDNESDAY February 9, 2011

AgriLife® Extension Office, Angleton, Texas

Start Time: 9:00

52 Members and Interns present.

1 Guest present.

President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting by introducing guest Bill Johnson of the Coastal Prairie Chapter. She then announced that the COT "Nerdy Naturalists" team finished in the top ten in the Brazosport Science Museum's 2011 Scholastic Bowl.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner reported that 2010 recertification was achieved by Janet Clemenson, Justina Dent, Al Fedoruk, Ruby Lewis, Candace Novak, Pam Peltier, and Carolyn Schlein. Don VanDraght certified as a Master Naturalist. Janet Clemenson and Carolyn Schlein also were recognized for reaching 500 hours of VT, as well as Laura Brandes who has contributed more than 2,500 hour of volunteer service as a COT Master Naturalist.

Jerry presented statistics for COT's volunteer contribution in 2010, which included 67 members submitted timesheets (60 of these members certified or recertified) that totaled 12,940 hours of volunteer service (>6 manyears!). Since the inception of the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter in 2001, 94,004 VT hours have been logged, equating to over 45 manyears!

In 2010, COT members acquired 1,070 hours of AT, which resulted in 8,100 hours of AT since the inception of our chapter.

Last year, five members reached the 250 VT hour level, nine members exceeded 500 VT hours, one member reached the 1,000 VT hours milestone, and four COT members surpassed 2,500 hours! Top contributors were Dave Brandes with 637 VT hours, Laura Brandes with 770 VT hours, Sandy Henderson with 746 VT hours, and Neal McLain who was just shy of an incredible 1,000 VT hours (actually 978 VT hours)! Congratulations were given to the chapter for a job well done!!

Training Chair Laura Brandes introduced new interns Phillip Molis, Bette and Bob Long, Leo O'Gorman, Kathy Murray, and Donna Graham. Laura reminded members of next week's training class on fish presented by Roy Morgan and Charlie Clements (February 16th, 9:00 at Sea Center Texas).

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reviewed upcoming activities including the Nature Night on the last Monday of February at the Angleton library that will feature Dave and Laura Brandes presenting "Bats", an AT approved event.

Saturday, March 5th will have two concurrent outreach activities requiring COT participation: Brazoria's Heritage Day (Ruby will organize) and Sea Center's Nature Day (Ed Johnson will organize this event for COT). Volunteers were recruited to handle reptiles, and in Brazoria to facilitate crayon rubbings. Summer outreach will involve using the Coastal Expo "trunks" in June to teach youngsters about scat, animal pelts, wildlife rubbings, etc. and about reptiles in July at the 11.5 libraries in Brazoria County.

COT will also be running Brazoria County Park's Summer Camp at Camp Mohawk; details are being developed.

COT members were reminded of our continuing need for volunteers at USFWS's DEEP and for the INEOS environmental education program.

Ed Barrios reviewed the 2010 Migration Celebration (MC10) and began the solicitation of volunteers for MC11. He noted that MC11 will expand the Sunday program to include a full "discovery" activity that mimics the Saturday content and that both days will add eight subjects from Coastal Expo.

Barbara Burkhardt noted the pending grand opening of the Brazoria NWR's new headquarters on February 23rd, featuring an open house from 10:00 to 2:00; check our website for details.

Steve Zilliox promoted the Chapter's May 1st trip to Matagorda Island.

Dr. Brent Ortego, Wildlife Biologist from Texas Parks and Wildlife and state editor of bird counts presented "Christmas Bird Counts: their Value". AT of 1.5 hours will be credited.

Submitted by

Marty Cornell, Secretary

Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter