

Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING of the
Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter
WEDNESDAY March 14, 2012
AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Attendance: 45 Active Members, 11 Interns, 4 guests: Crystal Ckodre; Teri MacArthur, Heartwood Chapter (our guest speaker); Warren Pruess, Mucker; John O'Connell, AgriLife Marine Agent.

Start Time: President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting at 8:54 am, and welcomed our guests.

Recent Accomplishments: Barbara Burkhardt thanked chapter members for their participation in the Gulf Coast Adventure Day, Sea Center Texas' Family Day, and the Brazoria Heritage Day.

Announcements:

- Barbara announced that Andy Smith has assumed the responsibility to manage our web site calendar.
- She informed the membership of the post-operative condition of Larry Lewis (Ruby's husband), and passed along Ruby's thanks for the support of many of the COT members.
- Barbara noted a request from Bryan Adams of the USFWS for more help on our Discovery Environmental Education Program.
- Mary Holler is organizing a July 13th chapter cruise on the Brazos River on the Brazos Belle. Space is limited to the first 50 members and significant others to pay the \$20 per person fee. Food and beverage service is to be arranged. Mary will announce when she is ready to accept payment.
- Tom Morris passed along a request of the GCBO for volunteers to help in the Spring Fling at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, which runs daily during the month of April. Training on how to staff the trailer, etc. will be on March 25th.
- Tom also reminded members of the remaining two Birds and Bottomlands Blitz outings, 9:00 to 11:00 am on the second Saturday of April (subject is wildflowers) and May (subject is insects by Ed Barrios).
- Dave Brandes noted that Heather Biggs, Geo-Information Specialist with Texas Sea Grant and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will hold a database training session on May 9th, after the intern project presentations. Members that bring their laptops will be able to log in via WiFi for interactive participation.
- On May 17th, a special training class by Jessica Strickland on Texas invasive plant and insect species will be held at the AgriLIFE building. Teri MacArthur commented that their Heartwood Chapter had recently had this training; one outcome was their setting of traps to detect the ash bore insect, which is spreading its invasive territory.
- Sandy Henderson notified the membership that our local raccoon population is suffering a high incidence of distemper and Parvovirus. Pets should be vaccinated and raccoons should not be fed. Sandy reminded the members of the upcoming March 24th GCWR training, 8:00 am to noon, at the Brazosport Museum of Arts and Sciences.
- Teri MacArthur invited our chapter to participate in a July 14 regional meeting of Texas Master Naturalists. Last year ten chapters participated and exchanged ideas and experiences.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner presented 2012 recertification pins to Marty Cornell, Gerald Forrest, Ed Johnson (who also received his gold dragon fly pin signifying his contribution of 1,000 hours of volunteer time), Tom Morris, and Denis Mudderman. Barbara Bruyere received her pin recognizing 500 hours of VT. Jerry reported that to date 1,058 VT hours have been turned in by 16 members and 4 interns.

Training Chair Ed Johnson gave kudos to the intern class for their diligent work on their class projects. These projects will be presented to the membership at our May 9th meeting. Ed reviewed the agenda for the combined training class and general meeting on April 11th, which will feature Dr. Barron Rector of TAMU lecturing on grasslands and prairies and follow with a field trip to the Nash Prairie. Walking tours of this prairie will be led by Dr. Rector, Aaron Tjelmeland and Kirk Feuerbacher of the Nature Conservancy, local naturalist Warren Pruess, Flo Hannah of the Houston Audubon Society, and Katy Emde of the TMN-Gulf Coast Chapter. Details will be posted on our web site.

Migration Celebration 2012 volunteer commitments were sought by Ed Barrios, who circulated signup sheet. Denis Mudderman encouraged submissions for the photo contest, which are due by March 30th.

The general meeting ended at 10:00 and was followed by a presentation from Teri MacArthur of the Heartwood chapter on fungus, and was followed by a walk in the woods at GCBO to observe and identify mushrooms. This outing was assisted by Warren Pruess.

Submitted by Marty Cornell, Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter