

Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING of the  
Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter  
WEDNESDAY May 9, 2012  
AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

**Attendance:** 40 members, 9 Interns (four became certified), 4 guests including John O'Connell, AgriLIFE advisor.

The meeting started at 9:00 with a welcome by President Barbara Burkhardt.

**Activities and Events:** Barbara Burkhardt and others reviewed recent activities and upcoming events:

- ✓ The county library Nature Night program had about 30 people at the last two sessions, with attendees split about evenly between children and adults. The subjects were turtles and whooping cranes. The next program will feature Shane Kasson of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) who will address their sea turtle monitoring project.
- ✓ Migration Celebration 2012 was a success with record attendance and fundraising earnings. Data is still being analyzed and results will be announced at a future meeting. Ed Barrios noted that 52 of the event's volunteers were COT Master Naturalists.
- ✓ Ruby Lewis informed the members that the Brazoria County Library System's summer program will feature reptiles in June. The staff for these sessions is set. "Wild in the City" is the theme for the July classes, which will include sessions on skulls, skins, and scat. Ruby will be recruiting ten people to help for each class. The schedule is posted on our chapter web site.
- ✓ Ed Barrios passed around a volunteer signup sheet for the Brazoria County Parks Department summer camp at Camp Mohawk, June 4th through 7th.

**Intern Graduation:** Barbara Burkhardt began by recognizing interns who completed their training over the past three years when we used a process of individual self-pacing rather than concentrated training sessions.

- ✓ Trained interns in 2009 were Howard Allen, John Battle, Elaine Crews, Marlies Greenwood, Joanna Harlan, Mary Holler, Ed Johnson, Rik Martinez\*, Denis Mudderman, Donald McCreight, Don Hall Roseberry, Kathy Speights, Steve Upperman\*, Irama Wesselman, James Wesselman, and Shelia Williams. (\*transferred to another TMN chapter).
- ✓ Trained interns in 2010 were Charlie Clements, Bette Long, Bob Long, Don van Dragt, Jeanne Manry, and Kathleen Murray.
- ✓ Trained interns in 2011 were Donna Graham and Leo O'Gorman.

Training Chair Ed Johnson and Barbara Burkhardt then presented certificates of graduation and TMN shirts to the 2012 interns who had completed their intern training: Neeta Allen, Anne Bettinger, George Bettinger, Julia Geisler, Jim Hillis, Mike Mullins, Leo Novak, Peggy Romfh, and Pete Romfh.

**Membership** Chair Jerry Eppner and Barbara Burkhardt presented TMN dragonfly pins for certification to Neeta Allan, Mike Mullins, Peggy Romfh, and Pete Romfh. It was then announced that the interns had selected Pete Romfh as their representative to participate at COT board meetings.

Recertification pins were presented to Ellis Burkhardt, James Calvert, Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson, Kerry Magee, Leo O'Gorman, Kirby Rapstein, and Andy Smith.

Later in the meeting Jerry reminded to membership to re-name the file name of their timesheets. He also instructed the members to either enter their e-mail address on their time sheet (this serves as a signature officially recognized by TPWD) or to sign hard copies of their timesheet. TPWD gets most of their funding through the USFWS, who audits timesheet records. Thus improperly signed timesheets are not acceptable.

**Additional Upcoming Activities** were mentioned to the membership:

- ✓ After the luncheon following today's intern project presentations, Heather Biggs, Geo-Information Specialist with Texas Sea Grant and the Texas AgriLife Extension, will provide instructions on using Goggle Earth to map wetlands.
- ✓ Dave Brandes reminded the membership that a workshop on invasive species will be held on May 17 at this AgriLIFE building. Our chapter is one of eight groups in Texas chosen to participate. Other nearby TMN chapters and the Master Gardeners have been invited to attend this training session.
- ✓ Ed Barrios will be teaching Aquatic Insects and Invertebrates this Saturday at the GCBO Birds and Bottomland Blitz.
- ✓ COT will staff a booth at the 2012 Freeport Fishing Fiesta this July.
- ✓ Denis Mudderman will shortly be distributing rack cards announcing next year's Migration Celebration photo contest; samples were available at this meeting.
- ✓ Mary Holler is organizing a COT social outing on July 13 featuring a cruise on the Brazos Belle. Mary will be collecting money from participants at the June general meeting.
- ✓ Mary noted that the topic for the June general meeting will be frogs and will be presented by Jaime Gonzalez of the Katy Prairie Society.
- ✓ The July general meeting will feature Wayne and Martha McAlister who will review Texas geology and general ecology.
- ✓ The August 8th meeting advanced training topic will explore the science behind the restoration efforts of Ducks Unlimited and will be presented by Gregory Green.
- ✓ September's general meeting topic will be urban wildlife.
- ✓ The topic for the October general meeting is to be determined
- ✓ November's advanced training will be presented by John Jacob of Texas A&M, Galveston.

**Intern Projects** were presented following a short break. These presentations are accessible on our web site.

Submitted by

Marty Cornell

Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter.