

Attachment 1
Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING of the
Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter
WEDNESDAY October 10, 2012
Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Attendance: 35 members and two guests: Dick Schaffhausen and COT advisor John O'Connell of Texas A&M AgriLIFE.

President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting at 8:59 am.

General Announcements:

- ✓ Barbara congratulated the membership for their extensive support of Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravangaza held on the first two Saturdays in September
- ✓ Barbara reminded the membership that the first Birds and Bottomland Blitz outing of this fall will be held at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory this Saturday, featuring walks by Thomas Adams and Mike Lange of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- ✓ Barbara noted that background screening of active COT members is almost completed
- ✓ Barbara notified the membership that she has appointed an ad hoc committee to revise the chapter's Policy and Procedures Handbook to reflect the requirements of background screening if a member will be working, as a Texas Master Naturalist, with children. The committee will also suggest other revisions to remove inconsistencies and redundancies. After a review by the board at the November board meeting, the suggested revisions will be electronically sent to each member for their individual considerations prior to the November general meeting. The proposed revisions will be presented at the November general meeting for approval by the membership.
- ✓ Barbara also noted the pending October 26th to 28th state TMN meeting at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner announced that six members recertified in the last month; these were Betty Bouley, Susan Conaty, Rainbo Johnson, John Marshall, Archie Pratt, and Carolyn May-Monie. Kathleen Murray has also reached the 250 hour level of volunteer service. Jerry noted that members have to date turned in about 6,500 hours of volunteer time.

Program Chair Mary Holler reviewed upcoming chapter advanced training topics, which will feature Professor John Jacob of Texas A&M-Galveston who will talk about our soil and geology in November. The December general meeting, as is traditional, will not have a training talk, but instead will focus on the election of chapter officers for service in 2013. Kelly Drinnen, Education & Outreach Specialist, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary will speak at our January general meeting. Ann McLain is scheduled to talk about zoology at our February general meeting.

Training Chair Ed Johnson reported that of the 29 people who have indicated an interest in our next training classes, two have already paid the fee. Another two live outside the Brazoria County area and were referred to their closest TMN chapter. The remaining potential interns are receiving periodical information and encouragement from Ed. Barbara Burkhardt congratulated Mike Mullins who led the initiative to display this upcoming training program predominately on our chapter web site.

Minutes Of The General Meeting October 10, 2012 (continued)

Outreach chair Ruby Lewis was not able to attend this meeting, but through Barbara Burkhardt reported that 970 people participated in our chapter outreach programs during September. Marty Cornell requested volunteers for the Hands on Nature Day to be held this Saturday, October 13th, at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. This event is being hastily organized to take advantage of the EarthQuest® *Birds of Prey* shows, which have been brought to our area by the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge as part of their October 20th celebration of their 75th anniversary.

The general meeting ended at 9:45 am and was followed by a lecture from John O'Connell on *Bats: The most misunderstood Mammal*.

Submitted by
Marty Cornell

Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter.