



Cradle of Texas Chapter
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
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<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>

TMN COT September 9, 2009 General Meeting Minutes

President Dave Brandes opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Announcements:

Barbara Burkhardt reminded members that the TMN shirt orders would be sent next Tuesday. Members are to pay at the time of submitting their order sheets. Information and order sheets were available on the entrance table.

Ed Barrios is chairman of the Nominating Committee for selecting President, Vice-president and Secretary Board Officers for COT 2010. Members assisting Ed are Sandy Henderson, Neal McLain and Dave Brandes.

Carl Dodson gave the assembly additional information concerning the INEOS program. There will be regular educational sessions for Angleton ISD third graders of Northside and Southside Elementary classes and advanced classes for Eastside third and fourth graders. The dates for the first session are September 25, October 2, 9, and 23 with classes in Seed Balls, Saltwater Life, Seed Collecting and Wildlife Rehab and Education.

Classes are held on the INEOS Educational site on Highway 2004 which contains 4,500 acres of a wildlife preserve consisting of salt marshes, Gulf Coastal prairie and bay front areas. Contact Carl for information and instruction in seed collecting for the upcoming session.

Students attend the classes three times during the year from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Usually one-half of a grade level from one school comes each time so classes are reasonable in size. The second session begins February 5, and the third session April 9. INEOS does provide lunch for volunteers and asks for a count of volunteers ahead of time. Therefore, let Carl know when you can assist with this program.

Laura Brandes, Training Chair, announced she has the INEOS first sessions in study book format for the COT Interns. Interns can receive both class and field credit with the INEOS program.

Jerry Eppner presented the following awards:

Intern John Battle certified for 2009 and also is serving as Advanced Training coordinator. Contact John for AT credit questions before enrolling in training outside Brazoria County.

Recertified for 2009..... Carl Dodson
Mary Helen Israel
1000 Volunteer Hours..... Rainbo Johnson

John Boettiger announced that Richard Hurd, Director, Brazoria County Park Department had begun a program of geocaching in the County Parks. Geocaching is found worldwide and brings people into an area. It is a great activity for parents or grandparents to do with children. There are over 700,000 active geocachers registered. John has been working with 4-H children and AISD teachers now have GPS training for safety before fieldtrips.

President Dave stated that Ruby Lewis is assembling the COT poster for the TMN State Meeting October 23.

Laura Brandes distributed the new COT Intern Brochure to members to share with their friends and contacts. She thanked AgriLife Agent, Rich Tillman, for supporting COT by providing half the brochure printing cost. Laura reported that there are presently seven interns participating in the COT Intern program. She noted it is the COT members who bring in new people for the Intern program.

Interns and members planning to attend the up coming Saturday Waugh Drive Bat tour were told to check the weather ahead of time because it may have to be cancelled as the bats don't fly during heavy rain.

Marty Cornell announced that the Friends of Brazoria applied for a \$263,000 a grant for the DOW Woods Project and were awarded \$200,000. The money will be used for developing a proposed trail by the building of an access bridge.

Forty-one people signed the COT attendance register. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. and followed with AT by Diana Foss, Urban Wildlife Biologist with TPWLD, with her bat presentation.

Respectively submitted,
Joan Simonsen
Secretary

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