Minutes of the COT GENERAL MEETING,
WEDNESDAY March 9, 2011
AgriLife® Extension Office, Angleton, Texas

Draft of 13Mar11

Start Time: 9:04. 42 Members and Interns signed the attendance list. 0 Guests present.

President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting with thanks to members who volunteered at the March 5th Nature Day at Sea Center Texas and at Heritage Day in Brazoria. She congratulated Neal McLain for being named Volunteer of the Year by the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and Denis Mudderman for being selected as the National Volunteer of the Year by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner recognized David Brandes, Laura Brandes, Marty Cornell, Gerald Forrest, and Denis James for recertification in 2011, and Charlie Clements for his initial certification as a Master Naturalist. Kathleen Murray was congratulated for completing her intern training. Year-to-date, 13 members have turned in time sheets totaling about 1,200 hours of VT.

Barbara Burkhardt reminded the membership of the March 30 training on “Prairies”, to be taught by Kirk Feuerbacher of The Nature Conservancy. The class will be held at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church Social Hall in West Columbia, after which we will drive to Nash Prairie for field experience. Wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen/mosquito spray. Bring a camera and notebook.

For Outreach, Barbara reviewed a new "Nature Night" family pilot program by the Angleton library that involves COT. Laura and Dave Brandes gave an inaugural presentation on bats, which was attended by 33 adults and 32 children on February 28th. This month, the Friends-sponsored Birds-of-Prey talk will be given, followed by Ed Barrio's talk on insects in April and Barbara Burkhardt's talk on hummingbird gardening in the fall.

Ed Barrios encouraged members to sign up as guides on the San Bernard Oak Trail on April 16th during Migration Celebration. Phil Huxford reported that 34 schools have signed up for this year's birds-of-prey shows. The membership was reminded of the April 8th bake sale at Wal-Mart in Lake Jackson, and of Migration Celebration's kickoff event on April 15th.

Denis Mudderman mentioned the March 25 deadline for submitting photos for the 2011 Migration Celebration photo contest. Friends has been invited by the Brazosport Art League to display these photos at the Center for the Arts & Sciences during the month of June.

Steve Zilliox reported that there is still room for a couple more members to join the upcoming trip to Matagorda Island, featuring Wayne and Martha McAlister's introduction to the varied ecology of the island."

Felipe Chavez of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory gave a fascinating presentation on whooping cranes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

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