

Attachment 1

Minutes of the COT GENERAL MEETING,

WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2011

AgriLife Extension Office, Angleton, Texas

Start Time: 9:00. 48 Members and Interns signed the attendance list. We had two guests, Leo Novak, and Patti Clements.

President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting giving thanks that members Charlie Clements and Luis Peltier were on the mend from recent serious health issues. She then reviewed the agenda.

Barbara distributed forms to briefly survey the membership on their thoughts about aspect of our training program.

Barbara suggested that COT members attend the June through July 10th exhibition of photos from the 2011 Migration Celebration, which are on display at the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences.

Laura Brandes presented TMN-COT shirts to four interns that have completed intern training: Donna Graham, Bette Long, Bob Long, and Jeanne Manry. Leo O'Gorman, who has also finished training, was on vacation and will receive his shirt at a future meeting. Laura reported that we have no active interns going through our training program. Two interns have postponed their training because of health issues, and a third because of conflicts from the time demands of his business. She solicited the members to recruit at least the minimum required ten interns to allow our fall class. Laura also invited active members to attend training classes for a refresher on the topics.

Membership Chair Jerry Eppner passed out three certification pins (to Marlies Greenwood, Donna Graham, and Don Hall Rosebury), ten re-certification pins (to Betty Bouley, James Calvert, Mary Holler, Mary Helen Israel, Ed Johnson, John Marshall, Neal McLain, Roy Morgan, Susan Severance, and Joan Simonsen). Mary Holler also received her bronze dragonfly pin for achieving 250 hours of VT. Jane Eppner was awarded (in abstentia by her husband) a silver dragonfly pin for contributing 500 hours of VT, and Barbara Burkhardt was awarded the platinum pin for 2,500 hours of volunteer service!

Jerry noted that members have been slow, as is typical for the first part of the year, to turn in AT and VT hours; year-to-date 3,546 hours have been logged, bringing the total since the inception of the COT chapter to 97,665 hours of volunteer time. Jerry appealed to the membership to turn in their hours now so that we may reach a chapter total of 100,000 hours VT by the tenth anniversary of our chapter, which will be on September 11, 2011.

Ed Barrios reviewed the June 20 through June 23 schedule of the Camp Mohawk Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park noting where volunteers are still needed. See our website calendar for details.

Outreach Chair Ruby Lewis reminded the membership of the upcoming Coastal Expo on July 1st and 2nd at RiverPlace in Freeport. COT activity will be promotional, in conjunction with the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, using reptiles to draw visitors into our booths.

Ruby noted that the Nature Night programs at the Brazoria County Libraries will not start until September. She asked for recommendations on topics and speakers who might want to present. Those interested should respond to her, Barbara Burkhardt, or Mary Helen Israel.

The summer children's program has begun with yesterday's session at the Angleton Library, where 65 children attended. Volunteers are still needed for some sessions; COT members should refer to our website's Environmental Education page for dates, locations, and directions to the various libraries.

Barbara reviewed the Texas Master Naturalist Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct for the membership.

Our board has selected the Dow Woods Trail Project to be our Volunteer Service Project presented at this October's state meeting. Marty Cornell will develop the poster board presentation.

The membership was reminded that September will mark the tenth anniversary of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, and will be marked with a special ceremony. Ed Barrios volunteered to be the organizer of this event. Ed requested others to join him on a planning committee.

COT member Candace Novak gave an excellent advanced training presentation on animal parasites.

The meeting was adjourned around 10:55.

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