

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – April 2004 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

A NOTE FROM THE PRZ, CAROLYN MAY-MONIK

FUN! FUN! FUN! MIGRATION CELEBRATION FUN! FUN! FUN!

Thanks in advance to all who signed up to help at this year's Migration Celebration at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge on Friday night the 16th, Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th. Whether you will be a van tour guide, display booth helper, night hike guide, or manning one of the many environmental education stations, you will have an excellent chance to "**show off**" who we (master naturalists) are. Please wear your shirts and nametags with pride.

I still need volunteers to help with the environmental education activities so if you haven't signed up yet????????? Please call me for details!!!!!!

Environmental Education Activities:

- ◆ Track Casting
- ◆ Animal Tracks/Animal Pelts
- ◆ Fish Printing
- ◆ Bug Sweeping
- ◆ Live Animals –
 - Snakes
 - Alligators
 - Pond Critters

Training for these EE activities will be April 6 and April 13 at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Please let

me know which day you plan to attend. It is important to be there between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Remember – Migration Celebration will qualify as your April field trip. The time you help is volunteer time. The pre-training will qualify as advanced training.

Please "**don't be a no show.**"
Call me if you have any questions.
See you there.

OUTREACH FROM PAULA JACOBS

Good morning!
Hello Master Naturalists

We will be participating in the Earth Day Celebration at Brazos Bend State Park from (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) April 3, 2004.

Please come join in the activities. We will be giving away free trees (Trees Across America). Our missionto plant 285 Million trees - 1 tree for every American - and to help raise awareness of our natural environment, its inhabitants, and to educate the public on environmental, conservation issues, and our Chapter.

We the Master naturalists of Cradle of Texas and the new Chapter for the Brazos Bend area will be there with our COT Display Booth. We invited the new chapter to come and join in with us.

April 16-17-18 is the Migration Celebration and we will be parti-

icipating all three days. As at Earth Day, we will be giving away free trees.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND MAY PROGRAM FROM DENIS JAMES

The April trips will be a do-it-yourself with the Brazos Bend Earth Day as one venue and the Migration Celebration the other. There are volunteer hours available at each.

The May meeting is still Charlie Bower on brushfoot butterflies and on the upcoming butterfly counts.

FALL 2004 TRAINING CLASS

John Boettiger is doing a great job scheduling the speakers for the next training class. Almost every speaker is confirmed. Keep talking it up to your friends.

BOOK REVIEW - TOM COLLINS

THE BAT HOUSE BUILDERS HANDBOOK; Merlin D. Tuttle and Donna L. Tinsley; 2003; Bat Conservation International and distributed by UT Press - 34pp

Last month I reviewed the *Texas Bats* book also by Tuttle. This month the review of *The Bat House Builders Handbook* is an important guide to getting started building artificial houses for bats.

The handbook is exactly what it sounds like. It is a simple step by step guide to selecting the best type of house, building the house and finding the right location and placement of the house.

So why build bat houses? Well according to the author:

- Bats are an invaluable resource
- For decades they have been feared and persecuted thus causing populations to decline.
- You can benefit both as an Associate Researcher and home owner.

The book covers Designing Better Bat Houses including large and small economy houses plus Nursery Houses. Also covered is the impact of the color of the house, secrets of bat house success, sun exposure, and recent research findings.

The book wraps up with common bat house questions and a discussion of the 14 most common bats to be found using bat houses.

Here is another excellent opportunity to participate in a Citizen Science project in your own backyard or local park. Sign up to become a Volunteer Research Associate and help study how effective your bat house is in attracting bats. You can do this without buying the book.

I recommend this hand book if you plan to get in the bat house building business. It sells for about \$8.00 and GCBO carries it in stock.

CALNDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3 – Earth Day at Brazos Bend

April 16,17,18 – Migration Celebration

May 12 – General Meeting 9:00 am, Butterfly Identification, Charley Brower

June ? – Field Trip, Design & Selecting Nature Trails, Warren Pruess

July 14 – General Meeting, 9:00 am, Prairie Restoration, Tracie Teague

August ? – Field trip, Butterflies @ Brazos Bend

September 1 – General Meeting,
 9:00 am, Oysters, Rich Tillman
October ? – Field trip, Grasses, Flo
 Hannah
November 17 – General Meeting,
 9:00 am, Texas Mushrooms, Susan
 Metzler
December ? – Field trip at GCBO,
 Grassland Birds, Sumita Prasad

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