

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

Chapter News – April 2005

Editor, Mary Helen Israel

THE PRES SAYS:

Here it is April already and Spring has sprung. So much to do and so little time to do it! The Cradle of Texas Master Naturalist Chapter isn't any different. We have lots of opportunities to participate, to learn and pass on the knowledge.

April 13th – Our Board meeting at 9:00 am followed by a presentation on spring bird migration from GCBO at 10:00 am.

April 16th – Brazoria Master Gardeners Plant Sale

April 29th – First session of the BP-Amoco School Project Phase III.

April 30th – Watersmart Workshop in Pasadena and a Tour of the Nash Prairie.

If you want more details about any of the above go to our website, grovesite.com/tamu/TMN, bring up the Events Calendar and click on any of the above events. A page will pop up with the details.

If you can't make any of the events at least get outside and go for a walk. Spring doesn't last long around here.

CHAPTER WEBSITE, BY NEAL MCCLAIN

The Cradle of Texas Chapter website is now up and running. The official address is <http://grovesite.com/tamu/TMN>.

Our new website contains several useful features:

- A list of our Partner Organizations. According to our *Chapter Policies and Procedures Handbook*, a Partner Organization is "any organized function which has agreed to work with the Cradle of Texas Chapter in providing Natural History educational support and/or facility resource use. The Cradle of Texas Chapter will in return provide assistance in selected Natural History projects and activities as defined by the partner."
- Contact information for our Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs.
- An "Events Calendar" listing information about upcoming meetings, training sessions, and opportunities for Volunteer Time and Advanced Training.
- The Fall 2005 Training Schedule.
- A "Newsletter Archive" containing past newsletters available for downloading.
- A "Scrapbook" containing photographs of several of our activities. You'll find many pictures of our past meetings, training sessions, and volunteer work, as well as several pictures of local wildlife.

If you have any items you'd like to contribute, please feel free to send it

to me at nmclain@annsgarden.com. Photographs are especially welcome! I can accept e-mail attachments in Word, PowerPoint, HTML, JPEG, GIF, or plain text formats.

All Chapter Officers, Committee Chairs, and others who organize COT events are encouraged to notify me of upcoming events so that I can add them to the Events Calendar. When submitting information for the Events Schedule, please include the following information:

- Full name of the event (please avoid abbreviations).
- Name of sponsoring organization.
- Location of the event (name of the venue).
- Street address of the event location. If the event takes place at one of the well-known venues (such as the Extension office, one of the State Parks, one of the wildlife refuges, SCT, or GCBO), you can omit this information. However, if the event is at an unusual location, please provide a street address or a description of how to get there (pretend you're a new COT member trying to find your way there for the first time). If it's helpful, you might attach a map (JPEG or GIF image) or a link to a MapQuest map.
- Date, starting time, and ending time.
- Name and contact information (phone number and e-mail address) of the COT member responsible for organizing the event.
- A description of the event. You can provide as much or as little information as you wish, but

please keep in mind that our chapter has many new members, so the more information the better.

- Information about credit hours: Volunteer Time? Advanced Training?
- Anything else you'd like to add that might encourage COT members to attend.

I hope you'll enjoy visiting our new website!

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER, TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

Minutes: Second Membership Business Meeting of the Year March 9 2005

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 9:00 a.m. Thirty-one members were present.

President's Report: Regional Chapter Boards Meeting - The meeting held Saturday March 5 in Houston touched on several issues that will eventually impact our chapter. The COT State Representative's report gives more details (see below).

BP Amoco School Project – The March 18 training session for those instructing in the BP Amoco program was announced. Those who might be able to participate in the future were encouraged to come to the training sessions to get a feeling for the constructive activities the program presents to the children. See the COT website Events Calendar for upcoming dates related to this educational activity. Carl Dodson is the contact: (979-265-7329).

Recognition – Archie Pratt received his TMN-COT shirt and name tag in recognition of having completed his course requirements begun last fall.

Vice President's Report: Advanced Training Programs (updated) - John Boettiger,
Advanced training hours credit for the January and February meetings is 2 hrs. each.

Wed Apr/13/05 10:00 a.m. Subj: Bird Migrations, by Cecilia Riley, GCBO Director

Wed May/11/05 10:00 a.m. Subj: *Biological Invasions*, by Ann McLain, PhD

Wed June/8/05 10:00 a.m. Subj: Brazoria County Habitat, by Barbara Burkhardt

Wed July /13/05 10:00 a.m. Subj: Sea Turtle Recovery Proj, Mike Ray Dpty Director Coastal Fisheries, TPWD

Wed Aug/10/05 10:00 a.m. Subj: Basic Wildlife Photography, Kathy Adams Clark

Almost all programs are preceded by membership or board meetings.
See website.

Secretary's Report: 1) Look for the **minutes** of the most recent membership or board meetings in the current Chapter Newsletter. 2) Members needing their **name spelling, address, telephone number or e-mail address updated** should call or e-mail the secretary: jankater@principia.edu, tel. 979-297-1449.

Treasurer's Report: Al Brushwood reported that the bank balance as of March 9, 2005 is \$1927.

State Representative's Report: Barbara Burkhardt reported on the Regional Meeting of Chapter Boards. She cited the exchange of ideas, networking, and coop activities as the value of these meetings. A coordinated project with the Coastal Prairie Chapter is being followed up for April. A question was asked about whether the State insurance (injury and liability in some cases) covered volunteers when they were participating in approved projects. President Carl Dodson reported that we are officially volunteers of the TPWD system, but that we have to turn in our volunteer hours for each activity to qualify. To be covered at the Federal Wildlife Refuge we have to sign an agreement with FWR.

Regional Advanced Training Fair for Chapters was announced by Phil Huxford for July 24, 2005, Sunday, 9-12 a.m. at the Center for Arts and Sciences, and at Sea Center Texas in the afternoon. Five chapters will sponsor the Fair, although other chapter members and the public may come also. A fee will be collected for lunch.

Historian's Chapter Website report: Neal McLain announced that the chapter website is up and running (<http://grovesite.com/tamu/TMN>). You can also find it from the Texas Master Naturalist state site. Enter Texas Master Naturalist on a search engine to find the state site. He invited all members to let him know of information that needs to be entered on the site. It can be the central clearing

house for COT information if we use it to full advantage. **How to get the most out of it?**

1) **Submit** your **chapter information to Neal**, and update it with him as necessary.

2) **From the COT website click on the words Events Calendar** at the left, then click on the day of the month you're interested in, and you'll get the up-to-date information on meetings and events, sometimes the background of the speaker, and a person to contact for more information.

3) **Check the site often** – meeting and program times and dates sometimes change!

Almost all programs are preceded by membership or board meetings!!

Questions about times and dates?

Contact John Boettiger: (979-297-5427 or

John.Boettiger@RaymondJames.com

) – or whoever else is listed as a contact on the website.

Outreach Chairman: Jerry Eppner reported that **480 people** passed by our table on February 26 at the **Sea Center Nature Day**, of whom **three** signed up for information on the **COT Master Naturalist training** in September. Our volunteers were busy on the boardwalk too, despite the poor weather conditions. He thanked all the volunteers for their good work. Jerry also sent around a sign up sheet for our information booth at Brazos Bend State Park Saturday April 2 for their Earth Day open house. It's just inside the Coastal Prairie Chapter's territory but they're happy to have us set up a booth (they don't have one) and give out information about both our

chapters. A great example of cooperation between chapters! He also announced that the Sea Center touch tank display needs volunteers for April 2 at Brazos Bend.

Phil Huxford (979-798-0725) announced the details of the **Migration Celebration** to be held at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge April 9 (Sat 9-5) and April 10 (Sun 10-3), preceded by a night walk at Hudson Woods, Friday April 8. We will have a booth at this celebration also. Call Jerry Eppner for details about serving at our booth (979-297-6320). Brian Adams at the Brazoria NWR needs volunteers too.

Whatever

- Kermit Schlameus reported that **funds had been received for the "Steal-a-way Trail"** at the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site.
- Work day at GCBO was announced for Saturday afternoon, March 12 and Sunday morning and afternoon March 13. Volunteer hours can be earned.
- Ed Barrios asked if the option of **entering our own AT and Volunteer hours** on the website were being considered. Carl Dodson said he would follow-up.
- John Thayer announced that on Saturday **April 30** there will be a presentation on the **Nash Prairie** property near West Columbia, and a tour of the area. Click on the COT website Event Calendar April 30 for all the details and a map to this outstanding program.
- See your COT website Event Calendar April 30 for details of another AT event (unfortunately a date conflict with Nash Prairie) for the

Watersmart Landscaping Workshop in Pasadena.

- Master Gardeners are holding a plant sale April 16 in the Extension greenhouse, across from Jeters. Click on the COT website Events Calendar, April 16 for complete details, including a map, and telephone numbers to call to volunteer to help them do some potting the Thursday and Friday before.

The next Cradle of Texas Chapter Board of Directors meeting will be held at **9:00 a.m.**, Wednesday **April 13** at the Cooperative Extension office, preceding the advanced training session. **Required** attendance: all **board members (including advisors)** plus all **Committee Chairs**. All board meetings, membership meetings, and advanced training sessions are open to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m., followed by guest speaker Connie Stolte, Visitor Center Manager, Sea Center Texas. Her presentation included a preview of her Fall 2005 training class presentation. A heartfelt thanks to Connie for her support of the TMN COT Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan L. Kater

Jan L. Kater, Secretary
Texas Master Naturalist
Cradle of Texas Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

Wed - APR 13, 2005, 10-am Bird Migrations, by Cecilia Riley, GCBO Director

Wed - MAY 11, 2005 10 am Biological Invasions, by Ann McLain, PhD (COT)

Wed - JUN 8, 2005 10 am Brazoria County Habitat, by Barbara Burkhardt (COT)

Wed - JUL 13, 2005 10 am Sea Turtle Recovery Project, Mike Ray Deputy Director Coastal Fisheries, TPWD

Wed - AUG 10, 2005 10 am 12-Steps to Improve Your Wildlife Photography, by Kathy Adams Clark

Wed - SEP 14, 2005 9 am Earth Sciences, by Wayne McAllister

TREASURER'S REPORT, AL BRUSHWOOD

Current checking balance is \$1,1178 and reflects that we have already ordered and paid for the TMN Curriculum (25) for the fall class. We also had several members who purchased a copy for themselves. If others would like to do the same, please let me know and we can arrange their purchase.

NEW TEL. NUMBERS, E-MAIL, AND MAILING ADDRESSES:

Carolyn May-Monie & Maurice Monie
1224 Austin Drive,
West Columbia, TX 77486
Tel: 979-345-2150
E-mail addresses remain the same.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

. Texas Cooperative Extension Building .

Bird Migrations

by Cecelia Riley

Just a friendly reminder that our next meeting is this coming Wednesday with a talk about "Bird Migrations" by Cecelia Riley of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. A timely topic while bird migration is occurring currently across the Gulf of Mexico.

Meeting begins at 9:00 and the program begins at 10:00.

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

President	Carl Dodson
Vice President/Program	John Boettiger
Secretary	Jan Kater
Treasurer	Al Brushwood
State Representative	Barbara Burkhardt
Past President	Carolyn May- Monie
Training	Marty Cornell
Vol. Service Projects	John Thayer
Membership	Tommie Holt
Outreach	Jerry Eppner
Class Host	Durwood/Becky McKinney
Historian	Neal McLain
Resource Library	Jim Renfro
Newsletter	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Extension)