

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News –August 2005

Editor, Mary Helen Israel

THE PREZ SÆZ:

The Fourth Annual Southeast Texas Master Naturalist Fair was a success. Everything seemed to go well. The Fair Committee deserves a round of applause especially those members from the Cradle of Texas; Barbara Burkhardt, Phil Huxford and Tracie Teague. These members were responsible for the food, logistics and tours that took place. Thanks also go to the many members of the Cradle of Texas that supported the committee in many different ways. I especially appreciated the diversity of the programs presented. I never thought that “Ethnobotany of Gulf Coast Middens” could be as interesting as it turned out to be. I now have a new respect for the Hackberry tree.

For you that have been wondering about the dates for the 2005 – 2006 Innovene project, here they are.

Sept. 23 & Sept. 30
March 3 & March 10
April 28 & May 5

If you participated in the project last year I hope you plan to again this year. This is especially true of you who led the courses last session. If you didn't participate last year plan to do so this year. I believe you will find it an enjoyable experience.

I know it is hot out there so grab your hat, the sunscreen and several bottles of water and volunteer somewhere – but do it carefully.

Texas Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter Membership Meeting July 13, 2005 Minutes

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 9:00 a.m. Thirty-two members were present. The attendance list is on file.

“Hold Harmless” Form

Members were reminded that unless they were at the last Board meeting or were members of the 2004 training class, they do not have a signed “Hold Harmless” form on file. It is essential that each member have one of these signed forms on file in order to continue being active in the COT Chapter. The signed form protects the State TMN organization from litigation against it by members, and provides State TMN legal protection for members if they have to defend themselves against litigation regarding their conduct while they are engaged in (or traveling to-or-from) sanctioned activities. The President handed out forms to be signed by those who did not have a signed form on file.

Programs Report

John Boettiger reviewed the August 10, 2005 advanced training program by Kathy Adams Clark. Her subject is "12 Steps to Improve Your Wildlife Photography." The morning session begins at 10:00 a.m., to be followed at 1 p.m. by a hands-on workshop for a limited number of photographers who have signed up and paid in advance. If you have questions about the afternoon session, call or e-mail John at 979-297-5427 (day), 979-299-7734 (night),

john.boettiger@raymondjames.com.

He also invited members to come to the September 14, 2005 9:00 a.m. lecture on Earth Sciences, by Dr. Wayne McAllister. Please call Durwood and Becky McKinney (979-849-2028), our refreshment hosts, to let them know if you are coming for this training lecture or to future training lectures. This is the first lecture-meeting of our 2005 training class. It will be preceded by the introductory meeting September 7 that does not feature a multi-hour lecture. Those who come to Dr. McAllister's lecture (and did not hear the lecture last year or report AT hours for it), may report advanced training hours for this lecture. Announced for November was a "Big Tree Outing". Phil Huxford will have details to announce closer to the actual date. Please visit our website at <http://grovesite.com/tamu/TMN> and read our Monthly Newsletter (also posted on our website) for more details on future programs.

Project Reports:

Conoco/Phillips Land Project

Phil Huxford announced that the next survey will be July 19 and invited those interested in helping with this survey, or future surveys, to call or e-

mail him at 979-798-0725, or huxford_habitat@yahoo.com. If you use his e-mail address be sure to enter an underscore ("huxford_habitat") between his name and the word "habitat".

Sweeny ISD

Sandra Clarke, Sweeny ISD coordinator for the school children visits to the Conoco/Phillips site, announced that there will be a meeting of teachers in August to choose the subjects for this fall's pupils.

State Annual Meeting Project Committee

Carolyn May-Monie, committee chairperson, defined the display to be prepared for the State Annual Meeting as an exemplary one that fulfills the mission of the chapter, and that has a demonstrable impact on the community. The Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge teaching program was chosen with these criteria in mind. The committee has been sifting through the pictures in the files to highlight the teaching stations at the BNWR site, knowing that they will have time beginning this September to photograph this year's staff in their new TMN COT shirts and, if needed, to include more complete subject material in their photo collection. They will set up the display, including the creative handouts they have planned, at the September chapter meeting, and ask members to critique their efforts and make recommendations. Carolyn is assisted in this project by fellow chapter members Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, Candy Novak, and Neal McLain.

Treasurer's Report: Al Brushwood reported that the current bank balance is \$1400. This includes payments

made by two interns who have signed up for the fall training classes.

State Representative's Report – SE Regional MN Fair:

Barbara Burkhardt, our State Rep, brought us up-to-date on the July 24, 2005 regional advanced training fair for chapters. She encouraged members to visit our COT website for details of the fair, and to download the brochure and registration form. Those donating breakfast items may bring them to Barbara's home on Saturday, or to the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences at 7 a.m. Sunday morning. Phil Huxford still needed volunteers for all sites and subjects.

Training Class

John Boettiger brought a sample notebook for the new class members that Marty Cornell put together, and invited members to come up and take a look at it. Barbara Burkhardt asked for members to sign up for refreshments for the first class September 7. Lunch for that day will be paid for by the chapter and organized by volunteers. She showed a flyer designed to attract new trainees and encouraged members to help get sign-ups for the September class.

Membership: Tom Morris awarded first time certification pins to two members of the 2004 fall training class: Archie Pratt and Alice Wieling.

- 2005 re-certification pins were awarded to Ed Barrios, Betty Bouley, James Calvert, Phil Huxford, Denis James, Rainbo Johnson, Roy Morgan, Dianne Richmond, Carole Wenny, Rich Jespersen, and Kirby Rapstein.
- Bronze Award pins for 250+ hours of volunteer work were given out to Ellis Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, and John Marshall.

- Candace Novak has taken on a project to call all inactive members, encourage them to send in their hours if they are still active, and, if not active, to begin to serve as a volunteer in one or more of our partner organizations.

- President Carl Dodson reported impressive figures showing that the ratio of volunteer hours to advanced training hours reported is over ten to one. He also said that we are averaging over 100 hours of volunteer hours per active member per year.

Whatever

- Barbara Burkhardt has offered to take orders for either the jersey knit green shirt or the light blue denim shirt with our logo. However she will not be putting in the orders until after October 1, 2005 (979-297-4386). Or you can order from the company: EPD Inc., 1407 East Cedar, Angleton, TX (979-849-8633) - ask for Paula. The company is just past the railroad track on the right, as you go into Angleton from the Coop-Extension office where we meet.

- Becky and Durwood McKinney need refreshment sign-ups for future meetings.

- Tom Collins (979-297-3954) asked for interested volunteers who can take part in the Amphibian Watch program, which is based on monitoring activity in a local pond of your choice. He will teach the monitors how to do the observations and reporting. Ten members signed a list for Tom to contact them about his offer. .

- Tom Morris encouraged members to turn in their hours in whatever form they can handle. The special forms do not have to be used. What he needs is the date, description of the activity, travel time per activity (either

for advanced training or volunteer activity), and hours spent on advanced training (AT) or volunteer time (VT).

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m., followed by our guest speaker Mike Ray, Deputy Director of Coastal Fisheries, TPWD. He presented an interactive PowerPoint program on the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Project. Questions were encouraged at any time, and elicited many interesting points about the project. Two hours of advanced training may be reported.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan L. Kater

Secretary
Texas Master Naturalist
Cradle of Texas Chapter

HIDE-AWAY TRAIL AT VARNER-HOGG STATE PARK

The trail project at Varner-Hogg State Park is back on the to-do list. We are waiting for the material to be delivered but at this time no specific time has been determined. If there are any questions about this project the contact person is Kermit Schlameus, phone number (713)249-2803 or email: krabbittcat@aol.com.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST FAIR

The Fourth Annual Southeast Texas Master Naturalist Fair, "Upon the Trail", was held at the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences, Clute, TX, on Sunday, July 24, 2005.

The agenda for the fair included talks on Ethnobotany (historical uses of native plants), Monofilament Recovery, Easy Snake ID, and Life from Decomposition (mushrooms/ fungi). These talks counted toward advanced training for attending Master Naturalist. Approximately 115 Master Naturalist from six counties – Galveston, Harris, Fort Bend, Brazos (Bryan), Matagorda, and McLennan (Waco), attended. Sonny Arnold, State Master Naturalist advisor, Texas A&M, also attended.

The event also included a photo contest, a great selection of books from Naturally Curious Books, Bastrop, TX, and door prizes. Ellis Burkhardt won a first and second place ribbon in the "Animals in Nature" category, for his photos of a common night hawk and a newly hatched monarch butterfly. Several COT members were recipients of door prizes.

Planning for the 2006 Fair will start in August. Anyone interested in helping with next years fair is invited to attend the first planning session on Wednesday, August 24, 2006, 9:30 a.m., Brazos Bend State Park Nature Center. For more information, please contact Phil Huxford, Tracie Teague or Barbara Burkhardt.

EMAIL ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:

Barbara Bruyere has a new e-mail address: bbruyere@houston.rr.com
Phil Huxford thinks some correspondents might have omitted the "underscore" between his name and the word "habitat." In his e-mail address, huxford_habitat@yahoo.com, there is

an underscore “_” like this:
huxford_habitat.
Jan Kater has a new e-mail address
which he says is more reliable:
jankater@sbcglobal.net.

**Next Meeting, August 10, 2005
10:00 a.m.**

**9:30 am - Social time and
snacks.**

**10:00 am - Monthly Advanced
Training Program**

**Kathy Adams Clark will
present “12 Steps to Improve
Your Wildlife Photography.”**

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	Tom Morris
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)