

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



## CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – August 2007 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

### President's Message, Ed Barrios

Hello fellow Naturalists. There are many good entries in this month's newsletter. However there is one item I have to be redundant on – WE NEED TO FILL UP OUR UPCOMING TRAINING CLASS! Marty Cornell conducted a survey of last year's new class members and the number one reason that people signed up for the program was "word of mouth" from a friend or relative. The requests for volunteer hours from our partners increase every year. This is a classic good news/bad news conundrum; the good news is our partners and the public appreciate the great job we do and the bad news is our partners and the public appreciate the great job we do – and they want more! I was at Sea Center Texas this week and the touch tank was closed. I was told it was due to a shortage of volunteers. At the Fishin' Fiesta, Coastal Expo had to cancel some of the events due to a lack of volunteers. So please talk to your family and friends and let them know what an important role we fill to educate, literally thousands of people in our area. In addition to education, our citizen science projects are also increasing with new emphasis on monitoring for sea turtles, cactus moths and phytoplankton. Thank you for everything you can do to help us in this important effort.

### August Meeting, COT TMN Wednesday, August 8, 2007

Social time at 8:30 and a brief general meeting will begin at 9:00. Following this, at 9:30, Stephen Clarke will speak on invasive beetles that are destroying pine trees in Texas. He is with the US Forest Service. David Rosen will be our speaker at the January meeting.

### Reminder from Chapter Host, Jerry Krampota

The following members signed up to bring refreshments to the July meeting Mary Helen Israel, Jerry Krampota and Torry Tvedt. If for some reason you are unable to provide refreshments this month; please contact me at 281-585-3249 or [jkrapota@hotmail.com](mailto:jkrapota@hotmail.com).

## Message from Rich Tillman

Howdy! I don't know why I always start all correspondence like that. Actually I do.

In a recent planning meeting, the Brazoria County Master Gardeners decided they would provide the Master Naturalists with an opportunity over the next three years to implement a prairie garden and constructed wetland at the Master Gardeners Education Station, the former Angleton Experiment Station off Hospital Road and CR 171.

The Master Gardeners have much to help contribute to this project including a greenhouse for propagation of seeds and plants, irrigation, garden tool and machinery and muscle power.

So, this is a call to you prairie types and also those interested in pond construction and a constructed wetland facility to get in touch with Rich Tillman or Ed Barrios and we will begin planning. Again, this is a long-term project, so we are not in a big hurry to have something on the ground next week, but we want to put something in that everyone would be proud of and that will demonstrate the beauties and serenity of the tall prairie grasses that once flourished in our area.

### Training, Laura Brandes

**The Fall TMN class starts September 5th. EVERY COT MEMBER is a Recruiter!**

You should talk with your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, fellow parishioners, people that you do business with, other members of organizations that you belong to, etc. To date we have five (5) enrollees and several promises.

Houston, West Brazos and The Facts have all received an article and pictures with captions along with permission to edit due to space constraints. A suggested general publication schedule and follow-up personal phone calls have been completed.

Speakers have been scheduled and reminders are being sent out to each. Certified TMN volunteers have been asked to help with specific classes and/or events. This year will be a bit different with most of the classes being conducted where the hands-on Field Experience will take place.

**It is requested that COT members send a list of their top three (3) books and/or guides used in your TMN activities.** The enrollees will be given an unduplicated listing of those materials to provide more in-depth knowledge and personal reference material as well as to encourage them to become a TMN-COT paid member. Please email this information to David Brandes at [djbrandes@comcast.com](mailto:djbrandes@comcast.com).

COT Texas Master Naturalist Awards  
July 2007

**Certification – 8 hrs AT and 40 hrs VT**

Phyllis Gerdes                      Tom Johnson

**Re-Certification – 8 hrs AT and 40 hrs VT  
2007**

Betty Bouley                      John Marshall

Marty Cornell                      Kirby Rapstein

**July 2007 YTD**

Certifications	2
Re-Certifications	32
No. of Members reporting hrs	42
No. of Volunteer Hrs	4,830
No. of Advance Training Hrs	475
Active Members	77
Members Trained to date	118
No. of VT Hrs from Inception	<b>51,465</b>
No. of AT Hrs from Inception	5,919
Outreach (Youth and Adult)	8,060

**COT Treasurer's Report, Jerry Eppner**

At the end of July, the chapter had \$3740.40 in our checking account with no outstanding checks. We have received 2007 dues from a total of 78 COT members, including one inactive. With the deposit of another \$290 on August 1, we now have a total of five paid interns for the fall classes. Expenses for the fall classes will start to accelerate in the coming weeks.

**State Representative's Report, Ellis Burkhardt**

A reminder that the Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Meeting and Advanced Training will be held in San Antonio October 12 -14, 2007.

So come on out for a TX Master Naturalist Fiesta to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the founding Texas Master Naturalist Chapter. There will be lots of outdoor training and activities.

One large difference for this year's annual meeting is that TMN will be utilizing a hotel for the conference facilities: The Hilton San Antonio Airport will be the host hotel and primary location for the group events. Don't worry though; there will be plenty of outdoor activities.

You can make your room reservations today. Rooms cost \$85 per night for a king-sized room or double room. You will need to make your room arrangements and payments directly to the Hilton. If needed, room rates may be extended three days prior to and after the event, based on availability.

Booking your rooms. Attendees can book on line or by phone today! You must mention the group code when booking the room. This will allow the reservations department to pull up the special group rate. It is vital you mention this code. There is also a spot online to input this code:

Group Code: TPWD

Room rates guaranteed with Reservations made by September 14th, 2007.

Phone: 1-888-728-3031

Online: [www.sanantonioairport.hilton.com](http://www.sanantonioairport.hilton.com)

## Poetry

Following the July advanced training on butterflies, Susan Severance jotted down the following, and we want to share it with the membership.

### **Swallowtail Butterfly**

The next time you go into the garden,

and on your newly planted citrus tree you see, begging your pardon,

a dark wet looking blob that you feel certain is bird poop,

WAIT, grab your butterfly book and check out the scoop

on the Giant Swallowtail caterpillar which resembles inedible bird dropping,

and, will surely devour the leaves on your tree without stopping,

but on the day of eclosion will emerge as a perfect adult butterfly,

expand its wings, pump body fluid into the veins and fly into the sky.

The wonder of nature; beauty personified in a butterfly is worth seeing,

justification, for me, that miracles can be seen by ALL human beings.

## Advanced Training Opportunities

2007

The following are the advanced training opportunities from area Master Naturalist Chapters.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	AT HOURS
<b>Galveston Bay Chapter</b>		
<b>First Monday of the month 10am-Noon Carbide Park</b>	<p><b>Historical Perspectives of Naturalists Study Group</b> The Master Naturalist Book Study Group has chosen its slate of books to read in 2007! The first book we are going to read is: Galveston Bay by Sally Antrobus. This is a short and very informative book about items of interest to Master Naturalists in and around Galveston Bay. Since the first Monday in January is New Years Day, we will meet on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent books we have chosen to read in 2007 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West</i>, (paperback) by Stephen Ambrose (Simon &amp; Schuster, reprint 1997).</li> <li>• <i>Walden, Or Life in the Woods</i>, by H. Thoreau (Dover Thrift Editions unabridged 1995)</li> <li>• <i>Voice of the Coyote</i>, by J. Frank Dobie</li> <li>• <i>Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder</i>, by Richard Louv (Algonquin 2006)</li> </ul>	2
<b>Gulf Coast Chapter</b>		
<b>Saturday, August 18, 2007</b>	<b>Bird Banding</b> at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory – Lake Jackson Sanctuary. Join Robert and Kay Lookingbill as they work to collect baseline data on bird populations. FREE and no reservations are necessary. For more information call 979-480-0999.	NOTE: This Web Site does not list AT hours
<b>Third Thursdays; February-November 7:00–8:45 pm</b>	<p><b>Native Plant Society of Texas Houston Chapter</b> – Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway <u>Meetings</u> are third Thursdays; February-November. Meeting Time: 7 pm – 8:45 pm</p> <p>***August 16, 2007 – Burning the Prairie by Mark Kramer ***September 20, 2007 – The Quiet Beauty of our Coastal Prairie by Carolyn Fannon ***October 18, 2007 – Prairie Assessment and Restoration at Brazos Bend State Park by Al Childs For more information, contact Glenn Olsen at <a href="mailto:Houston@npsot.org">Houston@npsot.org</a> or call 281-345-4151.</p>	NOTE: This Web Site does not list AT hours

## **CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS**

President	Ed Barrios
Vice President/Program	Justina Dent
Secretary	Barbara Burkhardt
Treasurer	Jerry Eppner
State Representative	Ellis Burkhardt
Past President	Carl Dodson
Membership Chair	Tom Morris
Training Co-Chairs	David & Laura Brandes
Volunteer Service Chair	John Marshall
Advanced Training Chair	Roy Morgan
Outreach Chair	Marty Cornell
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Newsletter Chair	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Texas Cooperative Extension)