

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – August 2008 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Well, for the upcoming Intern Class, it's crunch time. We have 4 weeks to fill the class, and we have not received any applications. We've done many outreach events and sent articles to the papers, but this really just generates name recognition and awareness. We now need to get out and beat the bushes. Please make some time to talk to friends about us. Think how much you enjoy the advanced training and the volunteer efforts. Wouldn't you like to do it with them and some new friends as well? We are having some difficulty convincing the local papers to print articles we submit. If you have any contacts, we would appreciate your help.

Laura has arranged a great intern program this year featuring Scientific Methods, Earth Science, Archeology: The Human Impact, Plants: Terminology, Identification and Uses, Amphibians and Reptiles, Insects and Spiders, Prairie Ecology, Wetlands Ecology, Tidelands and Coastal Waters Ecology, Bay and Estuaries Ecology, Birds, Forest Ecology, and "Prescription" for Nature-Deficit Order. The Coastal Prairie Ecology session will be particularly interesting. We'll be up at the Nash Prairie. Stephen Clarke will present the Forest Ecology session. The interns will be having so much fun we may need some smelling salts.

The August general meeting is coming up Wednesday, August 13. You won't want to miss it! David Heinicke will talk with us about dragonflies, and we'll have a great field trip following the presentation. Our plan is to adjourn to the Sea Center Texas wetlands demonstration area for a dragonfly walk. David will also demonstrate how to mount a dragonfly. See you there!



Coastal Expo 2008



Coastal Expo 2008

August Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Social time
- 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Advanced Training: Dragonflies
Presented by David Heinicke, Park Naturalist
Brazos Bend State Park, TPWD



Afternoon - Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson: Field Trip

Treasurer's Report,
Jerry Eppner

As of 07/29, COT has \$5264.53 in the chapter checking account. One check for \$48.03 is outstanding, and we will get a small amount of interest credited to the account on 07/31. We are in good shape for underwriting the fall intern class.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts,
Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the August meeting: Ed Barrios, Georgia Monnerat, and Marty Cornell. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

Brazos Bend Butterfly Count

The annual Brazos Bend Butterfly Count will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 9:00am. Meet at the 40-acre Lake parking lot (on the left just past headquarters).

This citizen science project is one of several annual butterfly counts in the Houston area (and many more nationwide). Participants divide into small groups and patrol areas

within BBSP and vicinity counting all species and individual butterflies they see. We gather at the Elm Lake picnic ground to tally our results and eat our sack lunches. Those who wish to count in the afternoon, patrol other areas outside the park within the official 15-mile count circle and email their results to us.

Bring drinking water, mosquito repellent, sun protection, and (if you have them) butterfly field guides and close-focusing binoculars. Note that some trails may be muddy. There is a \$3.00 per person fee to participate, but the Park entry fee will be waived.

Actual hours spent counting plus travel time count as Volunteer Hours.

Everyone is invited and no experience is required. Beginners will be paired with experienced counters. The extra eyes are very helpful and it is a fun way to learn to identify our local butterflies.

For additional information contact us at richj@consolidated.net, or phone 979-553-3575, cell phone during count 713-703-9871.

Regards,
Rich and Sandy Jespersen

Primary Colors, Part 2 Neal McLain

Attached is Part 2 of a paper on Primary Colors by Neal McLain. Part 3 will follow in August.

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

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