

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



## CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – December 2005 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

### **The Prez Says from Carl Dodson**

Well summer is gone and Christmas is here. What ever happened to Fall? Lots of things going on and lots of things to do as Master Naturalist. We have bird counts coming up, lots of school tours before the holidays, plus volunteer opportunities in other areas. Several of our Partners are especially busy during the Holidays and need extra help.

One of the really nice things about having so much to do is that we have 18 new members to do some of them. All members of the 2005 Training Class have completed the course and are now COT Master Naturalists. Hats off to chairman Marty Cornell and members of the Training Class Committee: Ed Barrios, John Boettiger, Barbara Burkhardt, Jerry Krampota, Kirby Rapstein and Jim Renfro. Congratulations for a job well done in spite of a huge interruption in the form of "Rita".

There will be Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the conference room. As always everyone is welcome to attend. If you are a new member, it is interesting to see how your chapter is run... We have called a special membership meeting for Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. At this

meeting we will elect our officers for 2006. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find the recommendations from the Nominating Committee. Other nominations may be offered from the membership. We will discuss the activities from the past year, pat ourselves on the back (why? because we deserve it.) and get ready for the new year There will be refreshments and door prizes to pass out

Now, one last plea! We need you to report your volunteer hours in a timely fashion and we need you to report them on or before December 15<sup>th</sup>! I have never been over excited about reporting or accumulating hours. I have always thought you do the best you can and volunteer as often as you could and that should be that. I guess I would be less than honest if I said I didn't like the recognition ever now and then but I never saw much in volunteering just to get a pin. As President, the importance of reporting volunteer hours was explained to me in a different light. The State organization needs finances to operate on. The finances come in a large part from grants from different agencies. The agencies want proof that their money is being wisely spent. The Texas Master Naturalist organization offers proof by showing the impact we make and the proof we offer is accumulated volunteer hours. If the State doesn't get the grants, the alternative financing is membership dues. Now I BELIEVE!

Of course if you do volunteer work after Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> you will get credit for it. The Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> cut-off date gives us time to accumulate the data for our annual report and turn it in at the first of the year

## Report from Nominating Committee

### Proposed Slate of Candidates for the 2006 Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee (Kerry Magee, Carole Wenny, Carolyn May-Monie) has completed the search for the 2006 Board of Directors as outlined in the COT Policies/Procedures Handbook, section titled *Nominating Committee Guidelines*. The vote for the 2006 Board of Directors will take place December 14, 2005 at the General Membership meeting.

The committee wishes to put forward the following slate of candidates for consideration:

President:	Ed Barrios
Vice President:	Tracie Teague
Treasurer:	Jan Kater
Secretary:	Alice Sieling
State Rep:	Barbara Burkhardt

The Nominating Committee sincerely thanks everyone who participated in this search.

Carolyn May-Monie, Chairman

### Cradle of Texas Chapter, TMN, Class of 2005

The Intern Class of 2005 has matriculated and added another group of quality folks to our community of COT Master Naturalists. Despite the

disruption from Hurricane Rita, 18 of the 19 participating interns of the 2005 training class completed their basic required 10 sessions by the November 16<sup>th</sup> graduation session, and our "19th" student has just completed her one required makeup class. That's 100% graduating!

Twelve of the 19 interns attended all of the twelve sessions, giving them a four advanced-hour start toward certification, and another four interns completed eleven classes. Many are well on their way toward accumulating their 40 volunteer hours needed for certification.

Some demographics on this class: At the first class, a survey was conducted of the 20 interns present about how they were made aware of these classes; this exercise was revealing:

Personal Contact with a COT Member:	10
Newspaper articles:	5
<i>The Facts</i> :	(4)
<i>Alvin Advertiser</i> :	(1)
COT booth at public natural events:	2
BNWR Family Day:	(1)
GCBO:	(1)
Mailing flyer from County Extension Office:	2
Flyer:	0
Internet:	1
	<b>20</b>

This data suggest that Flyer postings are not productive, and that opportunities for personal recruiting, augmented by timely mention in newspapers, should be optimized.

It also explains some of the demographic homogeneity of the class, being:

Caucasian:	20 = 100%
Male:	8 = 40%
Female:	12 = 60%
Retired	17 = 85%
Part-time or flexible work:	3 = 15%
Brazosport:	9 = 45%
Not Brazosport:	11 = 55%
Up-county: (9)	
West-county: (2)	

Hence, we are becoming increasingly represented across Brazoria County, but we still have significant opportunities for developing the volunteer base to support the programs of our natural habitats.

Marty Cornell, Chairman  
Training Committee.

## **Texas Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter Minutes of Membership Meeting, November 9, 2005**

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 8:40 a.m. Twenty-five members were present, in addition to the assembled trainees. The attendance list is on file.

**Membership:** Tom Morris awarded a first-time certification pin to a member of the 2004 class – Jane Eppner. Re-certification pins were awarded to Marty Cornell, Jerry Krampota, and Denis James (completed in May 2005).

Carl Dodson earned a Bronze Award for 250 cumulative lifetime COT volunteer hours, and Barbara Burkhardt and Marty Cornell each earned Silver Awards for 500 cumulative lifetime COT volunteer hours.

**President** Carl Dodson gave the highlights of the TMN Annual Meeting at Mo-Ranch October 22, at which the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award was given to our COT Chapter for the presentation of our exemplary learning project at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. A complete report by President Dodson on the TMN Annual Meeting appeared in the November COT Chapter Newsletter.

The President also outlined the remaining official activities of the chapter for the month of December – Board meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> and annual election membership meeting and holiday celebration on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Door prizes and snacks will help celebrate a year of fruitful activity.

**Marty Cornell, Ed Barrios and other members** announced a “Hog Wild” **roast boar feast** to be held at Ed’s house following the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Barbara Burkhardt** offered to meet in the conference room with those waiting for their TMN COT shirt orders.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.**, followed by the 2005 training class agenda activities.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan L. Kater*

Secretary  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Cradle of Texas Chapter

**Cradle of Texas  
2nd Annual Hog Wild  
Christmas Feast**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2005,  
2:00 p.m.  
After the Chapter Meeting in  
Angleton  
Home of Ed Barrios  
325 Timbercreek Drive  
Lake Jackson**

**Appetizer Medley**  
(At the whim of each attendee  
Bring a small hors d'oeuvre  
if you wish)

**Featured Main Course**  
**Columbian Woods Smoked Free  
Range Hog**  
**Burkhardt's Spinach & Apple Salad**  
**Roy Morgan's Borracho Beans**  
**Jane Eppner's Sausage-Cornbread  
Dressing**  
**Fresh Country Bread**  
**Argile Chardonnay, 2003**  
**Sebastaini Zinfandel, 2003**  
**Chateau Bud & Bud Lite**  
**November Spring Water**  
**Soft Drinks**

**\$5 Donation per person.  
Significant Others are welcome.**

**Please R.S.V.P. to Ed Barrios at  
[evbarrios@houston.rr.com](mailto:evbarrios@houston.rr.com)  
979-297-1815**

**Future Programs:**

**January 2006** – date to be announced  
Program: Sammy Ray will speak on  
“Oysters”

**February 8** – David Abrego, SCT, will  
speak on “Speckled Sea Trout”

**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
Newsletter	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Extension)