

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Greetings! I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season.

Don't forget our annual meeting Wednesday, December 10, to elect officers for 2009 (you must be up to date on dues to vote). The business meeting will begin at **10:30** with several announcements and reminders followed by the election. We are starting much later than normal, since there is no AT. Following the meeting, we can head over to Ed's for the 12:00 Hog Wild feast and social.

As I'm sure you remember, we cancelled our 2008 Intern Training due to lack of sufficient registrants. Since then, the training committee has been working hard to develop a training protocol that we can run year-round. It allows us to begin an intern's training almost anytime during the year when we can pull together 4-5 registrations. We can also begin the training several times during the year as needed. The training is very flexible and can be somewhat customized to an intern's particular interests. Exposure to our volunteer efforts is also a big part of the protocol.

We have enough interns to begin a pilot in January. The protocols will be refined as we progress, and we want your input to help us do that. Copies of the draft training proposal will be available at the annual meeting. Take one and give us your feedback over the next month on how we can improve on what we are planning to pilot.

I've compiled your input on AT for next year. The top vote-getters are Geology of Texas Gulf Coast, Native Americans in our area, Hawk ID, Beach & shallow water, Estuary life, Galveston and Christmas bays, Microscopic life in our estuaries, History of local rivers and creeks, Dragonflies, Waterfowl, Gulf coast fish, Warbler ID, and Bats.

I also asked you about potential trips for next year. The top votes were for the Brazos Belle, a boat that is being refurbished to take people on tours of the Brazos River and talk about its history and wildlife. Another top vote was for a trip to Mad Island.

We'll see what we can make happen with these topics and adventures. I believe you will be very interested in one that will be announced Wednesday.

See you at the meeting.

Dave

Treasurers Report, Jerry Eppner

As we near the end of 2008, we have \$5332.21 in our checking account. This balance was boosted by the recent addition of \$310 in 2009 dues submitted by 31 members at the November meeting. We will continue to collect 2009 dues at the upcoming general meetings and are targeting 100% participation by our active members. Financial support by members ensures we have adequate cash on hand for chapter activities and also provides funding for AT speakers in the coming year. The end of December also marks the end of my tenure as your chapter treasurer. It has been my pleasure to serve as your treasurer, and I appreciate everyone's cooperation in dues submissions and financial transactions.

December Meeting Wednesday, December 10, 2008 **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME**

- 10:00 a.m. Social time
- 10:30 a.m. General meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Adjourn to Hog Wild Feast at Ed Barrios' home,
325 Timbercreek Dr., Lake Jackson

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the December meeting: Neal McLain, Bill Brown, and Rainbo Johnson. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

January 14, 2009 Meeting Notice, John Boettiger

We (COT Members), assisted by Bryan Adams, will be discussing the "effects of hurricane IKE on the Mid-Coast Refuge System lands" with the COT's providing "their observations, comments, and any photos they might be willing to share" so that all in attendance might better appreciate the "good and the bad" of what occurred in/during/after IKE.

Bring PHOTOS and STORIES to the JAN '09 meeting.
Happy Holidays!

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

President	David Brandes
Vice President/Program	John Boettiger
Secretary	Joan Simonsen
Treasurer	Jerry Eppner
State Representative	Ellis Burkhardt
Past President	Ed Barrios
Membership Chair	John Marshall
Training Chair	Laura Brandes
Advisory Members, Class of 2007	Sandy Henderson & Carolyn Schlein
Volunteer Service Chair	
Advanced Training Chair	Earl Roberts
Outreach Chair	
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota & Justina Dent
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Newsletter Chair	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Texas AgriLife Extension Service)