

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

### From The President, Carl Dodson

Well here we go – right off the bat – out of the starting gate – I have to apologize.

I sold you short! When I quoted from the 2004 Annual Report I misquoted some numbers. I can use bad eyesight or nerves as an excuse but unfortunately I make mistakes quite often. Forgiveness leaves a very nice feeling.

What I told you was the report said for every one hour of advanced training we did in 2004 we did two hours of volunteer time and that I thought we could do better. After cleaning my glasses I found that we actually did seven plus hours volunteer time for each hour of advanced training. There is a big difference! So-o-o if we are that good what's wrong with ten thousand hours of volunteer time?

Here's the pitch. We get a lot of advanced training and the program this year is going to give you opportunities for more; at the same time expanding your opportunities to pass on that knowledge through deed, word or other action. This is what we do as Master Naturalist.

And this is how we do it!

- Sea Center Texas Nature Day (VT)  
Feb. 26, 2005 10:00am – 4:00pm  
Need help at the M.N. booth and conducting tours in the wetlands area
- BP-Amoco Nature Training (VT)  
March 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
Nature Training for 3rd Graders from Angleton ISD
- Wildlife Rehabilitation (AT)  
Feb. 9, 2005 10:00am – Noon  
Extension Bldg.

### GET AFTER IT!

### February Meeting

The February meeting of COT Chapter, TMN is 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 9, at the Extension Office. The program will be presented by Dana Simon of the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue.

### **Minutes: First Membership Meeting of the Year January 12 2005**

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 9:04 a.m. Thirty-seven members were present.

**Assumption of Officers:** The President declared the new officers to have assumed their duties in

accordance with the Chapter By-Laws, Article V, Section E, 2, e.

**Announcements of Volunteer Opportunities:**

A number of volunteer opportunities were announced – some happening before the next Newsletter publication and some later ones which are timely enough to be sent by those knowing the information to Mary Helen Israel for inclusion in the February Newsletter. John Thayer keeps tab on a number of these opportunities and may be reached at 979-297-5436.

**Programs:** John Boettiger, Vice-President and Program Chairman, mentioned several possible program subjects and invited ideas from the membership for future monthly meetings and/or field trips. Phone 979-297-5427 and/or email [John.Boettiger@RaymondJames.com](mailto:John.Boettiger@RaymondJames.com)

**The next Membership Meeting is Wednesday, Feb 9** at the Brazoria County Cooperative Extension Office, **from 10:00 to 11:30**. The speaker will be Dana Simón, founder of the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue organization.

**The next Cradle of Texas Chapter Board of Directors meeting** will be held at **8:30 a.m., Wednesday Feb 9**, at the Cooperative Extension office, just before the membership meeting. **Required attendance:** all **board members (including advisors)** plus all **Committee Chairs**. All board meetings and membership meetings are open to the public.

**Volunteer and Advanced Training hours for last year were reviewed**

by Membership Chairman Tommie Holt (see the January Chapter Newsletter for his annual report). President Carl Dodson also gave some interesting ratios between total volunteer and total advanced training hours (roughly 2 to 1), and reiterated the primary mission of the Chapter to teach others. He expressed the hope that with more volunteer hours that ratio can be raised to 3 to 1. Both expressed thanks for the admirable number of hours in both categories, and emphasized the importance of reporting hours spent (including travel) so that members and the chapter can get credit for all the good work being done.

**Recognition:** Jan Kater, a new member from the 2004 training class, was presented with his first Master Naturalist certification pin.

**News from the State Master**

**Naturalist Office:** Our Cradle of Texas Chapter was recognized in a letter from the state office as the first chapter to get in its annual report this year. Congratulations to Tommie Holt, Past-President Carolyn May-Monie, and others involved in that timely submittal. State Representative Barbara Burkhardt was out of town and not able to share in the limelight

**Treasurer's Report:** Al Brushwood presented the annual Treasurer's report, which compared revenues and expenditures with the budget, showing that revenues exceeded the budgeted amounts and actual expenditures, ending the year with a positive balance. Other details such as

checks written and specific categories of expenditures and revenues were also included. The audit committee certified his report.

**Training Committee:** It was announced that each new student in the 2005 training class will have to have a new training manual, available only from the state office, at a cost of \$30.00 each to the Chapter. It is copyright protected, and cannot be reproduced locally. The manual is well worth it, according to experienced training members, and the cost will be included in the training fee. Members already trained can order a copy from the TMN web site.

**New By-Laws and Policies and Procedures** copies were made available to those who did not get copies at the December meeting. A few discrepancies were highlighted in the discussion, but these will be corrected as we use these documents in 2005. All-in-all the documents were welcomed as a big improvement.

**Whatever:** This catch-all item on the agenda gave several members the opportunity to announce favorite projects, and to ask questions before the close of the meeting.

Phil Huxford announced that organizational meetings are beginning for the "Migration Celebration" held each Spring. Members, experienced or not, are invited to get in touch with him to see how they might be helpful. Call Phil at 979-798-0725.

Another area-wide event is the Regional Chapter Fair. The next planning committee meets Thursday,

Feb 3. Call Tracie Teague for time and location (979-798-1936).

The President emphasized that the monthly newsletter is the primary place to let your projects be known. The deadline for the February newsletter is Wednesday, January 26, and the deadline for the March newsletter is Wednesday, February 23. E-mail Mary Helen Israel at [mhisrael@computron.net](mailto:mhisrael@computron.net), tel. 979-297-6968. Committee chairs as well as other project leaders need to tell her if they do **not** have news as well as if they **do** have news.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.**, followed by guest speaker Jennifer Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Subject: Colonial Water Birds. Her presentation was received by the members with warm appreciation!

Respectfully submitted,

**Jan L. Kater**

Jan L. Kater, Secretary  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Cradle of Texas Chapter

### **BP-Amoco 3rd Grade Nature Training**

On March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> BP-Amoco will conduct the second phase of its three phase Nature Training Program. The program is conducted with 3rd grade students from an elementary school in Angleton. The same students attend all three phases of the program, each phase covering different subjects. The subjects to be covered during the second phase are:

- Birding and Bird Identification – using binoculars and spotting scopes
- Owl Pellet Dissection
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Crabbing and Fishing

Those of us that participated in the first phase found it to be a very rewarding experience. The program is good, the children are interested and the BP-Amoco people are good to work with. If you are interested contact me and I will put you on the list.

Carl Dodson, (979) 265-7329 or email [cdodson5@houston.rr.com](mailto:cdodson5@houston.rr.com)

### **HUMMINGBIRD ROUNDUP – Tom Collins**

This is a reminder for those of you that volunteered to keep hummingbird records for the Texas Hummingbird Roundup, the form needs to be mailed in by the end of January or as soon as possible. This is a great way to get volunteer time and help track the number of species of hummingbird in Texas. If you want to participate in 2005, simply go to the following web page ([http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/birding/hummingbird\\_roundup/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/birding/hummingbird_roundup/)), read about the protocol and pull the reporting form (PDF document). Call me if you need help or have questions.

### **CAMP MOHAWK – Tom Collins**

I have a draft copy of the Camp Mohawk Nature Check List based on the census our chapter conducted during 2003-04. I am looking for

someone interested in taking this draft copy and working with the Brazoria County Parks group to finalize it. In addition it would be great if whoever took it over lived close to the park and could continue to add to the data by conducting on-going census work with chapter members. We also have the opportunity to help with trails and signage along the trails. Please contact me if you are interested.

### **Treasurer’s Report - Al Brushwood**

A complete copy of the Treasurer’s Report is attached at the end of the newsletter.

#### **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	Tommie Holt
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)

## Treasurer's Report:

	<b>Budget Comparison 12/31/2004</b>	
	<b>Actuals:</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$2,657.08	\$2,510.00
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Class Related	\$1,878.25	\$2,412.50
<b>Non-Class Expenditures:</b>		
Misc. Proj Exp:	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Nature Day	\$ 21.70	
Hummig Extra	\$ 20.54	
ScrapBook	\$ 108.04	
Badges	\$ 37.50	\$ 60.00
Year end party	\$ 64.07	
Display Board	\$ 395.00	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Non-class expenditures</b>	\$ 646.85	\$ 260.00
<b>Total Expendis</b>	<b>\$2,525.10</b>	<b>\$2,672.50</b>
<b>Net Operating Inc /(loss)</b>	<b>\$ 131.98</b>	<b>\$(162.50)</b>
<b>Cash Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$1,908.84</b>	<b>\$1,908.84</b>
<b>Cash End of Year (includes savings of \$5.13)</b>	<b>\$2,040.82</b>	<b>\$1,746.34</b>

A proposed budget for 2005 will be reviewed by the Board at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.