

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – February 2006 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

ADVANCED TRAINING MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2006 9:30 A.M.

Sea Center Facility Director, David Abrego, will provide a presentation on Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) and its role in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Stock Enhancement program. Topics will include life history, stock enhancement of spotted seatrout, trends and future work.

Texas Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter <http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>

Board of Directors Meeting January 11, 2006 Minutes

Opening: Attendees Carolyn May-Monie, Barbara Burkhardt, John Thayer, Connie Stolte, Alice Sieling, Carl Dodson, Jerry Eppner, Marty Cornell, Neal McLain, Jim Renfro, John Boettiger, Jim Calvert, Tom Morris and Al Brushwood were welcomed to the meeting by President Ed Barrios at 9:00AM. New officers: Vice President John Boettiger, Secretary Alice Sieling, State Representative Barbara Burkhardt and Past President Carl Dodson were presented new name badges showing their board positions. Treasurer Jan Kater was not present. President Ed Barrios suggested new

badges be purchased for all Committee Chairs as well as Chapter Officers. He felt that so identifying ourselves would lead to greater visibility and accessibility as well as awareness of service opportunities. Cost is \$5 per badge.

New Committee Chairs: Proposed slate of 2006 Committee Chairs: Jim Renfro, Resource Library; Marty Cornell, Training; Carolyn May-Monie, Volunteer Service Coordinator; Tom Morris, Membership; John Thayer, Advanced Training Coordinator; Jane and Jerry Eppner, Outreach; Jerry Krampota and Archie Pratt, Chapter Hosts; Neal McLain, Webmaster; and Mary Helen Israel, Newsletter. Barbara Burkhardt moved that the slate be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by John Boettiger. Motion passed.

Changes in Duties of Volunteer Service Chair: President Ed Barrios proposed a change in the current language of COT Policies and Procedures:

Volunteer Service Committee/Chair:

- A. Approves of volunteer service opportunities and projects and notifies chapter membership of such opportunities and projects
- B. Uses the State Master Naturalist Program Chapter Management Guidelines section on Volunteer Service Requirements and Board guidance to review

projects or activities for approval.

- C. Maintain a list of volunteer service projects and COT project contacts.

The changes would reflect a closer contact with all COT partners so that annually we would update our charters and be more aware of their volunteer needs. At present some of our partners are having problems obtaining volunteers.

Proposed Changes:

Volunteer Service Committee/Chair:

1. Approves and notifies chapter membership regarding volunteer service opportunities and projects;
2. Uses the State Master Naturalist Program Chapter Management Guidelines section on Volunteer Service Requirements and Board guidance to review projects or activities for approval;
3. Maintain a list of volunteer service projects and COT project contacts;
4. Annually updates the Charters with all COT sponsor organizations;
5. On an ongoing basis, meets with sponsor organizations to determine volunteer needs and issues and reports back to the organization.

Sections 4 and 5 are changed to create a more formal relationship with COT partners. John Boettiger made the motion to approve the changes . Connie Stolte seconded the motion. Motion approved. John Thayer stated that the motion constituted a change in official procedure and that the general membership must be notified before the final vote on the changes. A

special meeting was suggested of the general membership for discussion of all documents, policies, procedures and bylaws to be sure we all agree on what they mean. Ed Barrios will find a date for the meeting. Club policies and procedures were revised last in 2004.

State Database: Tom Morris reported still lots of bugs in state database. State uses Access, not Excel Program. This is so all chapters in state can use database. Tom does not endorse changing to the state system, and the change is not required by the state. State website is open to all of us, but one must register. Barbara Burkhardt stated she is not getting state e-mails. Barbara as State Representative is responsible for updating club information on the Club Page. She mentioned that there is no browser interface for state database.

Membership Report: Barbara Burkhardt will present the full report next month. Preliminary suggestions: If a student does not complete training, he is not a Master Naturalist. 15 months are allowed for completion of training. Returning students have first choice of class following year. If student completes his training, he is a Master Naturalist Member for 12 months whether he has completed his certification or not. Inactive members will be e-mailed to ask if they wish to remain on the active list. They must either volunteer or attend general meetings to be placed on the active list. The membership team recognizes two types of members: 1) Volunteers 2) Meeting Attendees. They suggest after a 3-year period of inactivity that members be dropped from the roster. Any member may write a letter to resign from TMN and ask to be dropped from the roster. Letters would be sent to inactive members after the

3-year deadline to notify them of inactive status. If no response, they would be dropped from the roster. This issue is not covered in policies and procedures as state policy says members who do not pay dues are no longer members, and COT TMN has no dues. A section will need to be added to club membership policy and procedures. A preliminary vote will be held on this section in February. John Thayer suggested that the changes be publicized on the website or by e-mail so that a final vote could be taken in February.

Advanced Training Report: John Boettiger proposed schedule for Advanced Training in 2006. As of 1/10/2006, he has confirmation of all speakers except August. Marty Cornell suggested David Heinecke to speak on Mammals as his training class covers mainly reptiles. September and November classes may be switched depending on availability of Gary and Kathy Adams Clark. John suggested that Wayne McAllister's class count as advanced training every other year for current members as the presentation does not change. Judy James' class in October will be held at the Planetarium at the Brazosport Center for Arts and Sciences in Lake Jackson, and not Extension Office. He hopes to follow it with a field trip to George Observatory at Brazos Bend State Park. This could be a night trip or a weekend trip. John Thayer suggested Wednesday for Judy James' class so students could attend as regular class with Saturday for the field trip.

Advanced training hours should be turned in within 90 days. Carl Dodson volunteered to find minutes from 2005 meeting so that this suggestion could be written up as policy and procedures.

John Boettiger envisions interest groups taking over his job in the future. An interest group would consist of 2 or more members with a common specialty. At present, there are 6 interest groups within COT: 1) Photography 2) Astronomy 3) Plants 4) Birds 5) Weather 6) Marine Ecology. Each interest group would be responsible for the training class' speaker on their specialty. At present, John has been finding a topic for the training class and asking the interest group for help on finding a speaker. He feels 2007 training should be a goal for changing over to this system. If a member wishes to be a tour guide or animal rescue worker and requires training to participate, the training will be considered approved advanced training. But each case needs to be reviewed as to appropriateness.

Treasurer's Report: Al Brushwood informed the board that \$2040 was in our treasury in January 2005 and \$2385 in December 2005, an increase of \$245. Jan Kater will be creating a budget for 2006 and training classes are 90% of the budget.

Board Meetings will to be held every other month with March being the next meeting. TMN Regional Meeting will be February 4th in Bear Creek, Houston. If a member wishes to attend, call Barbara Burkhardt (979)297-4386. February 10th, 11th and 12th TMN campout at Brazos Bend hosted by the Galveston/Gulf Coast Chapters. Contact Richard Benoit at RbenoitTex@aol.com. Meeting Adjourned at 10:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Sieling, Secretary

Upcoming Outreach & Advanced Training Opportunities

Brazos Bend Camp Out - Feb 10, 11, 12

Brazos Bend SP Earth Day – April 1

Migration Celebration will be April 6-9 this year including activities/locations as follows:

Thursday April 6 – Hudson Woods
Night Critter Walk

Friday April 7 – River Place in Freeport Dinner by Windswept and featured speaker Gene Sparling (first spotted the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in the Cache River NWR)

Saturday April 8 - Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge main event (refuge tours, kid's activities, food by Ron Bisbee, raptor show, nature programs, exhibitors, etc.)

Sunday April 9 – GCBO (nature programs, raptor show(s), interpretative trail tours, etc.) and Offsite tours

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

President	Ed Barrios
Vice President/Program	John Boettiger
Secretary	Alice Sieling
Treasurer	Jan Kater
State Representative	Barbara Burkhardt
Past President	Carl Dodson
Membership Chair	Tom Morris
Training Chair	Marty Cornell
Volunteer Service Chair	Carolyn May-Monie
Resource Library	Jim Renfro
Advanced Training Coordinator	John Thayer
Outreach Chairman	Jane & Jerry Eppner
Chapter Hosts	Jerry Krampota & Archie Pratt
Web-site Manager	Neal McLain
Newsletter Chairman	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Extension)