

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

FIRST MEETING OF 2005

The first meeting of 2005 of the COT Chapter Texas Master Naturalist will be Wednesday, January 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Extension Office. The program will be a presentation by Jennifer Wilson of USFWS on Colonial Waterbirds. She will cover ecology and management of nesting colonies with emphasis on the ones on and adjacent to the local complex.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING, DECEMBER 8, 2004, FROM JAN KATZ

Opening: The meeting was officially opened by President Carolyn May-Monie at 11:20 a.m. following the finger food set up and meeting preparation that began much earlier. This was the first time an eating/ social event had been held at a December meeting, and was very much appreciated by the members.

Recognition:

1. The President gave the Board Members “stars” awards in recognition of their dedicated service during 2004: Dennis James, V.P; Rainbo Johnson, Secretary; Al Brushwood, Treasurer; Tracie Teague, State Representative; Kirby Rapstein, Past President. The members expressed their enthusiastic appreciation for the entire Board.
2. Committee Chairs also were thanked for their outstanding work during 2004: Barbara Burkhardt, Training; Tommie Holt, Membership; John Thayer, Volunteer Service/ Advanced Training; Rita Pruett, Historian; Paula Jacobs, Outreach; Durwood and Becky McKinney and Justina Dent, Refreshments and Hosting; and Mary Helen Israel, Newsletter. Tom Collins was given a plaque in special recognition of his all-around support and expertise during 2004. In accepting his plaque Tom announced that he will be moving to the hill country in the next few months and will carry with him fond memories of the achievements of the Cradle of Texas Chapter.

Special Guest:

Rachelle Olsen, TPWD Lead Interpreter/Program Coordinator at the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Site, outlined a new project they are developing called the “Steal Away Trail.” It will explain how the slaves who worked on the plantation “stole away” for some quiet time for themselves and where they went

to get this respite. They have identified the site as one of native growth, rather than managed development (as was the case on most of the site after the oil boom). Since most history is written by the elite segments of society, this project will let the testimony of the slaves tell what it meant to them. And visitors can “steal away” too for quiet reflection, hiking, and birding once the project is finished. There is a need for trail building, engineering, signs, and textual development. She invited TMN members to consider dedicating time to the development of this project and to get in touch with her (979-345-4656) or Carol Jones to sign up.

Drawings for Prizes

Drawings for prizes were accomplished from time to time throughout the meeting, with everyone getting at least one prize. Appreciation was expressed for the great prizes that the donors provided, and to Barbara Greeley, Oliver Osborn, and Candace Novak for organizing the drawings and prizes.

Jersey Knit Shirts for New Master Naturalists were handed out – the embroidery was done by a local vendor, and includes the COT designation. Those who ordered denim shirts will receive theirs later.

Bird count opportunities were announced with encouragement to join the teams being formed.

Membership Committee Report

An impressive report on membership activity was read by Tommie Holt, Committee Chair. His report is attached to these minutes, and includes a list of newly certified and re-certified members, as well as a list of those whose lifetime hours served qualify them for bronze, silver, and gold category recognition.

COT Chapter By-laws and Policies and Procedures Handbooks, newly revised, were handed out. A motion was made and seconded to approve these documents. Passed unanimously.

Slate of Elective Officers for the 2005 Board were read by Kirby Rapstein, chairman of the Nominating Committee. An opportunity was given for other nominations from the floor but none were presented.

President – Carl Dodson
Vice-President – John Boettiger
Secretary – Jan Kater
Treasurer – Al Brushwood
State Representative – Barbara Burkhardt

A motion was made by Tom Morris and seconded by Phil Huxford to accept the slate as a whole by voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-elective Board Members were announced:

Past President: Carolyn May-Monie

Chapter Advisors:

Connie Stolte, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Visitor Ctr. Manager, Sea Center Texas

Rich Tillman, Texas Cooperative Extension, County Marine Agent

Appreciation and thanks were expressed for the support of our sponsors in 2004:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Connie Stolte, Advisor.

Texas Cooperative Extension: Rich Tillman, Advisor.

In her closing remarks, **President Carolyn May-Monie encouraged Master Naturalists to “take advantage of every opportunity to go learn”** at as many as possible of the volunteer and advanced training activities.

The president announced that the **next general membership meeting** will be held at the Texas Cooperative Extension Office in Angleton at **9:00 a.m., Wednesday January 12**. The speaker will be Jennifer Wilson, and her subject will be Colonial Water Birds.

Advanced training hours credit for the membership meetings December 8 and January 12 are two per meeting plus travel time. Also, the advanced training hours credit for the GCBO member meeting on December 4 is three plus travel time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. with reminders of 1) the **advanced training opportunity at Ed Barrios’ home** that afternoon to identify and compile a list of the flora and fauna, and 2) of the social event hosted by Ed and Marty Cornell later on.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan L Kater

Jan L. Kater, Secretary

Attachment:

COT Membership Committee Annual Report 2004

12/01/04

- 78 Members on roll
- 27 have re-certified in 2004
- 7 from the 2004 class have certified out of 27
- There are five that will probably never certify
- There are approximately 18 that are working toward certification and may certify yet this year and probably will certify next year.
- There are three that have to finish training
- We have interacted with approximately 5000 adults and children in 2004 as an organization, and probably 3 times that number since inception. As individuals that number is beyond calculation.
- Accumulated 7,849 VH & 1168.75 AT in 2004
- Since the start of COT we have done 19,167 VH & 3150 AT Hours. For the analytical minded that is 480 40 hour work weeks or 9.56 years of VH and 78.75 40 hour weeks or 1.57 years of AT. A total of 11.13 years of VH & AT. This has been since fall of 2001. I think this is pretty impressive. If everyone had turned in their hours we would probably be close to 9000 VH

Certification From 2004 class

James Calvert	12/08/04
Susan Conaty	12/08/04
Marty Cornell	12/08/04
Jerry Krampota	12/08/04
Roy Morgan	12/08/04
Tom Morris	12/08/04
Carole Wenny	12/08/04

Re-certification for 2004

Betty Bouley	03/09/04
Tom Collins	03/09/04
Caroline May-Monie	03/09/04
Maurice Monie	03/09/04
John Boettiger	05/12/04
Justina Dent	05/12/04
Carl Dodson	05/12/04
Becky McKinney	05/12/04
Tracie Teague	05/12/04
Jim Renfro	07/14/04
John Thayer	07/14/04
Barbara Burkhardt	09/01/04
Tommie Holt	09/01/04
Rich Jespersen	09/01/04

Sandy Jespersen	09/01/04
Rainbo Johnson	09/01/04
Ramah O’Gorman	09/01/04
Ray Pruitt	09/01/04
Al Brushwood	12/08/04
Anna Hay	12/08/04
Phil Huxford	12/08/04
Denis James	12/08/04
Carol Jones	12/08/04
Durwood McKinney	12/08/04
Diana Richmond	12/08/04
Sherry Summers	12/08/04

Bronze 250 Hours

Ramah O’Gorman	01/14/04
Kirby Rapstein	01/14/04
Barbara Burkhardt	12/08/04
Diana Richmond	12/08/04
John Thayer	12/08/04

Silver 500 Hours

Carl Dodson	01/14/04
Tommie Holt	01/14/04
Tracie Teague	01/14/04
Caroline May-Monie	
03/09/04	
Maurice Monie	03/09/04
Denis James	05/12/04

Gold 1000 Hours

Jim Renfro	01/14/04
Tracie Teague	09/01/04
Justina Dent	12/08/04
Carolyn May-Monie	12/08/04
Tommie Holt	12/08/04

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	
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)