

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – January 2007 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

President's Message, Ed Barrios

Happy New Year my fellow Naturalists!

First I'd like to introduce the new Board and Committee Chairs:

President: Ed Barrios

Vice President: Justina Dent

Secretary: Barbara Burkhardt

Treasurer: Jerry Eppner

State Representative: Ellis Burkhardt

Past President: Carl Dodson

Outreach: Marty Cornell

Training Co-Chairs: David & Laura Brandes

Membership Chair: Tom Morris

Volunteer Service Chair: John Marshall

Advanced Training Chair: Roy Morgan

Chapter Host: Jerry Krampota

Webmaster: Neal McLain

Newsletter: Mary Helen Israel

And Sponsors: Connie Stolte and Rich Tillman

I would like to thank everyone that expressed interest in taking a leadership role for the upcoming year. We are all looking forward to another year servicing the needs of this great organization. As usual, if you have any input be sure and let one of the leadership team know.

Next, the latest membership report from Tom Morris has just over 13,000 hours of volunteer service for 2006!! This is tremendous and 1,000 hours over what we thought

was going to be submitted. There are about 100 members that submit hours, so that is 130 hours per member on average or over 21 volunteer days per year per member (assuming a 6 hour day). However, there are still many people that have not turned in hours for last year and the deadline for the state report is in a few days. We will be providing more details on this in the next few weeks.

Finally, please be planning your chili entry in the first chili cook off against the Master Gardner's organization. It appears we may have to move the date back from February 15 but the event is still on.

Thanks and looking forward to another year of rewarding volunteer activities.

January Meeting, COT TMN Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Social at 8:30 and meeting will begin at 9:00. Speaker is David Abrego of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department who will speak to us about Redfish and New Programs for 2007 that will be occurring at Sea Center Texas.

Outgoing Treasurer's Report, Jan Kater

The TMN COT program for 2006 has been carried out on a sound fiscal basis, and given us valuable insight into how to budget and meet our financial obligations as we fund our educational activities.

At the end of 2005, our bank statement balance showed we had \$2834.86 on hand to pay off our remaining bills and fund our training program for an anticipated 25 trainees. By January 5 the bills were paid and we had \$2380.13 on hand. We ultimately had 17 trainees, but were able to prepare for the September class with a full program of talented speakers and dedicated member-mentors with no feeling of a financial crunch. Our goal was to end the year with a bank balance as close as possible to the \$2380.13 we had on January 5, 2006. In fact, we had an ending bank balance on December 31, 2006 of \$2723.36, with no unpaid bills on hand.

Two sources of funds helped make this possible. The first was a \$200.00 gift from an anonymous source, given to one of our members to help defray the expenses of the class training materials. The second source was the initiation of a dues program that has already raised \$450 from 19 members. A minimum amount of \$10 per year has been set for individual members, \$15 per year for couples, and \$225 for a lifetime payment. One member has chosen the \$225 lifetime payment, and several have given at the \$25 level. The dues are payable on January 1 of each year, with payment encouraged by the end of March. The 2006 treasurer's records will be audited soon and the budgeting process begun by our new Treasurer and committee chair persons for 2007.

It's been a pleasure to serve the membership as your Treasurer, and I look forward to continue working with you on the educational programs that are the lifeblood of our mission. My heartfelt thanks for your good work!

COT Texas Master Naturalist Awards
Presented December, 2006

Re-Certification – 8 hrs AT and 40 hrs VT

Sandy Jespersen

Bronze Award – 250 hrs

Kermit Schlameus

Silver Award – 500 hrs

Roy Morgan

Lynne Ray

Platinum Award – 2500 hrs

Justina Dent

Chili Cook-Off, Thursday, February 15th, 2007

Master Gardener's Greenhouse, Angleton

This event is a challenge between the COT Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist and the Brazoria County Master Gardener's Association. For members who belong to both organizations, there will be a "tweeny" category. Rich has asked Sonny Arnold (Associate Director, TMN) and Doug Welch (Director, TMGA) to be judges at the event. Members of the Brazoria County Commissioners Court have also been asked to participate. Everyone get out your recipes and start practicing your chili cooking skill. It was proposed that the first prize be a picture of Rich Tillman in a speedo.

Request from Chapter Host, Jerry Krampota

January is the time to start scheduling the refreshments for the upcoming monthly meetings. I would like to thank those who generously brought refreshments last year and ask those who may not have brought refreshments recently to sign up for the 2007 meetings. I would like those volunteers to contact me at 281-585-3249 or jkrampota@hotmail.com.

New Timesheet Forms For 2007 by Neal McLain

Starting in January 2007, we'll be using a new timesheet form. This form is used to submit Advanced Training and Volunteer Time electronically. You can download a copy of the new form from the chapter website FORMS page: <http://tinyurl.com/y5w3ed>

This new form consists of four pages, with instructions. If you use up all four pages, simply download another copy of the form and continue.

Before using the new timesheet, please read the information on the Start Page, the Detail Instructions Page, and the Guidelines page. And don't forget to enter your name in the green box on the Start Page.

Please copy the end-of-year "cumulative totals" from your *previous* timesheet and enter these totals into your *new* timesheet. Enter the following totals in the green cells at the bottom of Page 1, line 47:

- Advanced Training
- Travel Hours
- Volunteer Hours
- End Users Served

Note that you won't be able to enter anything in Cell G47 (orange); the timesheet will insert this information automatically.

If you are unable to enter the totals from your previous timesheet, please leave Line 47 blank. The membership chair will enter the information for you when your submit it.

Of course, members who wish to submit their timesheets on paper, rather than electronically, may do so. You can download paper forms from the website FORMS page in either WORD or PDF formats.

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

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