

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year! Wow, we are off to a really fast-paced start this year. Here it is the first week of January, and we already have a board meeting under our belts. We have a great team this year and I'm looking forward to working with them and all of you. Our purpose is really to enable you in your volunteer efforts, so I want to remind you that our board meetings are always open to you. When you have something to say, we want to listen.

Speaking of the board and communication, we have something new this year. Last year the board added two new advisory positions to be filled by members of the graduating intern class. Our hope is that this will enhance communications and keep fresh ideas coming. Sandy Henderson and Carolyn Schlein were elected by their class to fill these positions. Welcome Sandy and Carolyn!

We have three very large education efforts ongoing with DEEP, INEOS and ConocoPhillips. These allow us to excite and mentor literally thousands of school children in our area. We can't do this without your dedication and help, so, everyone, please consider helping again this year. If you have not helped with these before, come out and see what they are all about. It's a couple of hours of AT just to experience it. Please call Bryan Adams, Carl Dodson or Carolyn May-Monie now and say "What can I do to help these kids?".

On an administrative note, we are continuing to tweak the time reporting system. Some of the manual work is being eliminated by our Membership Chair, John Marshall, to allow him time to volunteer and to give us a better handle on where all of our efforts are going. You'll hear more about this at our January meeting.

Speaking of our January meeting, this is almost a must-attend. David Heinecke will talk with us about mammals in our area. We've been looking forward to this for some time now.

So, the 2008 train is leaving the station. Climb aboard!

January Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Social time
- 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Advanced Training – Mammals, presented by David Heinecke, Brazos Bend State Park

Reminder from Chapter Host, Jerry Krampota

At the general meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, a sign-up sheet for refreshments for 2008 general meetings will be circulated. Check your calendars ahead of time so that you'll know your schedule and be prepared. If you have any questions, please contact me at 281-585-3249 or jkrampota@hotmail.com.

**COT Texas Master Naturalist Awards to be presented
January 2008**

**Re-Certification – 8hrs AT and 40 hrs VT
2007**

Jan Kater

Silver Award – 500 hrs

Jan Kater

Gold Award – 1000 hrs

Ellis Burkhardt

COT Treasurer's Report, Jerry Eppner

The COT chapter finished the year with a checking balance of \$5317.95, including an outstanding check of \$748. If we take into account the approximate \$600 in potential refunds during 2008 due to 2007 interns that certify within twelve months of graduation, then our cash balance increased roughly \$2000 during the year. This was possible by being able to recruit enough new interns for the fall class to manage a small excess of revenue over expenses. Also, we have had a larger number of members pay their 2008 dues in 2007 than for the comparable situation in 2006. Finally, two members paid for lifetime dues (\$450) which will not be a recurring source of income. So, while the increase in cash balance looks good (and it is), it would not have been possible without the implementation of a chapter membership dues structure two years ago.

If you have not paid your 2008 dues yet, you will have an opportunity to do so at the next general meeting on Wednesday, January 9.

Message from Training Coordinator, Laura Brandes

Since we have no one who has volunteered to be Outreach Coordinator, I have agreed to place articles and/or pictures of TMN-COT activities into the major newspapers serving Brazoria County. Therefore, I am asking all Project/Activity Leaders to supply interesting and informative facts about your various activities. If it is a picture, please identify those shown from Left to Right, 1st Row to Last Row. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 Extension Service)