

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – January 2009 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Greetings! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Well, I'm still here, so it seems you wanted me to do this one more time. We have another year under our belt and are into another new and exciting one. Last year we contributed over 11,000 hours to our communities. To put this in perspective, this represents about \$200,000 in in-kind contribution (\$1,260,000 since our inception). This is something we should all be proud of, especially because so much of this is educating the next generation that will lead us forward, plugging them into nature and its resources.

Another real highlight of last year was TMN awarding Phil Huxford his 5000 hour pin. Congratulations again, Phil! And who can forget the floating class room boat trip with Rich Tillman preparing that great lunch!

Our new intern class pilot has begun with three new interns. This class may grow to six. If we can make this work, we'll be able to bring in new members year-round.

If you will remember, INEOS cancelled their Fall classes because of Hurricane IKE damage and the demands this placed on their resources and people. This is now about to change. There is so much support for this environmental education curriculum and venue by the plant folks that it's back by popular demand. INEOS environmental education will begin again Friday, February 6th with sessions on Birding, Owl Pellets, Saltwater (Estuary), and Wildlife Rehabilitation. Please join us. If you have not done this before and would like to learn about it, please contact Carl Dodson.

One thing has changed at INEOS. Our lunches were provided by their overtime meal program. At the moment, with the market conditions and the damage they have sustained, no overtime is being allowed. This means they cannot provide lunches for the instructors until overtime begins again. So, please remember to bring a lunch when you come. I'll be there, and I hope to see many of you too.

Other programs are restarting as well. After the holiday break, DEEP is running again. We are expecting 106 4th graders Tuesday, January 13 and more again Thursday, January 15. If you have not participated before, come on out and see what we do.

Our Matagorda Island Adventure is still on track (see following details for this trip). If you are a COT member, it's not too late to sign up for the drawing. We'll have drawing tickets at the general meeting Wednesday. At the end of the business portion of the meeting, we draw all of the names, with the first 20 attending the Spring trip, the next 20 the Fall trip, etc. until all names are drawn. Then the horse trading can begin. For more information on the trip, please contact Steve and Clyde Zilliox.

Coming up real soon is the Whooping Crane tour January 21 that Tom Morris put together for us. This is the one to go on for the Whoopers. We have the whole boat! I don't know if Tom still has room, but if you're interested, give him a call.

Finally, but far from least, our Wednesday meeting features Bryan Adams with a program on the impact of Hurricane Ike. Expect this to be interactive.

See you at the general meeting.

Dave

Cradle of Texas Chapter Field Trip to Matagorda Island

► **May 16-17, 2009 – Limited To 20 People** ◀

Saturday/Sunday, May 16-17, 2009 **Matagorda Island Field Trip** with biologist, guide and instructor ***Dr. Wayne McAlister*** and wife ***Martha***. The registration fee of ***\$95.00 per person*** includes overnight accommodations at the **Laguna Reef Hotel** (double occupancy) in **Rockport**; a Saturday, May 16 evening group cookout/pool party and **AT Workshop with Guest Speaker Andy Sansom**, AND Sunday, May 17, 2009 transportation to/from Matagorda Island aboard "***The Skimmer***" w/***Capt. Tommy Moore***, AND guided wagon & hiking Naturalist Tour/Field Trip of the 6 eco-communities (time dependent) of Matagorda Island including materials & equipment. **Field Trip Leaders: Doc & Martha McAlister**. ***If weather or other factors require the trip to be canceled, refunds will be given, minus any unrecoverable expenses incurred.***

Ten (10) hours of TMN Advanced Training will be awarded to all attendees.

More details will be available at the January COT meeting. Due to the limited number of spaces available (20), the COT-BOD has determined that a drawing will be held at the January meeting (Jan 14th) to determine attendees. Trip organizers, Clyde & Steve Zilliox will accept registrations following the drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde & Steve Zilliox

January Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. Social time
- 9:00 a.m. General meeting
- 9:45 a.m. Impacts of Hurricane Ike on the Local Wildlife Habitats - Bryan Adams

Refreshments will be provided by Jerry Krampota, Justina Dent and Mary Helen Israel.

Make a Resolution to Keep the New Year on the Right Track For Wildlife and the Environment

Some simple things you can do to start this resolution on track:

- Reuse shopping bags, or get a durable bag to carry with you on all your shopping trips.
- Find a carpool partner to share commutes.
- Plant some trees. Do it in your back yard or in your community.
- Buy fewer disposable items.
- Take a time out and enjoy nature with a green hour every day.

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

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