

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

THE PREZ S&Z:

The weather is getting really hot, the AC went on the blink at the Sea Center and I had to have some teeth pulled. Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse – sure enough it didn't! A real gem showed up in an e-mail from Tom Morris.

If you remember back to the first of the year I asked you to shoot for ten hours of volunteer hours for each hour of advanced training you received. I didn't know if this was a reasonable goal or not but it seemed achievable to me. I have had some concerns about doing this for the past six months until I received the e-mail from Tom stating we have totaled 397 Advanced Training hours and 4,145 Volunteer Hours to date. I don't know if this is up or down from previous years and I don't know how you may look at these numbers but I can tell you how I see them. For every hour we have received in training we have returned it to the community, in one form or another, ten fold. I don't know where we will go from here or how the numbers will fall at the end of the year but right now the Cradle of Texas Master Naturalist is doing a good job and accomplishing the mission set forth by the Master Naturalist Organization.

So grab some bottles of water, sunscreen and a good hat and keep on doing what you have been doing so well.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST – CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>

Board of Directors Meeting June 8, 2005 Minutes

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 8:58 a.m. Six of the eight voting Board members, eight committee chairmen, the assistant to the secretary, and four interested chapter members were present. The attendance record is on file.

President's Report:

- **“Hold Harmless” Form**

Original signed forms are on file with the Cooperative-Extension office, and a copy of each is in the Chapter file on the second floor of the TCEO. A list of those whose signed forms are in the Chapter file was circulated, and blank forms were available for those not on the list. The President said we would try to catch others who do not have signed forms on file at future meetings, and mail forms to the

remainder well before the September 30 deadline.

- **Background Check Process**

This project is still on hold until definitive instructions are received. All we know is that September 1 is the due date for completed background checks.

- **Resource Library**

Jim Renfro was commended for his good work on the list of resources made available to all members via the website. Terry Woodward and John Thayer were also recognized as important contributors to the resources list research. Since it will always be a work in progress, members are encouraged to let Webmaster Neal McLain know of recommended additions.

- **State TMN Annual Meeting Project**

The COT Chapter is committed to presenting one of our projects on a storyboard for the October State TMN annual meeting. Carolyn May-Monie will chair the project with the assistance of Sandra Clarke, Neal McLain, Candace Novak, Ed Barrios, and Marty Cornell.

- The President led a spirited discussion, during which all of our projects for the year were reviewed. Various criteria were identified: number of people reached, number of COT members involved, number of sessions offered, whether TMNs outside the COT Chapter were significantly involved, whether a partnering or sponsoring organization was the site, whether the project could have been completed without COT Chapter involvement, the scope of the project, the availability of photos and other display materials to make an interesting presentation, and whether the project fulfilled the purpose of the

organization as defined in the By-Laws.

- A straw vote was taken and two projects received the most votes, eight each: Innovene (BP-AMOCO) and the BNWR. There was a consensus that without the COT members the Innovene project would not have been successful, but that BNWR volunteers serve a far greater number of children. Carolyn's committee will make a recommendation after researching the above criteria.

- **Regional Master Naturalist Fair**

Phil Huxford reviewed the details: The fair will be July 24, beginning at the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences. The COT Chapter will furnish breakfast items and lunch catered by Mendozas – all included in the event fee. Staff members to host the tours and meals are needed for all of the sites on the program. Contact bburkhardt@sbcglobal.net to sign up as a staff member. Click on July 24 on the website calendar to download the schedule, registration forms, early signup discount date, and descriptions of all events. **Website:**

<http://grovesite.com/tamu/TMN>

Vice-President's Report - Programs and Fall Training:

Vice-President John Boettiger reviewed the programs for the remainder of the year and principal fall training sessions. He announced that the new statewide curriculum notebooks are here and ready for the training classes in September. These training classes will be announced in the Facts newspaper in late July. Special posters have been prepared and will be posted in the places we have volunteers and in the 12 county libraries. See the COT July Newsletter and the chapter website for

more details and recent updates on programs and fall training classes.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Al Brushwood reported that the balance in the COT checking account is \$1270.00.

Membership Awards: These were announced and awarded at the opening of the membership program. A list follows as an attachment to these minutes.

Projects: Sandra Clarke and Phil Huxford reported on the Conoco/Phillips – Sweeny ISD property project. Surveys will be continuing this summer and volunteers are needed. Please call Phil at 979-798-0725.

Whatever:

- Durwood and Becky McKinney need volunteers to provide meeting refreshments. See them to sign up for future meetings.
- Phil Huxford announced that he found a new website, www.natureviewing.com, of special interest to Master Naturalists. Among other things, it offers free access to Bird Viewing Videos. They also sell videos, books, etc., and match gifts to GCBO.
- John Thayer announced that the Houston Audubon Society is purchasing a new piece of property and welcomes your support.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan L. Kater

Jan L. Kater, Secretary
Texas Master Naturalist

Cradle of Texas Chapter

**Membership Awards Earned
Recognized at June 8, 2005 AT
Meeting:**

Certification

Marty Cornell (2004)
Alice Sieling*
Re-Certification for 2005
Al Brushwood
Ellis Burkhardt
Gardner Campbell
Sandra Clarke (2004)
Carl Dodson
Rich Jespersen*
Neal McLain
Kirby Rapstein*

Bronze Award - 250 hrs

Tom Morris*

Silver Award - 500 hrs

Gardner Campbell

John Thayer

Platinum Award - 2500 hrs

Phil Huxford

Jim Renfro

*(not at meeting)

**Next Meeting, July 13, 2005
General Meeting - 9:00 a.m.**

**8:30 am - Social hour and
snacks.**

**9:00 am - General Membership
Meeting**

**10:00 am - Monthly Advanced
Training Program:**

**"Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle
Recovery Project" by Mike
Ray, Deputy Director, Coastal
Fisheries, TPWD**

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

Wed - JUL 13, 2005 10 am Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Project, Mike Ray, Deputy Director Coastal Fisheries, TPWD

Wed - AUG 10, 2005 10 am 12-Steps to Improve Your Wildlife Photography, by Kathy Adams Clark

Wed - SEP 14, 2005 9 am Earth Sciences, by Wayne McAllister

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	Tom Morris
Outreach	Jerry Eppner
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)