

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Ed Barrios

Hello fellow Naturalists!!

Well today (Friday, July 6) was a fun day at "Fishin' Fiesta". Not too many visitors (it's a work day for most folks) but we manned our TMN-COT booth and the Friends of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuges booth and the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue booth. The Texas Park and Wildlife Coastal Expo was short of volunteers and our TMN-COT members stepped up and we did lots of work for them. Their programs are not as detailed as we do for schools but they are good for the young kids. We had about a dozen TMN-COT members helping out today. We're hoping for much larger crowds on Saturday and Sunday, especially with only a 30% chance of rain.

While the school Environmental Education programs are shut down for the summer, Sea Center is having a banner year with lots of visitors. If you are missing doing volunteer work, contact Sea Center. I also understand that the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue organization is short of volunteers. Go to our website to get contact information for both of these organizations.

Enjoy the summer; it is hot and humid but for a lot of us, it's the way we like it. When I go to dry climates, I age so much. When I get back to Brazoria county I look youthful again, hehehe.

July Meeting, COT TMN Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Social time at 8:30 and a brief general meeting will begin at 9:00. Following this, at 9:30, James Smith will present a program on Butterflies. Also to be discussed will be butterfly counts which are coming up in September.

Reminder from Chapter Host, Jerry Krampota

The following members signed up to bring refreshments to the July meeting: Roy Morgan, John and Rosalee Marshall, and Gardner Campbell. If for some reason you are unable to provide refreshments this month; please contact me at 281-585-3249 or jkrampota@hotmail.com.

COT Texas Master Naturalist Awards
June 2007

Re-Certification – 8hrs AT and 40 hrs VT

2006

Barbara Bruyere*

Paula Jacobs*

2007

Jerry Eppner

Roy Morgan

Phil Huxford

Tom Morris

Denis James

Dianne Richmond

Bronze Award – 250 hrs

Jane Eppner

*Absent previously

June 2007 YTD

Certifications	1
Re-Certifications	27
No. of Members Reporting hrs	40
No. of Volunteer Hrs	4,247
No. of Advance Training Hrs	404
Active Members	77

Since Inception:

Members Trained	118
Members Certified	95
No. of VT Hrs	50,574!!!
No. of AT Hrs	5,848

COT Treasurer's Report

The chapter closed out the month with \$3708.81 in our checking account, with no outstanding checks. During June, we received two more 2007 dues payments and one 2008 dues payment. As the peak spending time for the intern training nears, we are in a good position cash wise.

Miscellaneous Information

Attached to the newsletter is a Sea Turtle story written by a former resident of Lake Jackson who now lives in Rockport. We had sister projects to the one he references in his story. It is an interesting and sometimes amusing read.

Permission to "publish" it was given by John Marshall by the author. John understands a similar story has appeared in the newsletter of the Mid-Coast Chapter.

The following is a portion of a news release from the Friends of the River which Neal McLain thought would be of interest to the membership. The F.O.R. is a very active local group which we have all read about in the local papers. The adoption process involves a commitment to clean up their selected area at least four times a year, following the rules of TxDOT's highway adoption program. This is a serious commitment and we should all applaud the F.O.R. for their efforts.

"A Sign of the Times"

Friends Of the River (F.O.R.) San Bernard takes pride in their river community by cleaning up every chance they get! When you turn left off of F.M. 2611 onto F.M. 2918, it won't take long to see the "Sign of the Times". It announces that Friends Of the River San Bernard has adopted the 2 miles of F.M. 2918 from F.M. 2611 to just above C.R. 868 for litter control.

For a minimum of the next 2 years (the term of the contract with Texas Dept. of Transportation), members of F.O.R. will have the opportunity to serve their river community and help make it a better place to live, work and play. How does this help the river? Well, if trash does not find its way into the river, F.O.R. won't need to clean it out OF the river next spring.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES June – July 2007

Ornithology

Dennis Jones (who is the Assistant Director at Brazos Bend State Park) has offered to give a series of talks to Master Naturalists and anyone else who might be interested in birds - he has emphasized that it is not a bird i.d. class, but more in-depth and aimed at giving the learner a good basic knowledge of bird anatomy, flight, migration, breeding, nesting, feeding, etc. He has offered this to the public at the park with little interest, but it would be really great for us if we could generate some interest in this. These classes would be done at Brazos Bend State Park. Initially these classes were proposed as 15 separate one hour classes; however he can reduce the number of classes by combining them into 2-3 hours sessions spread over a number of days to be determined. Potential AT training of 15 hours. We will discuss this at the July monthly meeting.

Wetland Plant ID

Wetland plant ID training classes are being organized/planned by Chariss York (TAMU Edu). The classes are scheduled on 4 consecutive Wednesdays in August, and count as advanced training hours. The first class will be a field trip to one of their restoration sites at Sheldon Lake State Park. The remaining three classes will be focused on wetland plant identification (specifically the plants we use for restorations) and held at the Extension Office in Dickinson. See the list below for complete details.

2007 Wetland Team Classes

August 1 – Wetland Team Training Day 1: “Wetlands 102” and field trip to Sheldon Lake State Park, 8:30AM-1:00PM, meet at the Texas Coastal Watershed Program Office (17000 El Camino Real, Ste 301, Houston, TX 77058) to carpool to Sheldon

August 8 – Wetland Team Training Day 2: Plant Identification, 9:00AM-Noon at the Galveston County Extension Office on Highway 3 in Dickinson

August 15 – Wetland Team Training Day 3: Plant Identification, 9:00AM-Noon at the Galveston County Extension Office on Highway 3 in Dickinson

August 22 – Wetland Team Training Day 4: Plant Identification, 9:00AM-Noon at the Galveston County Extension Office on Highway 3 in Dickinson

Carl Dodson, Lynne Ray and John Thayer took these classes last year, so you might ask them about their experiences. You can also e-mail Charriss at cyork@tamu.edu with any questions that you might have.

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

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