

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

### **The President Said:**

We had our first Board of Directors meeting. The minutes of the meeting appear elsewhere in the newsletter. Every committee is off the floor and working and the results are showing. The upcoming programs are varied and travel into different areas of interest.

The training committee has taken the best classes and added or modified some areas to better represent our environment.

The budget proposals were well presented and demonstrated the different direction we might take to fund our chapter. Four new projects were approved and others discussed. We are well on our way to a new chapter website that is going to be accessible and go a lot farther to serve our needs than anything available before.

These and several other areas of discussion were done in one and one half-hours. No telling how much we can do in two hours. We even had time for 'whatever' and found out that the Regional TMN Fair will be held in our area on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Keep on volunteering and remember to turn in your hours.

### **March Meeting – Wednesday, March 9, 2005, 9:00 a.m.**

Connie Stolte, Sea Center Texas Visitor Center Manager and Sponsor for COT Chapter, TMN, will present "The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Marine Enhancement Program" at the March meeting. She will also give a preview of her Fall 2005 Training Class presentation "Gulf & Seashore Ecosystems".

### **Minutes of Texas Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter Board of Director Meeting February 9, 2005**

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 8:30 a.m. seven members of the Board and nine committee members were present.

#### **1. President's Report**

##### **A. Appointment of Committee**

**Chairmen:** Tommie Holt, Membership; John Thayer, Volunteer Service and Advanced Training Projects; Marty Cornell, Training; Durwood and Becky McKinney, Class and Meeting Hosts; Jerry Eppner, Outreach; Neal McLain, Historian; Jim Renfro, Resource Library; Mary Helen Israel, Editor of the Newsletter.

Moved and seconded to approve. Approval unanimous. The vice-president, John Boettiger, is automatically the Program Chair.

**B. Filing Cabinet:** The President asked for assistance in finding a four-drawer, lockable, used filing cabinet, donated or at a reasonable price.

**C. BP-AMOCO Nature Training Program:** The second phase of the training program for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Angleton will be held March 4 and 18. A detailed description of the program is in the February TMN-COT Newsletter. Those interested should contact Carl Dodson at (979) 265-7329 or e-mail [cdodson5@houston.rr.com](mailto:cdodson5@houston.rr.com)

## **2. Vice-President's Report**

**A. Programs: March** – Sea Center Texas; **April** – mushrooms; **June** – habitat, led by Barbara Burkhardt.

**B.** There is a **tentative August** plan for a program by Kathy Clark on wildlife photography, followed at a later time by a fee-supported small class for amateur photographers wanting hands-on training.

## **3. Treasurer**

The Treasurer discussed the proposed budget for FY2005 and took questions from the floor, including whether or not we will have to pay speakers (or at least pay their expenses) in the future. Rich Tillman and Jim Renfro were sure that there are ways to get funding for this from the State for state employees who

present the programs, and even for non-state employees like Dr. McAllister. The consensus was that we do not have to budget for these expenses.

The advisability of having dues as a part of our membership requirements was discussed, in order to cover expenses not associated with our annual training course. The consensus was not to take action at present, but to appoint a committee to study the pro's and con's of dues.

The treasurer presented two budget proposals, one based on a training fee of \$100.00, and the other based on a training fee of \$125.00. The extra \$25.00 was to cover most of the cost (\$30.00 each) of the state-mandated training manual for new trainees. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget based on the \$125.00 training fee. It was then amended to stipulate a training fee of \$130.00. This amended budget projects a training class P/L surplus of \$25 for fiscal year 2005, based on 25 trainees for the September 2005 class. The motion passed unanimously as amended.

## **4. Secretary**

The January membership meeting minutes were included in the February TMN COT Newsletter.

## **5. State Representative**

State Representative Barbara Burkhardt gave details on the Upper Coastal Region Texas **Master Naturalist Chapters regional meeting of boards and committee chairs**, to be held at the Harris County Cooperative Extension Office, 3033

Bear Creek Drive, in Houston on **March 5, 2005.**

Breakfast and socializing begins at 9:00 a.m. and the sessions begin at 10:00. Call Barbara at 979-297-4386 to let her know if you can come and to volunteer to help with the afternoon snacks that our chapter promised to bring. She needs to report ahead of time how many will come from our chapter, so lunch planning will be accurate. Board members and Committee Chairs are encouraged to come to this **sharing of chapter plans and challenges** – and any others who are interested are invited too! **It is an open meeting.**

### **6. Membership**

Tommie Holt, Membership chair, encouraged members to turn in their hours monthly so the chapter, region, and state totals for time spent volunteering, and getting advanced training, can be accurately reported. The TMN program needs this data to justify the support state agencies and partners give to this vitally important activity. Over 19,000 volunteer hours have been reported since the beginning of our chapter!

### **7. Projects**

Four Volunteer Project & Activity Request Forms were submitted to the Board for approval:

- Steal Away Trail – Varner Hogg State Historic Site - by Carol Jones.
- Coastal Wild Bird Trunk – GCBO - by Carol Jones
- Teaching a course on birds – Brazosport College - by Jim Renfro
- Study of Winter Bird Populations – San Bernard NWR - by Jim Renfro

All were approved unanimously.

A fifth project was introduced as being worked on for further details and future approval:

- Wetlands Restoration Team – Texas Coastal Watershed Program part of Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Sea Grant – by John Thayer.

### **8. Outreach**

Outreach Chair Jerry Eppner announced the need for volunteers to be guides for visitors to the Sea Center Texas Family Day, Saturday, February 26, 2005, and to man our TMN COT information booth. Sign up sheets were circulated. COT volunteers at our booth will have the opportunity to get new names on our mailing list, and to promote the Sept 7 thru Nov 16 2005 training class. Contact Jerry at [jeppner@houston.rr.com](mailto:jeppner@houston.rr.com) or 979-297-6320.

### **9. Training**

Training Chairman Marty Cornell presented his committee's training plan for the rest of the year, explaining in detail its various facets. You can obtain the complete text of the Training 2005 Report by e-mail attachment from Marty – [marty-carole@houston.rr.com](mailto:marty-carole@houston.rr.com) or 979-297-2235, or from Jan Kater at [jankater@principia.edu](mailto:jankater@principia.edu) or 979-299-1449.

A draft proposal was also handed out making it possible for a trainee from another chapter to make-up a maximum of 3 classes from the COT chapter training course with the permission of their home chapter. COT would not accept more than 5

guest trainees on any one day. Other chapters would be expected to offer us the same arrangements. No monetary payment would be required, but chapters might have to limit the number taken on any one day if they did not have enough space to take five visitors.

Al Brushwood moved that we approve this policy, seconded by Rich Tillman. The policy was unanimously approved.

### **10. Class and Meeting Hosts**

Durwood and Becky McKinney monitor the sign-up list for members who volunteer to bring breakfast snacks for meetings and for training classes. There are still some slots open for the rest of this year. Contact them at 979-849-2028.

### **11. Historian**

Historian Neal McLain is preparing pages for the proposed COT Chapter website. Rich Tillman indicated that server space for the website would be available at no charge from Texas A&M University. Rich and Neal have set May 1 as a deadline to have the website up and running.

### **12. Newsletter**

Mary Helen Israel, editor of the newsletter, has set a deadline of Feb 23 for information to appear in the March newsletter and March 25 to appear in the April newsletter. E-mail her at [mhisrael@computron.net](mailto:mhisrael@computron.net) or call 979-297-6968.

### **Whatever**

Phil Huxford gave some of the details of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional TMN Fair being planned for Sunday July 24, 2005.

Lake Jackson is the planning committee's preferred city. The fair is usually held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's primarily advanced training for chapter members, but the planning committee wants to make a provision for newcomers to attend also. A fee covers the lunch that is provided. More details will be announced as planning progresses.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan L. Kater*

Jan L. Kater, Secretary  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Cradle of Texas Chapter

### **New E-mail Addresses**

The following new e-mail addresses have been submitted. Please make note of these changes.

**Carl Dodson -**

[cdodson5@houston.rr.com](mailto:cdodson5@houston.rr.com)

**Durwood and Becky McKinney –**

[yhammer@cmaaccess.com](mailto:yhammer@cmaaccess.com)

**Candace Novak –**

[drnovak@swbell.net](mailto:drnovak@swbell.net)

**Dianne Richmond –**

[diannerichmond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diannerichmond@sbcglobal.net)

E-mail changes may be sent to

[jankater@principia.edu](mailto:jankater@principia.edu) tel. 979-299-1449

### **Item of Great Interest!!**

Thanks to Neal McLain, the Cradle of Texas Chapter now has a website.

Take a look:

<http://tinyurl.com/42zed>

**COT Master Naturalist Board of Directors Meeting Dates/Time**

April 13, 2004	9:00am
June 8, 2004	9:00am
August 10, 2004	9:00am
October 12, 2004	9:00am
December 7, 2004	9:00am

**Cot Master Naturalist General Membership Meeting Dates/Time**

March 9, 2004	9:00am
May 11, 2004	9:00am
July 13, 2004	9:00am

**Note that these times and dates are subject to change. General Membership meetings during training class times will be worked out and reported later.**

**Highlights of Upcoming Monthly Programs:**

**March 9** – Sea Center Texas, Connie Stolte

**April 13** – Mushrooms (tentative)

**June 8** – Brazoria County Habitat by Barbara Burkhardt. This program might include a “Show and Tell” visit to Barbara’s backyard.

**July 13** – Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Project, Mike Ray, Deputy Director, Coastal Fisheries, TPWD

**August 10** – Basic Wildlife Photography by Kathy Adams Clark. This program would be followed by a Pay for Attendance class with “hands-on” camera usage for COT members, cost to be determined.

**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	Tommie Holt
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)