

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Welcome to March! Somehow, Daylight Savings Time just doesn't feel comfortable yet. Last month and this month school programs have really ramped up. I'll see you out there (hint).

We started March on day one with an outreach event. Sea Center Texas hosted their Annual Nature Day event March 1st. We were on display, assisted (led?) by Ruby and the Reptiles. You should have seen one very young lady with a box turtle. She held and petted that turtle for over an hour. Her grandmother could not pry her away. Plus, we signed up three potential interns. The day was a great success for Sea Center as well, with around 650 visitors and half of these children. Thanks to all of our volunteers who came out and made this a success!

Speaking of Sea Center Texas, Connie Stolte is looking for some more volunteers interested in learning about Sea Center and passing this knowledge on to others, i.e. tour guides. Please contact her if you are interested. Their program sets the standard for volunteerism in Texas Parks and Wildlife.

I just received word from Sonny that he has some money to spread around in the form of \$1000 grants. If you've had a project in mind but no money to execute it, we'd like to hear about it. The Mini-Grant Exemplary Projects will be evaluated on how well they fit the following criteria:

- Useful and Practical for all chapters—something that is “doable” and sustainable in any given chapter
- Need driven—a project that addresses a pressing naturalist or natural resource need in Texas.
- Representative of what we and the Master Naturalist program are about
- Led and implemented by the chapter
- Visible—for the chapter and the program practices and principles
- A lead into a good newspaper article
- Collaborative of many chapter members' skills, interests and expertise
- Something that provides several impacts: such as a chapter recruitment tool, provides an educational tool or model for other's behavior and practices, helps people to appreciate, connect, or reconnect with nature or change their attitude and/or behavior towards natural resources through the presentation of sound natural resource information, management or practices.
- Organized—well planned and well executed.

There are many events coming in April and we need help with them. The first and largest is Migration Celebration. Volunteers are needed for the weekend of April 12. Contact Marty if you can help. Two outreach events are also scheduled. EnviroFest will be held at Brazos Mall April 19 and we will attend the Volunteer Fair at the college April 22. The latter is especially important for our intern program. The day is devoted to helping folks that have time to volunteer in our communities find a program that fits them. What better program than ours!

Don't forget the meeting Wednesday. David Abrego will join us for a presentation discussing Sea Center's flounder production program. This is a new effort for them and David will pass on what they are learning. See you there!

March Meeting Wednesday, March 12, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Social time
- 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Advanced Training – David Abrego, Facility
Director, Sea Center Texas
Progress on Southern Flounder Stock Enhancement

For the past three years, the Stock Enhancement program of Texas Parks and Wildlife's Coastal Fisheries has been working on developing techniques to spawn and rear southern flounder for the purposes of supplementing the population in coastal waters. David will provide the latest work concerning this very important marine species.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the February meeting: Joan Simonsen, Earl Roberts and Gerald Forrest . If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

Treasurer's Report February 2008, Jerry Eppner

We finished February with a checking account balance of \$5298.35 (not including a couple of outstanding checks). The chapter continues to build that financial buffer needed to allow us to weather a cash flow issue should one occur in the future. We also have an estimated \$500 in liabilities outstanding, reflecting the 2007 COT intern tuition refunds. Starting with the 2007 intern class, interns get \$45 of their \$145 tuition

refunded if they certify within 12 months of graduation. So far we have had two refunds made and one refund donated to the chapter. We STILL have a few members who have not paid their 2008 dues. It is not too late. Please try to do so in the near future. Remember Columbia Jones' startling finds in the woods. The general meeting on March 12 would be an excellent opportunity to avoid the curse of the spreadsheets, although I hear through the grapevine that some that have honorably paid their dues were not completely immune. Oh well!

COT Texas Master Naturalist Awards to be Presented March 2008

Recertifying:

Dave Brandes
 Laura Brandes
 Ellis Burkhardt
 Jim Calvert
 Denis James
 John Marshall
 Tom Morris
 Susan Severance

Milestone awards:

500 Hours

Sandy Henderson

1000 Hours

John Marshall

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 AgriLife Extension Service)