

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

### President's Message, Dave Brandes

One of our big adventures is coming up the weekend of May 16. If you are attending the Matagorda Island trip, please make a CD of your pictures. I'm particularly interested in pictures showing our members having a great time. I'll collect them and put together a slide show for one of our general meetings.

We have some outreach opportunities coming up this and next month. The new 300+ acre Dow Woods Unit of SBNWR north of Lake Jackson on Old Angleton Road is being dedicated May 16<sup>th</sup>. Several of our members will be there to give tours to those attending. This will be a great way to re-enforce our name recognition with our community leaders.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be participating in the Volunteer Fair at the Brazos Mall. The plan is to set up in the Food Court area with our display board, literature and some animals from 10:00AM-5:00PM. This is a Saturday, so we should reach many people that came specifically to learn about volunteer activities available in our area and also those that are visiting the mall to shop and eat. We are looking for volunteers to help and will be passing around a sign-up sheet at our Wednesday meeting. You can also email me if you can help us.

Since this is May, our school education programs are winding down. The last two INEOS sessions were cancelled by AISD due to flu concerns. The DEEP program completes its school year Thursday, May 7.

As these programs end for the year, we have an exciting new program being piloted in June. A team of our Master Naturalists has been working with the Brazoria County Parks Department to develop a day camp program at Camp Mohawk. Two sessions are being piloted the weeks of June 15 and 22 with about 30 children each. Each week consists of 4 days of morning sessions followed by a Saturday morning session with the parents included. The sessions are not only educational but include activities such as fishing and archery. If successful, we'll ramp up to more children next year.

In July, Rich Tillman is coordinating an educational opportunity with the Communities in Schools Program in Alvin. This is a new 4 week long daily environmental education program being offered at the Alvin Junior High School for about 80 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. If you are interested in helping, please call or email Rich. This along with the day camp program moves us further north in the county.

David Heinicke is planning a canoe/kayak trip on the San Bernard River to see what may be the largest cypress in Texas. He has opened this to Master Naturalists. The trip is planned for 10:00AM on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Bates Allen Park in Kendleton. If you have access to a canoe or kayak and would like to join David, please let him know.

Finally, I really must say a few words about our 2009 interns. Our curriculum pilot program allows them to become involved with our educational programs and activities very quickly, and they have all responded with enthusiasm. I see them everywhere. If I ask for help, there they are. These folks have invigorated our programs and lifted their quality. I offer a big thank you to them and to Laura for putting this program together.

I hope to see you all at our general meeting Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Our program is Gulf Coast Weather by Gene Hafele, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service, Houston/Galveston Office, Dickinson, TX.

### **Membership, Jerry Eppner**

Computers! Sometimes hard to live with, but we evolve to depend on them so much. I am back on-line and taking timesheets. Submission of timesheets has been a little slow this month, but I will chalk that up to my "technology malfunctions". As of this writing, four members have submitted AT and VT hours that allow them to recertify for 2009. They are John Boettiger, Ellis Burkhardt, Mickey Dufilho and Susan Severance. There is still time to get your time in to me and get your pin on Wednesday. I am sure with the completion of Migration Celebration 2009 there are a number of hours to record.

### **Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent**

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the April meeting: Steve and Clyde Zilliox and Kirby Rapstein. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at [jkrampota@hotmail.com](mailto:jkrampota@hotmail.com).

May Meeting  
Wednesday, May 13, 2009

**8:30 a.m.** - Coffee & Social Time

**9:00 a.m.** - Business Meeting

**9:30 a.m.** - Advanced Training "**Gulf Coast Weather**"

By Gene Hafele, Meteorologist in Charge,  
National Weather Service, Houston/Galveston  
Office, Dickinson, TX

**About Gene Hafele:** He has spent a total of 34 years working for the NWS.

His service includes NWS Warning and Coordination Meteorologist at the Houston/Galveston NSW, and Spaceflight Meteorology Group support team for the Space Shuttle Program. He received his meteorology degree from Texas A & M University and holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Houston at Clear Lake

## Attachments

Five attachments are included with this Newsletter:

**May09-Attach-1.pdf**

***Minutes of the TMN COT April 8, 2009 General Meeting***

Submitted by Joan Simonsen, Chapter Secretary

**May09-Attach-2.pdf**

***"The Mighty Live Oak: Witness to Texas History"***

By Neal McLain

This month's installment in Neal's "Cultural History" series describes a new exhibit now open at the Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton. Through historic photographs, modern photographs, and historic documents, this exhibit illustrates the significance of Live Oaks in Texas history, and highlights several individual trees of historic importance.

**May09-Attach-3.pdf**

***"A (Re-) Introduction to the TMN-COT Website"***

By Neal McLain

This article is intended primarily for the 2009 interns; however, it may be of interest to current members as well.

**May09-Attach-4.pdf**

***"SCT Flier about Summer Camp"***

**May09-Attach-5.pdf**

***"Wetland Plant Identification and Restoration Class"***

## CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

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