

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – October 2004 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

A Note from the Prez-----

- 1. Calling All Mentors!!!!!!** If you have not personally met the trainee(s) you have been assigned to by now, please come to the next training class. Or if the Training Committee has not informed you who you are matched up with, please call Barbara Burkhardt. Your trainee is eager to meet you and find out what great information you have to share with them.
- 2. Are You Working On a Special Project?** If anyone is currently working on a special project that has not been turned in to the board, please email the name of the project and specific details concerning it. We need this information to add to a report that is being compiled for the state **nt Guide**. Bryan Adams and I are looking for people interested in helping develop a project for the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge School Program. The project: develop a guide to some of the common refuge plants and have the kids use them on a trail walk. If you are interested in working on this, please email me at cmay@brazosport.edu. I will then set up a meeting for us with Bryan to work out the details.
- 3. 2005 Board of Directors.** Elections for the 2005 Board of Directors will take place December 8th at our last general meeting and Holiday party. The offices of president, vice president, secretary, and state representative are open for new candidates. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Kirby Rapstein. The nominating committee will review all applicants and present to the general membership a slate of candidates for the 2005 Board of Directors.

TMN COT General Membership Meeting Minutes September 1, 2004 (Ext Office) 9:00am.

I. Opening Comments (Carolyn May-Monie)

- A. Volunteers are needed for the following:
 1. BNWR Field Investigation – Handout given with the 4th and 7th graders fall schedule; contact bryanadams@fws.gov for more information.
 2. BP Amoco School Program – September 17th one can go out to observe the program but must contact Fred Lewis in advance @ lewisfe@bp.com. If there are enough people that show an interest in helping with this program, they want to invite other schools in the future.
 3. Extreme Hummingbird Event at GCBO – Help is needed in manning the

- display board & pre-event maintenance on Thursday and Friday.
4. Adopt A Beach cleanup on September 18th – see Rich Tillman re: Quintana
 5. Fire Ants – Counting active mounds (check front page of The Facts 9-1-04)
- B. Advocacy Guidelines from Michelle Haggerty (see handout) It discusses prohibiting using the TMN name in any political manner.
 - C. Photos for Display Board – We need new great photos by October 1st to be given to any board member to be used to revamp our display board.
 - D. December 8th General Meeting and Social – 11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will be our 2004 wrap-up X-Mas party and election of new officers meeting.

II. Meetings/Field Trips (Denis James)

9-16 thru 9-19-04 Hummingbird etc. training in Rockport (\$25)

10-28-04 Grasses with Flo Hannah – meet @ St. Mary's in West Columbia for lecture then we will go to Nash Prairie.

11-13-04 Family Day @ NWR

11-17-04 Meet the new graduates at the last class @ the extension office.

12-4-04 Sparrows @ GCBO

III. Pins/Record Sheet (Tommie Holt)

- Since the Fall of 2001, the TMNCOT chapter has accumulated 15,170 Vol. hours and 2,298 AT hours which is equivalent to 436.69 40-hour workweeks or 8.39 years of work! (2004=3900 Vol. & 316.5 AT) Please send in your logs monthly. Tommie requests that you turn in your hours 1 week before the November meeting or you may not get re-certified this year.
- Re-Certifications were awarded to: Barbara Burkhardt, Tommie Holt, Rich Jespersen, Sandy Jespersen, Rainbo Johnson, Ramah O'Gorman, & Ray Pruitt
- A Gold Pin (1000 hrs) was awarded to Tracie Teague.

IV. State Annual Meeting (Tracie Teague) 10-22 through 10-24 @ Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas.

- Contact Tracie if you are planning to attend and also if you wish to volunteer to help there.
- She also is requesting any and all help possible for the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue organization.
- Tracie was happy to announce that because of Rainbo Johnson's husband, Jerry, she was put in contact with the right people at Conoco Phillips and GCWR was given a donation of \$5,500.00!

V. Fall Training Class (Barbara Burkhardt)

- Jim Renfro and Sandra Smith were presented with tokens of appreciation for all of their hard work.
- The class of 2004 will have 26 students plus 1 on the waiting list.

- A sign-up sheet for the mentoring program was passed around. Assignments will be given at the 2nd class.
- The Board will supply sandwiches, chips & dips for the 25 students + 16 TMN. Becky & Durwood McKinney are the hosts in charge.
- There is a need for extra help at some of the field trips.
- Training Class Guest Policy – e-mail Barbara if you want to attend a certain class so extra chairs can be set up in advance and enough food etc. will be planned for. Please be sure to wear your nametags.
- Please e-mail your comments to the author of the article in The Facts. It was great!

VI. Other Items – Today’s meeting counts as 1 Vol hour + 1 AT hour

VII. Advanced Training – Oysters (Rich Tillman); a great talk enjoyed by all!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rainbo Johnson, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report from Al Brushwood.

Shown below is the Treasurer's report for year to date activities through Sept. 30.

Beginning Bank Balance	\$1,908.84
Interest Income	8.57
Student Fees	2,600.00
Cash Available	\$4,517.41
Expenditures:	
Scrapbook	108.04
Training Supplies/Expenses	624.98
Display Board	395.00
All Other Expenditures	103.77
Total Expenses	\$1,231.79
Bank Balance 30 Sept.	<u>\$3,285.62</u>

October Field Trip

On Thursday, October 28 we will have our field trip on Grasses presented by Flo Hannah. The meeting will start at 9:00 and will be at St. Mary’s church in West Columbia. Directions to the church follow: Coming from Angleton take 35 into town, make a left turn at the corner of Broad Street (the W.C. Historical Museum is on the corner), go one block and turn right, St. Mary’s is the stone church on your right. Coming from Brazoria take 36 to West Columbia, take a right at 35 (the Chinese

Mexican restaurant is on the corner), follow 35 (turning at BucEes), go one block turning right on 16 Street, St. Mary's is at the next corner. The church is located on 16th and Clay. Phone: 345-3456

Reminder About Advanced Training and Volunteer Hours

Please, folks, turn in your hours. Our chapter report has to be turned in to state the first of the year. We're looking kind of sad now, because our membership is really falling down on reporting all those many, many hours we devote to volunteer activities. Please get your hours turned in to Tommie Holt.

Many thanks to those who have already submitted their hours.

New Training Class

Barbara Burkhardt, Training Chairman, reports that the 2004 TMN training class got started with a bang! The class started out with 27 members, but one has had to drop out, so we still have a full class. Five classes have been completed and everything is going well. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of this class.

Chapter Scrapbook News and Deadlines from Rita Pruitt

The member's Scrapbook of the Cradle of Texas Chapter is "under construction" to be ready for display at the TMN State Meeting October 22.

Your items to contribute: photos of birds, plants, TMN doing volunteer work, newspaper clippings, home butterfly garden or animal sanctuary photo, etc. Please identify people, birds, and plants in photos and give approximate date of photo or event. Please Note: Photos, etc. will not be returned.

First deadline: Oct. 8 for Oct. 22 state meeting.

Second deadline: Nov. 10 for Nov. 17 Graduation meeting.

Mail items to Rita Pruitt
2122 Avenue I
PO Box 151
Danbury, TX 77534
979-922-1395

BOOK REVIEW - Tom Collins

EDIBLE AND USEFUL PLANTS OF TEXAS AND THE SOUTHWEST; Delena Tull;
2nd Ed 2003; UT Press - 518pp

This is the final series of last year's Christmas books given to me by my family. Edible and Useful Plants of Texas and the Southwest is a very interesting and informative book for anyone wanting to study our plants from a different angle. I now know a lot more about some of the plants around my yard and area. Edible, bitter, toxic and even lethal - they are all there right in my back yard. I knew that the bark of the Black Willow contained salicylic acid, the same compound that aspirin is derived from. I didn't know I could eat the fruit of the Turk's Cap or Sabal Palm or make jelly from them - I just tried eating some of my Turk's Cap fruits and they taste somewhat like watermelon with a big seed pod and I'm still here. Or that the flower and leaves of the Goldenrod can be used to make tea. In fact, after the Boston Tea Party, the colonists used Goldenrod in place of the British tea, coining the name "Liberty Tea". Okay, enough trivia.

The book pretty well covers almost any flora families you would want to know about - Edible, usefulness, toxicity, and recipes are all included in the first section, followed by Teas and Spices, then Edible and Poisonous Berries and Fruits. An important chapter covers Poisonous and Harmful Plants where Michael Ellis (MD Anderson Poison Center expert) is quoted many times. The final part of the book covers Colorful Dyes with Texas Plants, Fibers from Texas Plants and wraps up with a chapter on Industrial Uses from Texas Plants - Rubber, Oil, Wax and Soap.

The book includes a typical Glossary, Bibliography, and Index. A color photo section of plants is included along with pencil line drawings sprinkled throughout the text.

This was a fun and educational read. Well worth the investment and I know it will get good use by me.

Buy it at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Nature Store.

Calendar of Future Events

October 23 – Annual State MN meeting, Hunt TX

October 28 – Field Trip - Grasses by Flo Hannah

November 17 – General Meeting,

9:00 am, Texas Mushrooms, Susan Metzler

December 8 – Last general meeting for year plus Christmas Party

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

President	Carolyn May-Monie
Vice President/Programs	Denis James
Secretary	Rainbo Johnson
Treasurer	Al Brushwood
State Representative	Tracie Teague
Past President	Kirby Rapstein
Training	Barbara Burkhardt
Vol. Service Projects	John Thayer
Membership	Tommie Holt
Outreach	Paula Jacobs
Class Host	Justina Dent
Historian	Rita Pruitt
Resource Library	Jim Renfro
Newsletter	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Extension)