

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

I hope all of you made it though the hurricane in good shape. If anyone needs help, please let us know. We put work parties together all of the time for our partners. We can certainly do that for our members.

Dr. McAlister will speak at our upcoming **Wednesday** meeting. I understand he has updated his presentation. It's always interesting and gives us a better understanding of the bigger picture. I promise to have a microphone for him, and hope to see all of you there!

The board is taking a serious look at how we do our intern recruitment and training. Laura Brandes is heading a subcommittee chartered to develop a proposal for allowing interns to begin their training when they first show an interest. In other words, how do we quickly set the hook? One of the ideas is year round self-paced training in small groups with our members helping. I'm sure there will be others. Laura will want some of our subject matter experts to help with individual modules, so please consider volunteering when the time comes. We might also be able to use the DEEP, INEOS and ConocoPhillips programs for some of this training.

Ike delayed some of our educational programs. DEEP will now be starting up later this month. The INOES facility received some damage and the folks there are really busy. Our INEOS program is postponed until February.

Laura and I managed to get to Drum Bay to do some phytoplankton sampling. The sheriff let us through, since we had a NOAA sign on the dashboard. The damage is significant, to say the least. Few houses are standing straight. The highway is washed out in several places and the dunes are gone. As we drove, we never lost sight of the Gulf waters, sometimes only a few feet away. The habitat on the other side of the highway weathered the storm well, although you can't say the same for some of the residences.

See you at the meeting Wednesday.

Dave

October Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

8:30 a.m. Social time
9:00 a.m. Dr. Warren McAlister will present "Earth Sciences and the Ecological Provinces of Texas". Some topics to be covered are: *How did Brazoria County come to be?, Who were the aborigines of Brazoria County ?, The ecological regions of Texas, Biodiversity, and Urban Systems.*

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the October meeting: Carolyn Schlein, Louis Peltier, and Carole Wenny. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

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