

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

September is here, school has begun and you know what that means. Yes, our school programs are starting. INEOS begins October 9th, followed by DEEP October 13th. If you would like to help with the INEOS Friday programs, contact Carl Dodson at sirced1941@comcast.net. For the Tuesday and Thursday DEEP programs, contact Bryan Adams at bryan_adams@fws.gov. I encourage all of you to give these environmental education programs some of your time. This may be the only time some of these children are exposed to our coastal ecosystems with an opportunity to consider their place in them.

We are ordering TMN shirts again. This is an opportunity for you to get them at a reduced quantity discount. Barbara Burkhardt is heading this up and will place the order Tuesday, September 22. Enclosed in this newsletter is ordering information.

We have ordered some brochures specific to our chapter and they will arrive soon. The goal was to provide information about TMN and COT in a very readable form as well as make it easy for those interested in our mission to contact us. I'm looking forward to using these in our outreach efforts. Included with this newsletter is a modified and re-arranged version on letter size paper that does not need to be folded. Keep a copy and email it to folks you know or meet that might be interested in what we do. A very big, huge, gigantic THANK YOU to Rich Tillman for footing half the cost of this brochure from his donations kitty.

A nominating committee has been appointed to nominate candidates for our 2010 Board and Committee Chair positions. The committee is chaired by Ed Barrios, with Neal McLain, Sandy Henderson and Dave Brandes. Our President, Vice-President and Secretary will be leaving their positions because our policies and guidelines place 2 year term limits on the Executive Board. If you are interested in helping our chapter in one of these vacated positions or you know someone who is, please make the nominating committee aware.

The State Meeting is coming up at Mo Ranch again October 23rd. Registration information is on the TMN web site. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other folks committed to our mission from around the state and to sit in on some great Advanced Training. Ruby Lewis is leading the creation of our display this year. The project chosen is her summer library program. If you have any photos that you believe would enhance the display, please send them to Ruby for consideration.

As you know, our intern training, under the direction of Laura Brandes, has morphed from 12 weeks of fall classes to a more self-directed year-round program. To make some of the sessions even more available to interns and to our members, Rich Tillman is pursuing a project with the 4-H folks to videotape some of our training.

Finally, the Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza has begun at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Even if you have not volunteered to help Saturdays in September, come on out and enjoy the fun. Check out the web site at <http://www.gcbo.org/showhtml.aspx?html=XHXPressRelease3.htm>

Membership, Jerry Eppner

Through August, Chapter members have turned in a total of 4762 hrs in 2009. Since the chapter started, members have volunteered 74,451 hours of time. Time submissions are pretty slow, but I know we have done a lot – Camp Mohawk, Brazoria County Library program. If you need help submitting your hours, just find a helpful board member and ask. For September, I would like to recognize the following milestones: 2009 Recertification – Mary Helen Israel and Carl Dodson. 1000 hours volunteer time – Rainbo Johnson. Congratulations to all.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the September meeting: Louis Peltier, Carolyn Schlein 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.

September Meeting Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Intern Training, and Advanced Training

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Texas Agrilife Extension Office, Angleton

Speaker: Diana Foss, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Presentation: "Bats, their lifestyles and ecological needs, and the 'fear' factor."

AT Credit hours:

- Interns: 2.00 hours
- Current members: To be announced at the meeting

September Field Trip

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2009, 6:30 PM

Location: Waugh Drive Bidge over Buffalo Bayou, between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive, Houston. See "Further Information" below for map.

Speaker: Diana Foss will continue sharing her knowledge on this particular bat colony.

Event: Waugh Drive Bat Colony. Every evening at dusk, up to 250 thousand Mexican Free-tail bats emerge at dusk from the Waugh Street Bridge crevices. The bridge serves as a natural habitat for the bats. Visitors peer down at the bats emerging from the bridge.

Picnic: Cradle of Texas Chapter members are invited to share picnic supper. Please bring your own food and a dessert to share. Soda and water will be provided. Also you may wish to bring:

- Something to sit on.
- Binoculars
- Camera
- Mosquito spray

Reservations: If you plan to attend, please notify Laura Brandes at 979-265-3813 or ljb823@comcast.net so that there are sufficient cold drinks on hand.

Further information:

- *Map* (Mapquest)

<http://tinyurl.com/Bat-Bridge>

- *Waugh Bat Monitor* (including information about parking) by Odie Asscherick, Texas Master Naturalist, Galveston Bay Area Chapter

<http://community-2.webtv.net/masternaturalist/THEWAUGHBATMONITOR/>

- *Mexican Free-tailed Bats* (Wikipedia)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_Free-tailed_Bat

- *Holy bats, Batman!* by Michelle Ponto, KHOU.com

http://www.beloblog.com/KHOU_newgirl/2008/10/holy-bats-batman.html

Training Chair, Laura Brandes

INTERNS: Check your "2009-2010 Training Schedule"...NOW!!! Events are starting in September and will crescendo through October and most of November. You will have some "quiet time" until January's General Meeting and we will be off again.

Remember, 1) You are responsible for scheduling your Class and Field hours; and 2) You are responsible for recording your hours on the Timesheets. If you are having a problem, please contact the Training Director for assistance.

We have seven Interns that started in January, 2009 and are still working to complete their program. There will be four new people joining us at this time with a possible four still sitting on the fence. The new people need to get their paperwork in and their tuition paid by the first class that you attend. (If you need assistance with the tuition, please inform the Training Director.)

Our first class will be "Bats" to be presented at the General Meeting on September 9th (Wednesday). The field trip to Waugh Bridge in Houston will be on September 12th (Saturday) at 6:30 p.m.

INTERN MATERIALS: The Training Director has collected and organized materials on the Intern topics to supplement your notes and the State Curriculum. They will be at the September and November meetings for you to get the publications that you do not have. (Please, only ONE to a person.)

Texas Master Naturalist Shirt Orders

Shirt orders for the COT Master Naturalist Chapter will be placed in late **September** for delivery at the **October, '09** general meeting. If you would like to order a shirt, the information is listed below. The styles are the same as 2007, with the exception of the lady's denim shirts. Because of problems with sizes and fit of the lady's shirts, **only men's sized denim** shirts will be ordered. Ladies should take this under consideration when ordering a denim shirt.

The MN logo on the woven shirts, sweat shirts, and dark green golf shirt is embroidered. The logo on the standard T-shirt is stamped. The MN logo **shows up best on darker colored** shirts because of the light colors of the logo lettering.

The prices of the shirts shown are based on an order quantity of 12 to 19. Chapter purchases will be handled by the COT Treasurer, so please make checks payable to COTMN. You may also place orders by e-mail bburkhardt@sbcglobal.net
PAYMENT IS REQUIRED WHEN THE ORDER IS PLACED. ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR INFORMATION IS READABLE.

✧ Denotes "official" dark green jersey or denim shirts

✧ JERZEES: 100% Cotton Jersey Golf Shirt –50% Cotton/50% Polyester-
Style J300 – Forest green
S to XL - \$14.00 – 2 XL to 3 XL \$16.00
Page 42 in catalog **MEN'S SIZED ONLY SO ORDER ACCORDINGLY**

✧ JERZEES – Men's Denim Shirts– Medium stonewash
Style JZ10 Men's Long Sleeve J16 Short Sleeve
S to XL \$16.00 – 2XL to 3XL \$18.00
Page 59 in catalog **MEN'S SIZED ONLY SO ORDER ACCORDINGLY**

JONATHAN COREY – Long and short sleeve fine luxury brushed twill
Multi colors to choose from.
C626-Men's Long Sleeve C628-Ladies Long Sleeve
C627-Men's Short Sleeve C629-Ladies Short Sleeve
S to XL \$28.00– 2XL to 3XL \$30.00
Page 62-63 in catalog

SIERRA PACIFIC—Long and short sleeve FeatherLite® Twill
Multi colors to choose from.
3281SP-Men's Long Sleeve 0281-Men's Short Sleeve
5283-Ladies Long Sleeve 5281 Ladies Short Sleeve
S to XL \$26.00– 2XL to 3XL \$28.00 S to XL \$24.00—2XL-3XL—\$26.00
Pages 52 and 53 in catalog.

HANES BEEFY-T with Pocket—6.1 ounce, 100% Cotton
5186-Long Sleeve 5190-Short Sleeve
Multi colors to choose from.

S to XL –\$13.00 2XL to 3XL \$15.00
Pages 88 and 89 in catalog.

NEW JERZEES Adult Crewneck Sweatshirt (50% Cotton/Polyester)
562M Multi colors to choose from.
S to XL \$14.00 – 2XL to 3XL \$16.00
Page 159 in catalog.

Geocaches, John Boettiger

Sea Center Texas now has five geocaches (three along Medical Drive, one in the Parking Lot and one in the Wetlands area). These caches were placed by John Boettiger, Vice Chairman of the Board at Sea Center Texas & VP of our Cradle of Texas chapter and his wife Nancy --- they cache as a team called Britt&Bess. In July, 2008, Britt&Bess founded the Brazoria County Geocachers Club which meets monthly at the Fuddruckers in Lake Jackson.

Worldwide there are 880,000+ active geocaches --- 5 of these caches are at Sea Center Texas where more than twenty geocaching teams recently logged these caches as they walked the Wetlands Boardwalk and went to the Visitor's Center. Geocaching is a seek-and-find game that is "played" with a GPS (Global Positioning System) device where a hidden cache is located and then "recorded" in a global data-base (GroundSpeak.com).

The GPS network, put in place by the US military became available to the Public in April, 2001. A cache is usually the size of a 35mm film canister.

Within the next few weeks our COT Chapter & the Brazoria County Geocachers will place caches in each of the Brazoria County Parks. Then, the caching team and the County Park System plan to promote (and, maybe teach) Geocaching as a way of increasing attendance at our County Parks.

Most efforts are planned for the Fall_2009 and Spring_2010. Everyone is invited to participate in this County-wide project. You do not have to be either an experienced geocacher or a long-time GPS-user to participate! According to our John Boettiger, "this is a teach and learn as we go project!"

John will have more information on our coming GPS Training Course that he discussed at our August meeting. Currently 17 COT chapter members are "signed up" for our training session that is likely be an opening segment of the County-Wide Geocaching Program discussed above.

If you have any questions, or would like to join in this cooperative effort, please call John at 979-297-5427 or email him at johnb731@comcast.net

"The Mighty Live Oak" BCHM exhibit continues through October 28

Neal McLain

The Brazoria County Historical Museum exhibit "The Mighty Live Oak: Witness to Texas History," is currently on view at the 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.

- **Orozimbo Oak**, once located on Orozimbo Plantation. Defeated Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna was held prisoner at Orozimbo Plantation after his capture at the Battle of San Jacinto.
- **Bailey's Oak**, once located in Bailey's Prairie. According to legend, Bailey's Oak guards the grave early settler James "Brit" Bailey, whose ghost appears each night in search of a jug of whiskey.
- **Masonic Oak** located in Brazoria. It is said that the first Masonic Lodge in Texas was organized by a group of settlers meeting under this tree.
- **Stephen F. Austin Death Site Oak**. Stephen F. Austin died in 1836 at the home of George B. McKinstry, a few miles north of West Columbia, then the capital of the Republic of Texas. This oak marks the location of McKinstry's home.
- **San Bernard Oak**. According to the Texas Forest Service, the San Bernard Oak is the largest Live Oak in Texas. This tree is located in the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors are welcome to view it from a viewing platform constructed through the efforts of numerous volunteers, including several members of the COT Chapter.

"The Mighty Live Oak: Witness to Texas History," will remain open to the public until the October 28, 2009. The Brazoria County Historical Museum is located 100 East Cedar Street, Angleton TX 77515



The Brazoria County Historical Museum is
located in the historic
1897 County Courthouse building.

Attachments

Attached to the newsletter are the following three attachments:

Attachment 1 - Minutes of August 2009 General Meeting
September09-Attach-1.pdf

Attachment 2 - "Cultural History - Suzzette"
September09-Attach-2.pdf

Attachment 3 - Handout Brochure
September09-Attach-3.pdf

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

President	David Brandes
Vice President/Program	John Boettiger
Secretary	Joan Simonsen
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Carolyn Schlein
Past President	Ed Barrios
Membership Chair	Jerry Eppner
Training Chair	Laura Brandes
Advisory Members, Class of 2007	Sandy Henderson & Carolyn Schlein
Volunteer Service Chair	Ed Barrios
Advanced Training Chair	John Battle
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis & Justina Dent
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)

