

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – May 2010 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

President's Message, Dave Brandes

May seems to be the month where we wind down and take a break. Migration Celebration is over; the last of the migrant birds are passing through; our outreach programs are decelerating; and the school environmental education programs are finishing with the school year.

Notice I said “seems to be”. Some activities are winding up. The summer library programs will be starting soon and our intern program will actually be accelerating. Justina and her outreach signed up eight new potential interns at our Migration Celebration Booth. Laura tells me we now have 12 interns!

Our many May activities include:

- Our General Meeting at the planetarium (\$3 discounted admission), May 12
- Camp Mohawk Family Day, May 15
- Our Matagorda Island Adventure, May 16
- The last two DEEP programs
- The last two INEOS programs
- A ConocoPhillips program
- Kick off of our Environmental Education Committee at AgriLife, May 19
- The Volunteer Fair at Brazos Mall, May 22

I'll be seeing you at many of these.

Do you know that TMN-COT has four members that have been awarded the President's Call to Service Award? This is the highest of the four volunteer service awards. Jim Renfro and Phil Huxford received their awards for service through our chapter activities. Mary Helen Israel received her award for Sea Center Texas service, and Denis Mudderman for service to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. I'm still in awe of what our members do and achieve.

I hope to see all of you and some new faces at our meeting Wednesday.

Dave

**Report from Membership Chairman,
Jerry Eppner**

As we enter into May, 23 chapter members have submitted time sheets so far this year. A total of 2733 volunteer time hours have been reported. Nice job!

Recognition at the next meeting for recertifying in 2010 will include Ellis Burkhardt, Ed Johnson, Howard Allen, Susan Severance, Jim Renfro and Joan Simonson. Recognition for reaching the 250-hr VT mark will be given to Ed Johnson. Joan Simonson will be recognized for reaching the 500-hr VT level.

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

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the April meeting: Ramah O’Gorman, Ed Barrios and Mary Holler. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

April Meeting
Wednesday, May 12, 2010
Intern Training, and Advanced Training
NOTE LOCATION: The Center for the Arts & Sciences
400 College Blvd., Clute, Texas 77531
(For map go to the web site below.)

8:30 a.m. - Coffee and Social Time
9:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
9:30 a.m. - Judi James, Brazosport Planetarium
Topic: Night Skies and Distant Galaxies

<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>

**Training Report,
Laura Brandes**

INTERN STATUS: We have eight continuing Internees and eleven new people signing up for the course. Information on the new people will be published in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, Intern Packets are going out, and State Curriculum and t-shirts being ordered.

This "round" will be a bit different. In cooperation with the Advanced Training Director, I will be approving those courses and events held outside of Brazoria County and/or are sponsored by a Non-COT Partner. The Intern can earn Class and Field hours by

learning and participating in DEEP, INEOS, Sea Center Texas and Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue. ConocoPhillips will be added if we get a bonafide program implemented. This will be done in accordance with the State and Chapter's criteria for Intern Training.

The COT needs the help of all the active members. If you are 1) willing to teach a class, 2) lead a Field experience, or 3) are involved in an on-going project (ex. Jim Renfro's archeology activity), PLEASE let me know! It is very difficult to hold a class for 2-3 Interns, and with the Interns on different tracks that makes the coordination even tougher. "Adopting" a small number of Interns to participate in bird banding, invasive species surveys, wildlife area development, etc. then the "pilot" will be easier to manage.

Some Interns have completed both training to become a TMN, PLUS earned their first Annual Certification; others have taken 12 - 15 months to complete the requirements. Literally, the "pilot" does not lend itself to many formal classes and field work. So, THINK OUT OF THE BOX!!! The TMN-COT has 100% of the Interns from January, 2009 through April, 2010 that are ALL ACTIVE AND CERTIFIED. Let's keep up this new record.

Attachments

There are two attachments included with the newsletter:

TMN COT April 14, 2010 General Meeting Minutes
May10-Attach-1.pdf

DOW WOODS REPORT
May10-Attach-2.pdf

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS	
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Secretary	Ed Johnson
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Ed Barrios
Past President	Dave Brandes
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner
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Volunteer Service Chair	Gerald Forrest
Advanced Training Chair	John Battle
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis and Justina Dent
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Newsletter Editor	Mary Helen Israel
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