

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

### President's Message, Dave Brandes

The holidays are almost upon us, which means several things for COT TMNers.

- DEEP is really busy before the school holiday break. Please consider helping Bryan with this program 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade program.
- INEOS is into session number 2 of their 3 sessions. If you haven't seen this program, let Carl Dodson know you'll be coming by for some AT. He hopes you'll like it so much you'll want to help long-term.
- Elections will be upon us next month, which means I'm really getting to be a short-timer. The positions up for election and the nominating committee recommendations are:
  - President: Carl Dodson
  - Vice President: Carolyn Schlein
  - Secretary: Ed Johnson
  - Treasurer: Sandy Henderson. *Incumbent*
  - Training Director: Laura Brandes. *Incumbent*
  - State Rep: Ed Barrios
  - Membership Director: Jerry Eppner. *Incumbent*
- Get ready for Hog Wild 2009! Our great Hog Wild tradition continues this year. Ed has graciously invited us to his home once again, and Marty is planning the menu and rounding up supplies and cooks. As usual, we will begin the December general meeting later than normal at 10:00, since the only business will be announcements and electing the new board. We'll then adjourn and meet at Ed's at the to-be-announced time. More on this later.

**IMPORTANT:** This month's meeting has been pushed back a week to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month! The date is now November 18<sup>th</sup>, *not next week*.

Our Wednesday general meeting this month (*November 18<sup>th</sup>*) is one you won't want to miss. Columnist Gary Clark will be presenting a revised program titled "Bird Intelligence". Gary will be joined by professional nature photographer Kath Adams Clark. Gary and Kathy have traditionally given our last AT program of the year, and they have always been very special. Please join us and invite your friends.

See you Wednesday everyone!

Dave, *Almost Past-President*

## **Membership, Jerry Eppner**

Many folks are getting around to turning in their hours for 2009. Thanks to all for keeping up with the paperwork. If you need help submitting your hours, just ask me or find a helpful board member and ask. Through November 1, chapter members have turned in total of 6179 hrs in 2009. Since the chapter started, members have volunteered 75,867 hours of time. For November, I would like to recognize the following milestones: 2009 Recertification – Georgia Monnerat. Congratulations to all for their hard work and commitment to our mission.

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

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the November meeting: Jane and Jerry Eppner, Neal McLain and Barbara and Ellis Burkhardt. 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).

## **November Meeting Wednesday, November 18, 2009 Intern Training, and Advanced Training**

**JUST A REMINDER...** The November meeting is the third Wednesday, November 18, due to Veterans Day falling on our regular meeting day and the AgriLife Extension office is closed.

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

9:00 a.m. -- Business Meeting

9:30 a.m. -- Advanced Training with Gary Clark and  
Kathy Adams Clark – Bird Intelligence

## **Sand Dunes Need Master Naturalists' Help**

Rich Tillman, Brazoria County AgriLife Agent

Howdy! I would like to inform everyone about an annual program we have been doing here in Brazoria County thirty-plus years; used Christmas trees are staked to the sand dune line in an effort to increase our collection of windblown sand and start the building of sand dunes.

This year's project is felt to be even more important because Hurricane Ike washed away all the sand dunes between Surfside and San Luis Pass and most of the sand dunes on the Quintana side of the jetties. Our goal this year is to collect 21,000 Christmas trees and stake them down to the beaches on January 23.

I would like to enlist at least 42 Master Naturalists and assign each of them half-mile sections of beach to guide volunteers in the art of staking trees to the beach on January 23.

I will have a sign-up list available at the November Master Naturalist meeting and also in December. If you have any section of beach that you would like to take charge of, please get in touch with me and I will do my best to see you get your piece of heaven.

We are also looking for help in collecting these Christmas trees. This will be done immediately after Christmas at lots throughout greater Houston. The trees will be brought back to Surfside and Quintana.

I hope everyone has wonderful holidays and see you when Kathy and Gary Clark are here.

—Rich

## **Training Report, Laura Brandes**

### **INTERN TRAINING:**

- November 18: Kathy and Gary Clark on birds, bird photography, et al; Advanced Training under TMN Certification
- November 20: "Amphibians and Reptiles" at the Discovery Center in BNWR; class and field hours
- November 23: "Birds" with Tom Morris et al at the Discovery Center in the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
- December 4: "Oceans and Jetties" at Sea Center Texas; class and field hours.

You MUST let Laura know the class or classes that you will be attending.

**INTERN TRAINING STATUS:** To date, we have eight Interns who remain in training and two will complete their Internship in November. The current Trainees need to complete their Internship and are following the 2009-2010 Training Schedule; however, the attempt to get a minimum of five students per class is not being attained. WHY? We need more people to enroll!!! I hope that there is a good enrollment of people in January and February BUT it is up to each and every member of the TMN-COT to achieve this objective.

At the November meeting, pick up some of the new brochures. Talk to your friends, neighbors, fellow church-goers, members of your other organizations, etc. Talk up the TMN-COT and give them a brochure. Better yet, have them fill out the last page with their information and give it to Laura as soon as possible.

This is a "pilot" training effort AND it is working...until now. We have graduated fourteen Interns to TMNs and all but one have become Certified. ALL Interns are active in working as Volunteers for their Certification at DEEP, INEOS, etc. Not bad for a program that started in January, 2009 with nothing on paper.

The Training Director is doing her part. Now, you must do yours. RECRUIT. RECRUIT. RECRUIT

**CAMP MOHAWK:** The County has given Ruby Lewis the T-shirts for our Pilot Day Camp this summer. If you were a Volunteer, please contact Ruby to get your shirt. The TMN-COT has concluded our effort with the County and will wait to hear from them no later than February 1, 2010 if they want our assistance for Summer 2010. A big "thank you" to everyone who made this such a successful pilot with very little planning and organization time.

**TMN-COT LOGO SHIRT ORDERS:** The shirts are here. Your names are on them. Please contact Laura Brandes to make arrangements to get yours. ([ljb823@comcast.net](mailto:ljb823@comcast.net) or 979.265.3813)

## Attachments

Attached to the newsletter are the following two attachments:

- Attachment 1 – October 2009 General Meeting Minutes, November 09-Attach-1.pdf
- Attachment 2 – “Cultural History: The United States Public Land Survey System” by Neal McLain, November09-Attach-2.pdf

<b>CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS</b>	
President	David Brandes
Vice President/Program	John Boettiger
Secretary	Joan Simonsen
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Carolyn Schlein
Past President	Ed Barrios
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner
Training Director	Laura Brandes
Advisory Members	Sandy Henderson &
Class of 2007	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 (TPWD) and Rich Tillman (Texas AgriLife Extension Service)

