

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

I sure wish October would decide if it wants to be October. The last few days have been in the 90's and then coming back from INEOS this afternoon it was 68! Well, maybe that's what October really is.

October this year also means Dr. Barron Rector will be visiting. He will be our guest speaker for this month's AT. Dr. Rector will be speaking about our coastal prairies in a combination General Meeting and Intern Class. Since the class and anyone else interested will be heading over to Nash Prairie for a field trip following the meeting, we moved the location to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in West Columbia. We've been invited by Rev. Peter Conaty to use their facilities for our meeting. Nash Prairie was created when West Columbia socialite and philanthropist Kittie Nash Groce willed her 17,000-acre ranch to St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the West Columbia Hospital District upon her death in 1957. This will be a great opportunity to experience it.

Marty Cornell's presentation about climate change and man's influence on it is coming up Wednesday morning, October 21 at the AgriLife Extension Office from 9:00-12:00. Texas Master Naturalists, Friends of the Mid-Coast Refuges and local USFWS and TPWD personnel are invited. We still have some room if you are interested. Please RSVP to me at djbrandes@comcast.net if you wish to attend.

COT elections are coming up in December. Ed Barrios and his nominating committee have been very busy, so busy that they are finished with the slate. You'll find the nominations for 2010 elsewhere in this newsletter. I believe our members will be pleased. Thanks to Ed, Sandy Henderson and Neal McLain for such diligent and speedy work.

Speaking of election and other administrative duties, please send your timesheets to our Membership Director, Jerry Eppner. Crunch time is coming for this at the end of the year. Updates to your timesheets are expected as the year ends, but if many new ones must be entered all at once before state reporting is due, we may cause our Director real problems. Help him out, he's helping us. Once Jerry has received and connected into the system even one timesheet from you for this year, updates are very easy.

We have new brochures for our chapter! They won't do us any good sitting in the box, so please consider volunteering to distribute some to strategic places in the county.

Finally, some fun outreach events are coming up.

- Prairie Heritage Day at Brazos Bend State Park is Saturday, November 7. We'll be doing a fun activity with the kids. I'm hoping enough of our members will volunteer to help that we will all have some time to walk around and experience the offered activities.
- Sea Center's "Spooktacular" is right around the corner. It's scheduled for Sunday, October 25 from 1:00-4:00. If you would like to assist in either of these upcoming events, we'll have a signup sheet available at our Wednesday General Meeting.

Ask Ed Barrios about the bug class he just attended at A&M.

See you at St Mary's.

Membership, Jerry Eppner

Through October 8, Chapter members have turned in total of 5186 hrs in 2009. Since the chapter started, members have volunteered 74,875 hours of time. Time submissions remain slow. If you need help submitting your hours, just find a helpful board member and ask. For October, I would like to recognize the following milestones: 2009 Recertification – Barbara Bruyere, Carolyn May-Monie, Bob Woods, and Carole Wenny. Rik Martinez, a member of the second intern class in 2009, has certified. 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 September meeting: Ramah O'Gorman and Pam West. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

October Meeting Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Intern Training, and Advanced Training

JUST A REMINDER...The October meeting will be held at St. Mary's Social Hall in West Columbia. We will start at the usual time (8:30 a.m.) with Dr. Rector beginning his lecture shortly after 9:00 a.m. If you want to participate in the field trip to Nash Prairie, wear proper clothes, bring mosquito spray and a lunch with drink.

INTERNS: Don't forget...Dr. Rector's presentation at the October meeting will count as Class time and the Field experience will follow immediately following the meeting.

Also, the "Forests" experience is scheduled on October 16th at Brazos Bend State Park. You need to let me know NOW if you plan to attend. The same goes for the "Dunes and Wetlands" on October 26th. If we do not have enough "reservations" then the class(es) will be canceled.

Nominating Committee Report, Ed Barrios

Per the policies and procedures the following board members need to be voted on:

"Officers: The Board of Directors includes the *President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Representative, Training Director and Membership Director...* *Past President* is a member of the Board of Directors but is not elected.

Every other position is a committee chair and is appointed by the board.

President:	Carl Dodson
Vice President:	Carolyn Schlein
Secretary:	Ed Johnson
Treasurer:	Sandy Henderson. <i>Incumbent</i>
Volunteer Coordinator:	Gerald Forrest
AT Chair:	John Battle. <i>Incumbent</i>
Training Director:	Laura Brandes. <i>Incumbent</i>
State Rep:	Ed Barrios
Membership Director:	Jerry Eppner. <i>Incumbent</i>
Outreach Chairs:	Ruby Lewis and Justina Dent. <i>Incumbents</i>
Chapter Hosts:	Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent. <i>Incumbents</i>
Webmaster:	Neal McLain. <i>Incumbent</i>
Newsletter:	Mary Helen Israel. <i>Incumbent</i>

Endangered Species Act, John Boettiger, Vice-President

Following is a timeline for a "1st" in US History ... specifically, the Endangered Species Act and the Northern Rockies Grey Wolf (GW).

In the mid-1880's it was decided by our government that the GW should be eliminated. Why? Because the GW kills deer & elk fawns, and beef calves.

In 1975, about 90 years later, the US government placed the GW on the list of US Endangered Species.

In 1995, after 20 years of trapping in Canada and selective breeding in the lower 48 states, the GW was "restocked" into various locations in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming (including our first National Park: Yellowstone).

In mid-May 2009, the GW was removed from the Endangered Species list. The requirement for the GW not to be endangered or threatened is that the free-roaming population be greater than 300 individuals with at least 30 breeding pairs. On average, Northern Rockies Grey Wolf packs number 9 to 12 animals.

Federal Duck Stamps now on Sale



If you have a deep and lasting love for wildlife and the future of migratory bird habitats, the time has come to stand up and be counted. Put your stamp on the future of a great American asset. Through the purchase of this year's Federal Duck Stamp, you can play a major role in the acquisition of migratory bird habitats across the country. The stamp, officially called the Migratory Bird

Hunting and Conservation Stamp, has generated funds for the acquisition of over 5.3 million acres of wetland and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. With your help, these efforts will continue.

Your purchase helps protect the best habitats, shows that you care and serves as your pass to all National Wildlife Refuges. Display it with pride and put your stamp on the future.

Duck Stamps are \$15 each, and can be purchased at most U.S. Post Offices, sporting goods stores, or online at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm>.

Attachments

Attached to the newsletter are the following two attachments:

Attachment 1 - Minutes of September 2009 General Meeting
Oct09-Attach-1.pdf

Attachment 2 - "Cultural History - The Columbia Rosenwald School" by Teena Maenza and Neal McLain.
Oct09-Attach-2.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 Director	Jerry Eppner
Training Director	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)

