

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

School's in session and so are we. INEOS began their environmental education last month and DEEP has now started. Come on out and join us as we enrich the lives of our school children.

We're already thinking about the upcoming holiday season. Some have not been able to join us for the traditional Hog Wild festivities following our December meeting, so let's add something this year. If you are able, please bring a pot luck breakfast item or a dessert to December's general meeting to share. Normally our only business is electing board members. We'll break into our social for this and then get back to it. Meeting time and agenda will be posted as we get a little closer.

The nominating committee is receiving wonderful cooperation from our membership. Thank you to all of you who are willing to serve our chapter. We'll announce the nominees in the November newsletter and accept any additional nominations from the floor during our December elections.

Mary Holler has volunteered to coordinate the ConocoPhillips, aka LEEP, the Linville Environmental Education Program this year. When you see her, please give her a pat on the back for taking on this important role.

Some traditionally fun outreach activities are coming up. Ruby will talk with us about them at our meeting Wednesday.

Finally, we have been working hard to clean up our Policies and Procedures Handbook and we'll be proposing a small change at our general meeting. More information is included below.

See you Wednesday,

Dave

Policies and Procedures Revisions 2010

Neal, Ed and other board members and committee chairs have helped us go through this document to correct many of our partner names and kick out other errors. You'll see these red colored revisions in the attached document.

We are also proposing to eliminate the term limits for Treasurer and Secretary, while retaining them for President and Vice-President. The result is half of our four-member executive committee remains term limited.

Finally, we propose eliminating addendum 15, Common Interest Groups. We have never really exercised this addendum. Eliminating it better reflects our actual operation. Please read the revisions before our meeting Wednesday. We'll vote on it and if approved the board will vote to finalize the revisions.

Report from Membership Chairman, Jerry Eppner

As of September 20, 45 chapter members have submitted 6,708 hours of volunteer time. That is wonderful, and one that I am sure will ramp up as our fall projects accelerate. Of the 45, 38 members have recertified.

Recognition at the next meeting for recertifying in 2010 will include Ed Barrios.

The membership chairman would like to remind those people that submit written time sheets to make sure they are legible, have the hours totaled on them and are signed and dated. Thanks.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the October meeting: Carolyn Schlein and Louis Peltier. 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 13, 2010 Intern Training, and Advanced Training

- 8:30 a.m.** - Coffee and Social Time
- 9:00 a.m.** - Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m.** - Johnney Pollan from the Brazosport Archeology Society will present a program on LaSalle's ship, *La Belle*

New Website Photo Gallery

By Neal McLain

I'm pleased to announce that our Chapter Website now has a Photo Gallery devoted to local flora and fauna. The Gallery is the work of Chapter members Irama and James Wesselman, who worked tirelessly organizing the photos and formatting them for the website. You'll find the Photo Gallery on our website <http://tmn-cot.org/> in the *Archives* section.

The gallery contains species-type photos for identification and study, organized by major taxonomic and habitat groups. The original photos were contributed by members and friends of our chapter. Special thanks to Dave Brandes for being the Top Contributor so far!



Thumbnail images serve as a guide to the contents of each section. Click on the image for information about the species.

The gallery is still under construction, and new photos will be added as contributions are received.

If you have photos you'd like to contribute, here's the procedure:

- If you have just a few photos, you can email them iramajames@yahoo.com.
- If you have a large group of photos, email James at iramajames@yahoo.com and ask him to invite you to join "dropbox." Dropbox is an easy way to transfer photos from one email address to another — you just "drop" the photos into the "dropbox" and the recipient gets an automatic message.

On behalf of the Chapter, thanks to Irama and James for your efforts!

Have You Ever Held a Wild Duck?

From National Wildlife Refuge System



Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is a major wood duck banding site in the United States. Since 2006, members of the refuge Friends organization have been invited to help band ducks during one summer evening.

This summer, 71 Friends and 224 ducks participated in the summer event, with 89 ducks captured and the others recaptured with existing bands. The banding information is used to help set hunting seasons and limits and to learn more about the ducks' migration patterns



Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge bands about 1,000 wood ducks each year.
Credit: Thomas G. Barnes

Ducks independently enter a trap baited with corn. About 50 people enter the trap and walk in a line across the back to herd the ducks into smaller pens, where children and adults can pick up a single duck and take it to a biologist for banding.

"The event is a highlight of the year for Friends," says Joan Stevens, Tennessee Refuge Ranger. "People are just glowing when they leave."

Former chief of the Southeast Region of the Refuge System, Jon Andrew, says, "holding a wild duck can change a person's life. Even those who have hunted and fished their whole lives can change their point of view by such close contact with wildlife."

There are nearly 250 Friends organizations supporting National Wildlife Refuges in the United States.

Editor's note: Here in Brazoria County, the local Friends Organization is Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. <http://refugefriends.org>.

Loxahatchee NWR to be featured on "Dirty Jobs" From National Wildlife Refuge System



At Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, a Fish and Wildlife Service employee pulls exotic invasive melaleuca from the Everglades. An October segment of "Dirty Jobs" features the Florida refuge and its invasive-control efforts. Credit: Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

TV cameras will take viewers deep inside Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge on Tuesday, October 26, when the Discovery Channel airs a segment of "Dirty Jobs" featuring the Florida refuge. The segment, titled "Wetland Warriors," shows Fish and Wildlife Service workers fighting the invasive melaleuca tree and conducting a prescribed burn.

Loxahatchee Refuge, the northernmost reach of the Florida Everglades, is thick with exotic plants such as melaleuca (Brazilian pepper), which threatens to dry up the swamp, and lygodium (Old World climbing fern), which threatens to smother it. Controlling these plants is a costly and messy business that can mean challenging the turf of resident alligators. The refuge is also on watch for other large animal predators including Burmese pythons, non-native constrictors that have become established further south in the Everglades.

In the segment, refuge contractors cut and spray melaleuca trees. Then, Service staff burn a previously treated area of melaleuca trees in a controlled fire. The segment premieres at 9 p.m. Eastern and Pacific Times. For other areas, check local listings.

For more information on Loxahatchee Refuge, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/loxahatchee> or call 561-732-3684. For show information, see <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/dirty-jobs/>.

Attachments

There are three attachments to the newsletter:

Attachment 1 - Minutes of the September 8 General Meeting
October10_Attach-1-General-Meeting-Minutes.pdf

Attachment 2 - "Protecting Bats"
October20_Attach-2_ProtectingBats.pdf

Attachment 3 – TMN Policies & Procedures – Proposal to the membership.pdf

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

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