

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Hello November! Cooler weather has arrived, we're finishing up our fall environmental education programs at DEEP and INEOS this month, the state meeting has come and gone, and Hog Wild is just around the corner. It just doesn't get any better.

Well, actually it does. Marty Cornell developed another great chapter display this year featuring the INEOS education programs. And once again we won an award at the state meeting. It was a fantastic display and garnered our chapter \$200. Thanks Marty!!

With November also comes a report from our Nominating Committee for 2011 Board Candidates. This committee is always chaired by our Past President and two additional members. The slate for our December election is one of the best I've seen, and they present it to you in this issue of our newsletter. I won't steal their thunder here in my message.

Don't forget the dunes planting project being run by our parks department from now through March 2011. The planned dates are November 5 & 6, December 10 & 11 and in 2011 January 7 & 8, February 18 & 19, March 18 & 19.

Our general meeting will feature Meteorologist Dan Reilly with the Houston/Galveston National Weather Service. He'll talk with us about Texas Gulf Coast weather. I've taken a couple of his Skywarn Spotter Training courses and learned a lot while enjoying them. I hope to see all of you there.

Dave



**Report from Membership Chairman,
Jerry Eppner**

As of November 5, 51 chapter members have submitted 8045 hours of volunteer time. Of the 51, 47 members have recertified.

Recognition at the next meeting for recertifying in 2010 will include Kerry Magee, James Calvert, Mickey Dufilho, Phyllis Gerdes, Carolyn May-Monie, Ramah O’Gorman, and Archie Pratt. Hats off to Kerry Magee for reaching the 500 hr VT milestone, and a special congratulations to Dave Brandes for reaching the 2500 hr mark. Well done!

SPECIAL REMINDER - As we approach the end of the year, I expect to receive a lot of time sheets from members – some for the first time, and that is great. To meet certain funding requirements, the state organization requests that we now sign our time sheets. If you submit your time on written time sheets, they must be signed and dated by you. If you submit your time electronically, please wait until your final time sheet submission and put “electronically signed by *your name* on *date*” on the last line of the time sheet. Next year’s time sheet will automate this for you, but the request came too late for us to get on the 2010 electronic time sheets. Thanks for your help on this.

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

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the October meeting: Bill Brown, Gerald Forrest and Clyde and Steve Zilliox. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

**November Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 2010
Intern Training, and Advanced Training**

- 8:30 a.m.** - Coffee and Social Time
- 9:00 a.m.** - Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m.** - Dan Reilly with the Houston/Galveston National Weather Service speaking to us about Texas Gulf Coast Weather

Training, Laura Brandes

Congratulations to Jim Albritton who just completed his Internship and is now a Texas Master Naturalist. Jim will be recognized at the November meeting so be sure to congratulate him on his achievement and welcome him to the Chapter.

2011 TRAINING PROGRAM: Laura Brandes is going to continue as the Training Director and be assisted by Marlies Greenwood, a 2009 Intern/TMN. An awesome program is being developed that will blend the former 1-day per week training and the "Pilot" program. Basically, the 2011 program will consist of 2 semesters--February thru May, and September thru early December. Classes will be scheduled for the morning with the Field experience in the afternoon OR class will be held in the evening with the Field scheduled on a separate day. Wednesdays will be the priority day for all classes with Fridays or Saturdays to be used for the separate field trips. *This is the flexibility that is required in today's world* (just count the TV ads for the "p.j." college degrees).

The first objective will be to finalize the Training Calendar for 2011 which will be done this November-December. Those who taught this past year will be contacted shortly. Your assistance and commitment as a Certified TMN to teach your class twice in the year is necessary to make this schedule work. Instructors are asked to recruit their own *Assistant* who will familiarize themselves with the materials used, assist with the training session and be able to substitute teach if needed. This person should be willing and able to assume responsibility for the topic in the event that the Instructor wants to "retire".

The sessions will be organized so that a class with field will be taught on one day, and then again in the evening with the field scheduled separately. Every effort will be made to schedule the classes at the appropriate time in each semester to maximize the field experience (ex. "Birds" in April and October). Every effort will be made to utilize current activities as class and/or field hours (ex. Christmas Bird Count and Phytoplankton).

The Training Director has organized a file with all topic handouts used in 2009-2010 and should be checked by each Instructor for completeness. Copies of the class handouts will be made for your sessions. If you have a power point presentation you can provide a copy so that it can be put onto the TMN computer. We will attempt to use as many venues as possible for a broader Intern experience, and these reservations will be made for you. Any equipment and/or materials needed will be prepared prior to each class for the Instructor.

The 2009-2010 training emphasized the State Curriculum as well as those Chapter activities that are of particular interest to Brazoria County and the Gulf Coast (ex. Archeology and the Karankawas). In addition, research has been done and materials collected for those topics that we currently do not cover (ex. Urban Ecology and Ichthyology). Additional Instructors will be sought to develop these topics which will give the Intern Training a less repetitive calendar and the Chapter more offerings for our educational activities and requests.

In summary, the Cradle of Texas Chapter is in control of its own future through commitment and dedication for Intern Recruitment and Training using the wealth and depth of the Members' knowledge and the State Curriculum.

Nominating Committee Report, Ed Barrios

The nominating committee offers the following candidates for the 2011 TMN-COT Board of Directors. Voting will take place during the December 8th general meeting. The nominating committee was comprised of Ed Barrios (Past President), Neal McLain and Jerry Krampota.

President



Barbara Burkhardt

Vice-President



Mary Holler

Secretary



Marty Cornell

Treasurer



Sandy Henderson

Membership Director



Jerry Eppner

Training Director



Laura Brandes

State Representative



Ed Barrios

Attachments

There are two attachments to the newsletter:

Attachment 1 - Minutes of the October General Meeting
November10_Attach-1_October_General_Meeting_Minutes.pdf

Attachment 2 - Austin Town Children's Day
November10_Attach-2_Austin_Town.pdf

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Vice President/Program	Carolyn Schlein
Secretary	Ed Johnson
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Ed Barrios
Past President	Dave Brandes
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner
Training Director	Laura Brandes
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
Sponsor	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department)

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