

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

General Meeting 10:00 – 12:00

President's Message, Dave Brandes

December! This marks the ending of my term as President of COT. I've thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and I want to thank all of you for trusting me with our organization.

Corrie Bowen has agreed to work with us as our AgriLife Chapter Advisor. He'll be a real asset to us, bringing a wealth of experience from his many roles as extension agent. With his and Connie's support we can only get better.

While I'm on the subject of AgriLife, there is a new entrance policy to help ensure the safety of the staff. Realizing that there may only be one or two people in the building when the agents are out in the field, the side door is now locked. Please support this effort to help protect folks by entering through the front entrance.

Please submit your volunteer hours soon. We are getting close to 10,000 hours for the year and I'd like to see us shatter that number. Our chapter maintains one of the highest averages per member of all the chapters. You may not be interested in recognition for your personal achievements, but these hours actually fund the TMN operation through matching grants. Please help us exist.

Don't forget the upcoming opportunity to help with replanting our dunes Friday and Saturday December 10&11. Meet at Stahlman Park at 8:00AM. We'll plant until noon when a lunch will be provided. Folks made a great start last month, putting about 19,000 plants in the sand.

John Arvin is retiring from Gulf Coast Bird Observatory at the end of the month. Stop by and wish him well.

A couple of final thoughts for the year:

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as useful to the child as it is to the caterpillar." - Bradley Miller

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" - Charles Dickens

OK, that's the end of my ramblings through the President's Message forum for the year(s).

Happy Holidays everyone!

Dave

December Meeting, Wednesday, December 8, 2010

- 10:00 a.m. - Coffee and Social Time
- 10:30 a.m. - Business Meeting & Election of Officers
- 12:00 a.m. - Adjourn to Hog Wild

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

Refreshments for our December meeting are a **pot luck breakfast and snacks**. If you have a favorite breakfast item, please share it with us. If you would like to bring a snack, please do. We'll take any leftovers to Hog Wild and continue grazing.

Christmas Bird Counts

From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in a citizen science adventure that began over 100 years ago – Christmas Bird Counts. Several counts are conducted in our area. You don't need to be an expert birder to participate. We'll put you with one and you'll have a great learning experience. The more eyes and ears we have, the better the results.

If you'd like to learn more about the experience and the local counts, visit Neal's excellent web page compiled with information from Tom Morris at <http://tinyurl.com/2010-Christmas-Bird-Counts> . There is a five dollar fee to participate in a count to help offset the Audubon's cost of compiling and publishing the data. Part of the publishing is sending participants a magazine-style copy of the overall results if you wish. Generally there is a countdown dinner after the count where the local results are compiled.

Intern Training Update, Laura Brandes

NEWEST GRADUATE: Congratulations to CHARLIE CLEMENTS who completed his Intern Training. Charlie is now a Texas Master Naturalist and a member of the COT Chapter. He is already working on his 1st year Certification by volunteering with DEEP and the new course in "Ichthyology" with Roy Morgan. Charlie will be recognized at the December meeting. All Members should "give him five" and welcome him to our organization.

STATUS OF 2009 INTERNS: Only three(3) Interns are continuing into 2011 to complete their training--Pat Bean, Jeanne Manry and John Minkert. Three(3) Enrollees have yet to start their Internship and will be assigned to the 2011 Class.

JANUARY IS RECRUITMENT MONTH!!! Every Member is involved with this activity--no excuses. Brochures will be distributed at the December meeting and the Hog Wild festivities to all attendees. Please use them to promote the TMN-COT with your friends, neighbors, fellow church members, your other organizations, your lunch buddies, etc. It is the MEMBERS that are the most effective in stimulating enough interest for someone to contact the Training Director. If you have someone who is interested to enroll, please send their Name, Phone Number, eMail and Mailing address to the Training Director at ljb823@comcast.net. Also, Members can direct a prospect to the website for details of the Intern Training Program. Remember...if you hook 'em then we'll land them!

2011 INTERN TRAINING begins on February 2nd with "Orientation and Introduction". Almost all classes are scheduled on Wednesdays with the 2nd week left open for the General Meeting. Generally, sessions will be offered twice yearly, once during the day then again in the evening so it is possible to complete an Internship within the calendar year or less. The tuition fee will continue at \$80 to cover the expenses for the State Curriculum, the magnetic Name Tag and the TMN polo shirt.

Upon enrollment, each Intern will complete their personal Training Schedule with the assistance of the Training Director. They are committed to attending each selected session which gives the Instructors the number of Interns to expect for the class/field. Interns will be responsible to maintain their own Training Manual of notes, handouts, etc. as well as bringing their own "eats" to class. (The COT will supply water, coffee and tea.) Classes will be held in the various facilities that are used in our programs and the appropriate direction and/or location maps are on the TMN-COT website. (Thank you, Neal.)

The Instructor's are primarily Certified TMNers and have selected an Assistant to help them with their class. (Each Assistant will be able to conduct the session if the Instructor is absent.) The Instructors will implement an Attendance Sheet and provide a critique of the class/field which then will be submitted to the Training Director. (This information will be part of the end-of-the-year Board report.) All of the appropriate Intern information, forms and 2011 training schedule will be posted on the website beginning January 1st.

January General Meeting, Carolyn Schlein

The January 12, 2011 chapter meeting will at the **Brazosport Museum of Natural Science** located at the Center for the Arts and Sciences, 400 College Drive, Clute, TX. We will meet at 8:30 am for our social time followed by our chapter meeting and advance training. Our advance training on Sea Shells will be presented by members of the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County. Each speaker will give a 15 minute programs on one the following topics: "What is a Shell?", "Where to go and how to find Shells", "How to dress and what to take", "How to clean shells", "How to photograph Shells" and "How to identify and store/display shells".

The Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County is an organization open to anyone who has an interest in shells. Their purpose is to educate the public about the ecological habitats lives of mollusks as well as the other plants and animals who live in the mollusk habitats.

Membership Report December 2010, Jerry Eppner

As of December 4, 52 chapter members have submitted 9329 hours of volunteer time. Of the 52, 50 members have recertified.

The chapter is still behind member VT hour submissions versus this time last year. Please make an effort to get your hours together and submit them for recording. The state chapter depends on VT hours as documentation to justify grant money.

Recognition at the next meeting for recertifying in 2010 will include Jerry Krampota. Hats off to Ed Johnson for reaching the 500 hr VT milestone. 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.

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 three attachments to the newsletter:

"TMN COT November 10, 2010 General Meeting Minutes"
December10_Attach-1_November_General_Meeting_Minutes.pdf

"GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Project"
December10_Attach-2_GCJV_Duck_Project.pdf

"Dune Restoration Project"
Dune_Planting_Rev-12-01-10.pdf

"TMN Cradle of Texas 7th Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast"
2010 COT Pig Roast.pdf

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	David Brandes
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	Vacant
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis and Justina Dent
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Newsletter Editor	Mary Helen Israel
Chapter Advisor	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department)

Website	http://tmn-cot.org
FaceBook	http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Facebook
E-mail Listserv	http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail

