

**Plan Name:** 2010 Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter Outreach Education

**Educational Activities:** The Mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. Year 2010 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Texas Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter. Each year, new volunteers complete 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction, plus 8 hours of approved advanced training, and donate 40 hours of volunteer service back to the state and community in order to become certified as a Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer. Existing volunteers then complete another 8 hours of advanced training and donate 40 hours of volunteer service every year after to maintain their status as Master Volunteers.

**Summary:** Since the Chapter's inception in year 2001, 151 volunteers have received their Texas Master Naturalist Certification through Brazoria County's Cradle of Texas Chapter. The Chapter currently maintains a roster of 133 Master Naturalists. In 2010, 7 new volunteers completed the New Volunteer Training. Five new volunteers completed their initial Texas Master Naturalist Certification through the Cradle of Texas Chapter, while 3 are still working toward initial certification.

Master Naturalist Volunteers with the Cradle of Texas Chapter contributed 2,459 total service hours in year 2010 to outreach and education projects and the planning and administration of the chapter, chapter projects, and TMN program activities. Since the chapter's inception, annual cumulative volunteer hours toward these activities have amounted to an impressive 93,105 hours! The Chapter conducted 11 Direct outreach educational events, and 5 indirect events. Through these events, Cradle of Texas Volunteers reached over 7,500 youth, adults, and/or private landowners through Direct contacts; and 850 youth, adults, and/or private landowners through Indirect contacts. The Direct and Indirect Outreach events include: Discovery Environmental Education Program; INEOS Corporation Environmental Education Program; Conoco Phillips Corporation Linville Environmental Education Program; Boy Scout Nature Day at Moody Gardens; Sea Center Nature Day; Brazoria Heritage Day; Migration Celebration; Volunteer Fair at Brazos Mal; Coastal Expo in Freeport, TX; Girl Scout Training at Camp Wind-a-mere; Hummingbird Extravaganza; Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas; Leadership Advisory Board Open House Event; Prairie Heritage Day; Family Day at Hanson Park; and the Summer Environmental Program in cooperation with the Brazoria County Library System.

Volunteers also developed a total of 3.5 miles of new nature trails at the Dow Woods Unit of the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge near Lake Jackson, Texas.

Cradle of Texas Master Naturalist volunteers obtained a total of 1,012 hours of advanced training in year 2010. Since the chapter's inception, members have obtained a cumulative 8,079 hours of advanced training!