

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

School is winding down and the kids are getting out for the summer. That means our environmental education programs with the school districts are finished until next fall. Thanks to all of you that helped so faithfully this past school year.

Our next education push is the day camp pilot with Brazoria County Parks Department at Camp Mohawk County Park. We have two sessions coming up on June 15 and 22. Each is from 9:00-12:30 Monday-Thursday plus a Saturday morning with demonstrations and graduation. We are not only doing education components, but also just plain fun activities like fishing, fish printing and archery. If you can help please let Joan Simonsen, Ruby Lewis or Laura Brandes know.

The Matagorda Island trip was a great success. If you are signed up for the fall, you won't want to miss it. Our Board of Directors reviewed the trip with Steve and Clyde Zilliox. If you attended everything you can get credit for up to 7.5 hours of AT and 5 hours of travel time.

Some folks had to cancel shortly before the trip. We were able to avoid paying for these rooms, so we'll be returning the \$40 room cost to those that canceled. Also, we'll add you to the end of the fall waiting list if you still want to go.

An updated copy of our TMN-COT Policies and Procedures Handbook will be available on our website shortly. The Volunteer Service section has been updated to be consistent with our practices.

We have a couple of outreach events coming up. We still need to recruit new interns over the summer months. These outreach activities are vitally important to keep our chapter healthy with new people and new ideas.

The first is the Volunteer Fair at the Brazos Mall will be on June 13 from 10:00-5:00. We'll be setting up in the food court so we can expect many visits to our station.

The next event will be Coastal Expo in Freeport July 3 & 4 from 12:00-8:00. It will be at RiverPlace again this year. We'll be passing around a sign up sheet at our next meeting or you may contact Ruby Lewis if you can help.

Membership, Jerry Eppner

Chapter members have turned in total of 3489 hours in 2009. A lot of good work by a lot of good people. Thank you. For June, I would like to recognize the following milestones: New Intern Certification – John Battle and Steve Upperman; 2009 Recertification – Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson and Kerry Magee. Congratulations to all, but particularly to our newest chapter members who are contributing so well already. Way to go guys.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the June meeting: Torry Tvedt and Mary Helen Israel. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

June Meeting Wednesday, June 10, 2009

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & Social Time

9:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

9:30 a.m. – “Geology of Brazoria County” and

"Dow Chemical Company Salt Dome Operations"

Presented by Jeff Hertzling, Salt/Mining Technology
Center, Dow Chemical Company

Training Chair, Laura Brandes

New TMN Members:

Three Interns have earned their TMN and will receive their T-shirts and nametags at the June meeting. They are John Battle, Rik Martinez and Steve Upperman. In addition, John and Steve have certified for this year.

New Interns:

Welcome to three new Intern Trainees: Sonia Nimitz and Marlies Greenwood who became acquainted with us at SCT, and Kathy Speights who is new to Brazoria County.

"Mammals": the last organized spring class for the current Interns is scheduled for June 12th at Brazos Bend State Park. David Heinicke, Park Naturalist, will give the lecture and conduct the fieldwork starting at 9:00 a.m. Please wear appropriate clothing, bring mosquito spray, a sack lunch with drink and water. Be prepared to pay the entrance fee to the Park as the State has changed their guidelines.

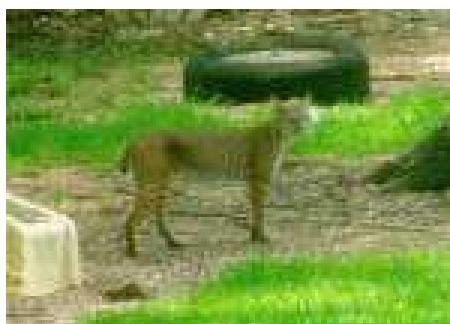
If you are currently a TMN and have not received AT for "Mammals" during the past two years, then your participation will count as AT and VT. Of course, everyone is invited! If you have any questions, please contact Laura at ljb823@comcast.net.

A Bobcat in the Neighborhood!

Following is a human interest/naturalist moment submitted by Joan Simonsen. The event occurred in the Lake Jackson neighborhood of Sherry Varner and Sherry sent this to Joan.

"I figured there would be a lot of questions about that bobcat, so I'm giving a little more explanation. Our caregiver spotted it yesterday morning, in the back yard. It stayed there long enough for us to take some pictures, although taking them through the screen window distorted the photos a little. I went to get my father-in-law, who was outside on the front porch, to come see it. By the time he got to the window, the bobcat came up closer to the house and walked by the bird feeder, so my father-in-law got a good view. My mother-in-law was on the phone on the front porch, and the bobcat came around and walked through the front yard, so she got a good view also! We mentioned it to a few of the neighbors, and some of them have also seen it in the neighborhood during the last week. I've never seen a live bobcat before, much less during the 31 years I've lived in Lake Jackson. We were really excited to see it.

I also want to mention a funny thing. The reason I added the note on one of the messages I sent out: "Aaron--it really was a bobcat!" We went to Wisconsin to see Aaron graduate with his master's degree last week. While we were there, one day we drove through the countryside. David and Aaron said, "Look, Sherry--there's a bobcat!" I went on and on about how disappointed I was that I missed it, and I was little surprised that they didn't seem to think it was a big deal. In a little while we drove by a Bobcat tractor sales lot, and they said, "Look, Sherry--there's a whole bunch of them!" The joke was on me! When our caregiver told us yesterday that there was a bobcat in our backyard--I didn't believe her! What a surprise."



Attachments

Three attachments are included with this Newsletter:

June09-Attach-1.pdf

Minutes of the May general meeting submitted by Joan Simonsen, Chapter Secretary

June09-Attach-2.pdf

July schedule for the Sea Center Texas Demo Trunk submitted by Ruby Lewis.

June09-Attach-3.pdf

Cultural History: The Old Three Hundred, submitted by Neal McLain.

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