

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



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

President's Message, Dave Brandes

Welcome to March. Did you remember to spring ahead Sunday, March 8, for daylight savings time?

Our General Meeting Advanced Training this month will be Robert Vega discussing the new TPWD southern flounder program under way at Sea Center Texas and at the Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi. Robert will also address the effects of Ike along our coast.

Our educational programs are still going strong with DEEP, INEOS and Sea Center Texas. Come on out and make a difference in the lives our community's children. The contacts are, respectively, Bryan Adams, Carl Dodson and Connie Stolte.

Migration Celebration is coming up in April. Volunteers are needed and you'll hear more about this at our Wednesday meeting.

If you are interested in Birds and have not taken a general course in a couple of years, you may enjoy our Intern Bird course and may count this as AT this year. It's this Monday, March 9, 8:00 at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office. Included is a field trip to Brazos Bend for lunch at Elm Lake followed by some birding with our own master birders:



Tom Morris



Jim Renfro



Jerry Eppner



Denis James

(photo composition is from our web site calendar)

Check out this and some other great upcoming classes on our web site calendar.

Our recent Texas Invaders class has led to a new project called "Cradle of Texas Invaders". We are surveying invasive plants in Brazoria County. The results eventually end up in the USDA distribution maps. We've conducted several team field trips. There are 17 teams participating in the statewide Invaders of Texas project and we have already entered enough observations to move up to number 10. As each new Texas team is formed, a prize is offered to the first team member to have 50 observations entered and validated by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center biologists. **For the Cradle of Texas, the winner is Joan Simonsen. Congratulations Joan on your new high sensitivity Garmin GPS.**

Finally, we have an exciting new Day Camp initiative with the county parks department at Camp Mohawk. Come to the general meeting and hear more about it.

Dave

Bastrop Bayou Trash Bash

On Saturday, March 28 the Houston Galveston Area Council will sponsor a "Trash Bash" to help clean our waterways from normal debris along with debris left behind by Ike. The event will begin with registration at 8:30 at the Bastrop Marina. A registration form can be obtained and filled out in advance at www.trashbash.org. Bring this form with you to the registration table at the marina. T-shirts and lunch will be provided. Volunteers will need to wear appropriate clothing such as long pants, hats, gloves, and sturdy closed toed shoes. Clothing could possibly get dirty and wet so additional clothing may be needed. Bring sun protection, insect repellent, and sunglasses. Boats are needed but, if you do not have a boat volunteers may board other volunteer's boats. There are areas that may be picked up by volunteers on foot. Some of you may prefer to help with registration, passing out information, serving food, or cleaning up afterward. The event will end at approximately 11:30 with a lunch at the Demi John Fire Station. For more information call Don West at 979 239-1422.

Membership, Jerry Eppner

Many of our chapter members have busy this year with their volunteer efforts. Reaching 2009 Recertification in March are: David Brandes, Bill Brown, Barbara Burkhardt, Gerald Forrest, Denis James, Ruby Lewis, Jim Renfro and Tom Morris. At the March meeting, we will also present awards for cumulative hours: Bob Woods – 250, Bill Brown and Gerald Forrest – 500, Laura Brandes – 1000 and Marty Cornell – 2500.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the March meeting: Joan Simonsen, Dave & Laura Brandes. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

March Meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2009

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

9:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

9:30 a.m. - Advanced Training

3rd of a Four Part Series on Hurricane Ike Impact

“Hurricane Ike Impact on Upper Texas Coast Salt Water for Fish and Hatcheries”
by Robert Vega, Marine Hatcheries Program Leader, TPWD

Vice President/Program Chairman,
John Boettiger

AT for the coming months includes Part III on post-Hurricane Ike – Upper-Coast Marine Hatcheries & the new Flounder Program on 3-11-09 by Robert Vega, TPWD.

On April 8, 2009, Robert Adami, TPWD will discuss Inland Farming for Shrimp (with a discussion of the why's on the minimal impacts experience in this sector due to Hurricane Ike). For our MAY 13, 2009 meeting, Gene Hafele, NOAA National Weather Service Galveston-Houston will discuss WEATHER – to include IKE in 2008 and the prospects for the 2009 Upper-Coastal Hurricane Season. Our JUNE '09 AT could be Coastal Geology. JULY '09 is in the process of being finalized but is likely to be an in depth discussion of the Upper Coastal Evacuation for Hurricane Ike (Sept 2008), to include the why's and how's of what happened when. August, September & October are TBA but Dr. Sammy Ray will again be back to discuss Oystering on the Upper Texas Coast and impacts of Ike and a Sea Shell Program is in early-stage preparation. NOV '08 will be Gary & Kathy Clark who will present a new discussion about the Upper Texas Coast to include many professional photos by Kathy Adams-Clark with How-To and Q&A Sessions. No AT in December. We hope that Ed, Marty, Roy & the guys/gals will again host HOG #5? or is it HOG #6? – in any event, the food, wine and friendly discussions will be plentiful, as always!

Happy AT! John B.

PS,

Contact me at with any ideas that you might have about our Monthly Chapter Advanced Training at 979-297-5427 or johnb731@comcast.net

Training Chair, Laura Brandes

Intern Required Training:

March 9th: "Birds" with Tom Morris and Jim Renfro, 8:00 a.m. at the AgriLife building with the field trip to Brazos Bend State Park.

If you cannot make this date, please let Tom or Jim know as they are setting up a second day for those with a conflict.

March 20th: "Plants" with Ed Barrios and Barb Burkhardt, 8:30 a.m. at the AgriLife building with the field trip to the Master Gardeners' plot.

March 28th: "Archeology" with Johnney Pollan, 9:00 a.m. at the Museum in the Center for the Arts and Sciences followed by a field trip to the Lake Jackson Plantation.

Note: Any certified TMN who has not had one of these topics in two years can attend for Advanced Training. Please email lib823@comcast.net with your "reservation".

New Interns--WELCOME!

We have five new people who will be joining the 2nd "wave" of the 2009 TMN Intern Training. They are Joan Harlan (recruited by Joan Simonsen), John Battle and Rik Martinez (corralled by Bryan Adams), Elaine Crews ("rowed" in by Carole Wenny), and Howard Allen ("snagged" by Denis James).

It works the BEST...when TMNers recruit one-to-one then we get the people interested in us. Once they see what a group the "Cradle of Texas" Chapter is (and we are a Group!) then recruitment to the Intern Training Program is complete (except for the forms, of course.) Just think of how much more education, projects and fun we can have with more people. If we could ALL just BRING ONE!?!?!?!!!!!!!

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR MIGRATION CELEBRATION WEBSITE by Neal McLain

As many of you know, I've been working with the Migration Celebration Planning Committee to establish a new website for the celebration. Take a look -- it's at <http://migrationcelebration.org>.

We're planning to add a new section to the website called "Photo Gallery" for photos of native (or invasive) plants and animals. Jerry Eppner has already contributed several of his bird photos (thanks, Jerry!).

Further contributions are welcome! So if you have some favorite photos of native plants or animals, we'd love to add them to the gallery. Just send them to me at the following e-mail address: webmaster@refugefriends.org.

Please include the following information with each photo:

- Description. For photos of plants or animals, please provide common names and scientific names. For photos of persons, please identify each person by name, and by title if relevant. For photos of objects, please identify each object by name.
- Location (city or county and state, or country).
- Date (month and year).
- Name of original photographer.

I'll include this information in the photo caption.

Please note:

- If you don't know the scientific name of a plant or animal, you may omit it, and I'll add it.
- We cannot use any photo that contains a recognizable image of any child's face without the permission of the child's parent or guardian. Please frame photos accordingly, or obtain the necessary permissions.
- Please do not insert any text (such as credit information) into any photo. I will include appropriate text information (including credit) in the caption.
- Photos posted on the website will be displayed at 600 pixels wide. If you wish to edit (resize and/or crop) your photos, please make sure that the final submitted photo is at least 600 pixels wide. Alternatively, you may submit unedited photos, in which case I will edit them.

And don't forget: Migration Celebration is scheduled for April 17-19 at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. Registration for "Amazing Adventures" is now open, and tickets for the Friday-evening kickoff dinner are now on sale. Check it out <http://migrationcelebration.org>.

Special to the Newsletter

Our very own poet, Susan Severance, has written a poem about IKE which is included in the newsletter for your pleasure.

IKE

In darkness we waited for the approach of the storm,
As winds became stronger, and far from the norm
Trees bending and breaking, in tribute to nature's force,
While the sea churned and surged on its disastrous course
Heading first towards Corpus and then as we saw,
Changed track towards Galveston, but bore,
Ferociously down on the east coast of the State
Obliterating everything lying in its wake
Without discrimination humans, animals and birds were all killed
Along with the destruction of man's efforts to build
Housing for all those wanting to reside
On the beach despite danger from wind and tide

In the aftermath we had lessons to learn about
Living without power, water, and, without a doubt,
Finding blessings in neighbors and strangers who offered their all
To help wherever, and whatever, the call
The roaring of generators became the "Music of the Night"
Supplying coffee in the morning and power for some light

Now, later, we look back and reflect in awe
On the devastation Ike inflicted on rich and poor
Next time the hurricane approaches, we have plans to make
Head west for California, but wait, what about earthquakes?

Susan Severance

January 14, 2009

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

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Secretary	Joan Simonsen
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Past President	Ed Barrios
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