

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News –November 2005 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

The Prez Says from Carl Dodson

It is good to see everything getting back to normal after all the excitement from last month. Marty Cornell and the training committee have made arrangements to make up the classes missed due to the storm evacuation. This puts some hardship on the new training class but everyone seems to be surviving.

The State Meeting of the Texas Master Naturalist has come and gone with eleven members of the Cradle of Texas Chapter in attendance. The COT had one of the largest membership groups in attendance. The total attendance (240+) caught the leadership by surprise and resulted in some reshuffling of Training Classes but it all seemed to work out. This was my first state meeting and the rewards for attending didn't take long to show up. The opportunity to just sit and talk to members of other chapters was the biggest reward. It was obvious that we experience many of the same problems but the solutions to the problems were many and varied. It was also obvious that we do not experience many of the problems that face many other chapters and that we are very lucky in that regard. For instance; some members of other chapters travel 150 miles round trip to attend a 1 or 2 hour training class.

The other surprising result of the trip was how much I learned about my chapter that I did not know. Did you know that the Cradle of Texas Sponsor Reps (Connie and Rich) are the only Sponsor Reps that have gone through the training class and are Certified Master Naturalist?

Hats off to Carolyn May-Monie and her committee that prepared our project entry in the state project award category. We placed second but our entry drew the most interest and comments from the Master Naturalist in attendance. Our project entry will be viewed at the December general membership meeting.

Speaking of meetings, I have rearranged December just a little. The Board of Directors will meet on the first Wednesday of the month (Dec. 7th) at our regular time and place (9:00am in the Conference room). There will be a Special Called Membership Meeting on Wednesday, December 14th, at 9:00am. At this Special Meeting we will hold Chapter Elections, give the year-end chapter report and celebrate the up-coming Holiday Season.

Please remember Mrs. Rich Tillman in your thoughts and prayers as she continues her stay in the hospital.

**Texas Master Naturalist –
Cradle of Texas Chapter**
<http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>
**Board of Directors
Meeting
October 12, 2005
Minutes**

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Carl Dodson at 9:00 a.m. The following board members were present: Carl Dodson, President; John Boettiger, Vice-President; Al Brushwood, Treasurer; Jan Kater, Secretary; Carolyn May-Monie, Past President; and Barbara Burkhardt, State Representative. Eight others were present. The attendance list is on file.

President's Report

- **Innovene Project** – The two fall classes have been canceled because of the hurricane activity in the area. Make-up dates will be announced later.
- **ConocoPhillips Project** – These classes also suffered some scheduling problems. A discussion followed regarding SISD teacher involvement in presentation of the curriculum, and the utilization of the TMN curriculum along with the standard state curriculum.
- **Annual Report** – The President reminded us that full reporting by the members of their volunteer hours and advanced training hours is essential if the State TMN office is to be able to attract the number of grants needed to adequately support TMN activities for the coming year.

Vice-President's Report

- **Advanced Training Opportunities** – The Vice-President pointed out the up-coming advanced training opportunities, including the three-hour presentation on archaeology October 22 at the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences; the October 26th joint training program at Sea Center Texas, followed by a tour of the Center; and the joint training with the interns November 9th at the TCE training room on the subject of Forest Ecology, followed by an afternoon field trip to the “Big Tree” in the San Bernard NWR. He encouraged members to check regularly with the chapter advanced training schedule on the TMN COT website for the latest details.

Secretary's Report

- **Parliamentary Procedure Guide** – The secretary announced that the State TMN office provides a parliamentary procedure guide for chapter use, and that the secretary is expected to have a copy on hand at every meeting in case a procedural question arises. Neal McLain made copies for everyone in attendance and the secretary offered to send a copy to other members who request one. His e-mail address is jankater@sbcglobal.net.

State Representative's Report

- **State TMN Communications** - There have been no communications from the State TMN office since the last meeting.
- **Annual Meeting Details** – Barbara Burkhardt, Carolyn May-Monie, and Phil Huxford reviewed details of the three-day meeting – which will be held Oct. 21-23 at Mo Ranch.

- **Shirts and nametags have been ordered** – Barbara will hand out previously ordered shirts Oct. 19 at the TCE office between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon, and at the joint training meeting November 9, between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.

Treasurer's Report

- **Class related revenues and expenses** – Al Brushwood distributed a profit/loss statement that projects a small surplus. A copy of the report is on file.
- **Bank Balance – \$3000.** He reported that we are in good shape financially.
- **Annual Audit** - will be completed by Dec. 14, 2005, the annual meeting of the chapter.

Past President's Report

- **Annual Meeting Display** – remaining display details need to be finished. Tom Morris offered to help with pictures.
- **Nominating Committee** – The committee is pleased to report that it received three or more potential nominees for each of the four Executive Board positions to be voted on. This response reflects the willingness of our membership to be involved. After interviews, the committee will announce their nominee choices to the membership by the middle of November via e-mail, and by mail to those who do not have an e-mail address. Voting will take place at the annual meeting, December 14, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

Training

- **The training schedule was interrupted** by hurricane activity and remaining sessions have been rescheduled. See the chapter website for details.

- **Joint training dates** with interns for members who have completed their training are also listed on the website Advanced Training schedule.

Membership

- **Awards** will be announced at the next membership meeting.
- **Active and Non-active, voting and non-voting membership categories** were discussed, since they affect membership meeting voting procedures and membership totals for the annual report. They are defined in the by-laws and the policy and procedure handbook in slightly different ways. And, there are some fine points that need to be worked out regarding how we will keep track of these categories. Carl Dodson indicated that he would bring this subject up at the State Meeting.
- Tom Morris will send his members' "hours reported" list to all board members as background for future discussion.
- Tom distributed a membership report showing the number of graduates for the four years of COT training (2001 thru 2004), and totals for those who never certified and what percentage have not turned in hours for calendar year 2005. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes.
- Jan Kater volunteered to compare the meeting attendance lists with the membership lists: 1) to determine who should be on the "hours reported" list, having signed a meeting attendance list, but not having reported their attendance as volunteer hours to Tom, and 2) to determine who has attended no meetings (and therefore who has not signed in as attending whether they reported volunteer hours or not).
- There was a consensus that the chapter should do a count of local

members who are active or who want to be, as a way of determining how many members we potentially have to work with.

Whatever

- The holiday party, December 14, 2005, needs to be planned and staffed.
- Our Webmaster/Historian asks that information you want posted on our website be sent to his e-mail address: nmclain@annsgarden.com. He has thoughtfully provided on the COT website detailed Guidelines for Submitting Information for the Events Calendar. You can use a direct link to these instructions if you type in your URL address line : <http://tinyurl.com/a7vwy>. The long way to reach these instructions is to type in the COT website address: <http://grovesite.com/tamu/tmn>, then click on Forms, scroll to the bottom of the list of forms and you'll see **Guidelines for Submitting Information for the Events Calendar**. Follow those instructions and e-mail your information to nmclain@annsgarden.com.
- Mary Helen Israel, our Newsletter Editor, needs more information for the newsletter. Her new e-mail address is mh-israel@sbcglobal.net.
- Signed "hold-harmless" forms for COT intern classes held in 2001, 2002, and 2004 are up-to-date. Forms received for the 2003 class are still not complete. Sandra Smith at the TCE office is the contact for those whose signed forms are not on file. Please get in touch with Sandra if you received your training in 2003 and are not sure your signed form is in the file: sandrasb@brazoria-county.com Tel: 979-864-1564.

- The next General Membership Meeting (a brief one) is to be held jointly with the current training class on November 9, at 9:00 a.m. TCE, Angleton. AT hours can be earned if you stay for the morning program and/or take in the field trip to the "Big Tree" in the San Bernard NWR that afternoon.
- Next Board of Directors meeting is December 7, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., TCE, Angleton.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan L. Kater

Secretary
Texas Master Naturalist
Cradle of Texas Chapter

Advanced Training Opportunity

A field trip to the “Big Tree” at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge is the next opportunity for advanced training. This is a joint field trip with members of the Fall 2005 Training Class. It will be Wednesday afternoon, November 9, beginning at 2:00 p.m., shortly after the completion of David Rosen’s presentation to the intern class of 2005. Meet at the Field Office Visitor’s Entrance at the Refuge Headquarters.

Bring binoculars and mosquito repellent. If you have any questions, please contact John Boettiger, phone: 979-297-5427 or e-mail:

john.boettiger@ramondjames.com.

The “Big Tree” is believed to be the largest Live Oak in Texas, and we have it on our back doorstep. Don’t miss this great opportunity.

Upcoming Advanced Training Opportunities

November 9 – Regular 2005 Training Class on Forest Ecology presented by David Rosen, USF&WS, at the Angleton Extension Office (also includes field trip mentioned previously).

November 16 – Fall 2005 Graduation: “The Search for the Connecticut Warbler,” presented by Gary & Kathy Adams Clark. Gary Clark writes the column “Wonders of Nature” for the *Houston Chronicle*.

Future Programs:

January 2006 – date to be announced

Program: Sammy Ray will speak on “Oysters”

February 8 – David Abrego, SCT, will speak on “Speckled Sea Trout”

CRADLE OF TEXAS OFFICERS

President	Carl Dodson
Vice President/Program	John Boettiger
Secretary	Jan Kater
Treasurer	Al Brushwood
State Representative	Barbara Burkhardt
Past President	Carolyn May-Monie
Training	Marty Cornell
Vol. Service Projects	John Thayer
Membership	Tom Morris
Outreach	Jerry Eppner
Class Host	Durwood/Becky McKinney
Historian	Neal McLain
Newsletter	Mary Helen Israel
Sponsors:	Connie Stolte (TP&W) and Rich Tillman (Extension)