

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – July 2010 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

President's Message

Welcome to July. I hope you've all had sufficient heat and water for your landscaping and gardens. I know some of you have had too much.

Coastal Expo the Saturday before the 4th was a successful outreach event. It appears we will be getting several new members from the effort, and the sponsors would really like to see us back again next year.

Ruby's summer library program is in full swing. She and her volunteers have completed all of the reptile programs and are beginning this year's "Wild in the City" programs. An amazing 934 children and 441 adults attended the June sessions. Volunteers are still needed for July. Please help if you can. Setup and take-down is easy, and the sessions are not long. A sign-up sheet with the dates will be passed around at our meeting.

We have a great general meeting lined up for this month. I hope to see everyone there.

Dave

Report from Membership Chairman, Jerry Eppner

As we pass the halfway mark for the year, 37 chapter members have submitted time sheets so far this year. Of those, 28 have certified and/or recertified for the year. A total of 4750 volunteer time hours have been reported. We need all chapter members to submit their time for their activities.

Recognition at the next meeting for recertifying in 2010 will include Marty Cornell, Tom Morris, Phil Huxford, and Pam West.

**Reminder from Chapter Hosts,
Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent**

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

**July Meeting
Wednesday, July 14, 2010
Intern Training, and Advanced Training**

- 8:30 a.m.** - Coffee and Social Time
- 9:00 a.m.** - Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m.** - Kathy Adams Clark and Gary Clark will present
"Butterflies of the Upper Texas Coast and How
To attract them"

**Training Report,
Laura Brandes**

WANTED: A Certified TMN Member who knows and enjoys the "Dunes, Estuaries and Wetlands". The Intern Training program has had two potential Instructors drop out because their schedules conflict. The scheduled date is August 12th and will include both Class and Field at the location of your choice. (This date can be changed for your convenience.) Each part should be two hours in length to meet the training criteria. Hand-outs should be available and seining is the *piece de resistance* both in the Gulf and the Wetlands. The Training Director will be available to assist with research and development/duplication of hand-outs. At least two people should lead this class which keeps everyone occupied on land or in the sea. If you can volunteer or have questions, please contact Laura at 979-265-3813.

INTERN ENROLLMENT STATUS: As of to-date, we have 6 Interns that started in 2009, mostly the 4th Quarter, of which one is within ONE hour of becoming a TMN. The remaining 5 are more than half way through their training.

Since June we have had nearly 20 people sign up as interested in the training. Seventeen have responded in one form or another. They all have been snail mailed the Intern Training Packet, sent the July intern activities reminder and have been notified of the scheduled "Orientation" sessions which will be held on July 17th, Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. at my house, 225 Zinnia (Pecan Lake Subdivision) in Lake Jackson. Interns should bring their Training Packets and \$80 fee check (to "TMN-COT"). Attendees will be given the State Curriculum and numerous support materials. (These classes will not be offered until October, 2010.)

An early reminder..."Oceans and Jetties" will be taught by Connie Stolte on August 16th at Sea Center Texas beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is not only for the Interns as anyone interested in volunteering at the facility can participate in this session as part of your SCT Docent training. Connie really needs volunteers as the busy, busy school year is just around the corner.

A **Special "Thank You" to everyone** who has helped with the Intern Training and who have sent me cards, emails and phoned to see how I am doing post-surgery. They have buoyed my spirits as I go through this lengthy, and boring, recuperation period. A special pat on the shoulders to David and Justina for helping with the classes and to the Instructors for understanding my inability to attend each and every session. I have heard nothing but praise for both "Plants" and "Forests". Thank you Barbara and Kirby. I've just proved to myself that a ride and Board meeting totaling three hours is not a "good thing" for me to do. If I don't make my usual TMN activities, know that I'm there in spirit, at home, working on the State Convention presentation. Thank you all, again.
Laura

What's New with the Chapter Website

By Neal McLain

The Cradle of Texas Chapter's website has a new address: <http://tmn-cot.org>. This change came about because of a decision by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service State Office at Texas A&M University. The State Office is moving all AgriLife websites to a new hosting service called WordPress. Since this change will force us to get a new address, our Board decided that we might as well get one that we like. I suggested several possibilities, and the Board chose tmn-cot.org.

There are some new items on the website:

- Photos of our recent trip to Matagorda Island, written by Ed Hunter, a member of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. This page also includes a species list compiled by Tom Morris.
http://refugefriends.org/TMN/Mat_Island/index.html
- Photos of the USFWS Southwest Region II Friends Conference held in May at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center. This conference included visits to Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and Sea Turtle, Inc.
http://www.refugefriends.org/archive/Region_2_Conference/
- PowerPoint presentation about Copperhead Snakes, presented by Phil Huxford at the COT General Meeting on June 9, 2010.
http://refugefriends.org/TMN/Downloads/Copperhead_Survey.pdf
- PowerPoint presentation about Partnerships, presented by Phil Huxford at the COT General Meeting on June 9, 2010.
<http://refugefriends.org/TMN/Downloads/Partnerships.pdf>

TURTLE RESCUE

By Neal McLain

I happened to be at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge a couple weeks ago when an injured juvenile Hawksbill Turtle arrived. It (sex unknown) was on its way to the NOAA Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory for rehab. Christin McLemore, USFWS Sea Turtle Patrol Coordinator for the 2010 nesting season, was preparing it for the trip.

The turtle had been caught in some plastic netting when rescued. Christin, Curtis Jones, and Refuge Manage Shane Kasson examined it carefully. It appeared to be in reasonable health, with all four flippers intact. It seemed quite active.



Sea Turtle Patrol Coordinator Christin McLemore



Curtis Jones helps Christin prepare for the trip to Galveston



For information about the NOAA Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory
<http://galveston.ssp.nmfs.gov/>

COASTAL EXPO PHOTO ALBUM Freeport RiverPlace

Coastal Expo is an annual exhibition sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in conjunction with Freeport Fishin' Fiesta. At this year's event, Cradle of Texas Volunteers exhibited four reptile species.



Justina with King Snake



Dave with kids and turtles



Mary Helen with alligator, Ruby with Hognose snake



Ruby with Hognose Snake



Mary Helen with Allie the Alligator



Attachments

There are two attachments included with the newsletter:

July10-Attach-1_June_General.pdf
TMN COT June 9, 2010 General Meeting Minutes

July10-Attach-2_Cultural-History.pdf
CULTURAL HISTORY - Land Subdivisions in Texas

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 | John Battle |
| Outreach Chair | Ruby Lewis and Justina Dent |
| Chapter Host | Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent |
| Webmaster | Neal McLain |
| Newsletter Editor | Mary Helen Israel |
| Sponsor | Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) |

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

