

## Attachment: Class 2014 Intern Bios

By Roy Morgan, Training Director



### **DENICE APGAR** – West Columbia

Denice is currently in the automotive finance and insurance trade. She actually began her experience with the Galveston Chapter of TMN and has subsequently moved to West Columbia. She wants to continue her efforts as a Master Naturalist to preserve our natural resources and meet others with similar interests. She is a hands-on person familiar with power tools and construction knowledge. She is experienced with bird counts and banding. She is also skilled in the identifying of birds of prey.



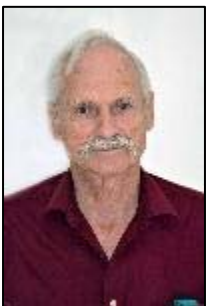
### **HOPE MICHELLE CEPAK** – Brazoria

Hope is a medical office assistant, CNA, and fitness trainer. She has also been active with Girl Scout troops for the past five years (Troop 2301). Hope obviously enjoys working with kids and working outside. She has experience is helping the scouts in their money raising efforts. Now she wants to expand her knowledge of the world we live in and share it with others.



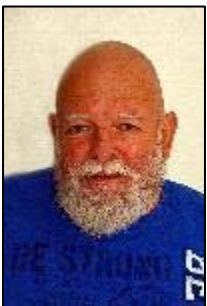
### **JANET JACKSON ELLIS** – Richwood

Janet is a retired Speech and Language Pathologist. She has been active with the Richwood Beautification Committee, Sea Center Texas and Daughters of the American Revolution. She also has a Master's degree in counseling. She is very interested in conservation of nature, recycling and learning more about nature to pass it along.



### **WALTER GARRY ELLIS** – Richwood

Garry is a retired shift foreman at Dow Chemical. He, like Janet, volunteers at Sea Center Texas, has worked on beautification committees and Helping Hands Hospice. Garry is also a member of American Legion Post 241. He is also very interested in nature and our natural resources, interested in soil and water conservation, and he is now ready for some nature studies.



### **LOUIS GOLISH** - Surfside

Retired chemist (MS Chemistry, BA Biology). Louis wants to improve his personal knowledge of the eco-system around him so he can protect that environment and can train others to do the same. His interests are outdoor activities, working with kids, wetlands projects and restoration projects.



**CINDY GOODRUM** - Angleton

Cindy is a veterinarian Technician and homemaker. She has always been very interested in nature, such as plants, birds and reptiles, and has always wanted to be able to identify them correctly. She expresses a great desire to learn things in this area and also about many more things in nature. Cindy is very interested in working with kids on nature outings, nature trails and birding. She brings special skills in photography and working with a wide variety of animals, including exotic animals, as a veterinary technician. She became acquainted with Texas Master Naturalists through her Texas Master Gardener friends.



**JOYCELYNN GRIGSON** - Angleton

Joycelynn is a retired 40-year teacher from Brazosport College where she taught Health & Physical education. She loves nature and loves to learn and study. She is interested in all of the areas that we focus on in the intern training. She also has experience in archeology, hiking and canoeing.

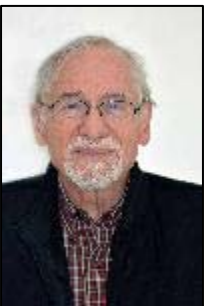


**MICHELLE HAGUE** – Michelle was initially signed up to be an intern in the 2013 class, but had to take a “sabbatical” from the training because she became heavily involved with the GCWR organizations where she was a ‘rehabber’ of injured and orphaned squirrels. She is now ready to have another go at becoming a TMN. Michelle is retired from the military and she loves nature. She loves outdoor activities and has spent thirteen years working with large and small vets.



**CHRISTINA HARTMAN** – Pearland

A Senior Naturalist – Harris County Precinct 1 – Challenger 7 Learning Center. Christina loves learning, especially about environmental science, and enjoys sharing her love of the outdoors and wildlife with kids and the public. She has affiliations with the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. She has interest and/or experience in birding, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, fish and marine life, plants, boating and canoeing, hiking, prairies, wetlands and insects. She is willing to work on projects both indoors and outdoors. She has experience working with kids and the public; computer skills; animal handling; husbandry; identification; and enjoys crafts.



**LARRY KIRBY** – Lake Jackson

Larry is a retired chemist and currently an Adjunct Professor at Brazosport College. Larry is very interested in nature. He is a “birder” and continuously has questions about things in nature. He is affiliated with GCBO and as an experienced instructor loves working with kids. He is looking forward to more nature studies in the great outdoors (and also indoors).



**BREANA KITCHEN** – Richwood

Breana is still a student, a baby sitter and a volunteer at Sea Center Texas. She is also a former Venture Scout. Breana is looking forward to becoming a Master Naturalist to gain more opportunities to work with things she loves – animals and nature. She also wants to work more on educating the public on the environment around us. She is an experienced outdoors person in canoeing, kayaking, camping and boating plus she is knowledgeable in handling many kinds of animals.



**DAWN LOGAN** - Clute

Dawn is a retired College Physical Education (Kinesiology) professor, Le Tourneau University. She is interested in and involved in educating the public regarding conservation of our natural resources and particularly in various educational programs serving Brazoria County. Dawn enjoys nature trails, nature walks, and adult outdoor outings.



**MEL MCKEY** – Lake Jackson

Mel has a varied list of experiences as a formal superintendent with the Velasco Drainage District, a construction superintendent, a teacher, a marine research biologist and maintenance superintendent.

Mel is interested in all aspects listed in our TMN handout. He wishes to widen his interests and then share them with others. He is involved with the Brazosport Planetarium, formerly a member of the Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County. He has years of work in water related industries and is ready to share.



**JOHN MINKERT** – Angleton

John started as a member of the Intern Class of 2010. He is a retired teacher and has had a life-long interest in the natural world. He particularly is interested in working outside in a variety of projects, especially educating others about environmentally helpful behaviors.



**GRETCHEN M. MINOR** - Alvin

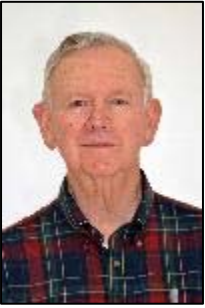
Gretchen is a resort manager for the time being but she majored in Forestry & Wildlife management. She also worked for the Marine Corps. As a biologist. She says the TMN program offers something that she has always enjoyed: a mix between the outdoors and people. She is affiliated with the National Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters. She is very people oriented and loves outside projects. She enjoys working with children and had previously taught a children's nature course. She is interested in nature trails and nature studies especially in research.



**SHEREE MUZNY** – Lake Jackson

Sherree is a retired 25-year elementary teacher, with science as her special interest. She has always had a great awareness of and love for all of nature. She loves being outdoors and discovering God's creation. She wants to be more knowledgeable in identifications and to help more in conservation efforts. She has already been volunteering all this fall at the DEEP sessions.

Sherree really enjoys working outside with kids on nature outings, nature studies, trails, hiking, canoeing, and also inside lab work.



**DAVID PLUNKETT** – Lake Jackson

David is a retired Environmental Regulations Specialist (Solid / Hazardous Wastes). He has been involved with many nature educational activities but is still very interested in learning more about new and different things. He has been a member of *Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges* for many years and has served on its Board of Directors. One of his big areas of service has been chairman of the annual *Migration Celebration* event in April. He also serves as Vice President of Brazosport Birders, an affiliate organization of the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences.



**KIM RICHARDSON**- Lake Jackson

Kim is a still-practicing attorney. She is very interested in volunteering at the county wildlife refuges. Kim is already involved in nature in that she is a Brazoria County Master Gardener.

She looks forward to satisfying her interests in projects involving nature trails, telephone work, and various nature studies. Other skills she has to offer are computer skills and communications and legal skills. Her Master Gardener experiences acquainted her and interested her in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist.



**LINDA SLUIS** – Richwood

Linda is a retired school administrator and financial advisor. Linda has a desire to expand her own knowledge of our natural resources, ecology and to help provide outreach opportunities for these to the community. She is very interested in nature studies, both outside and inside.



**KENNETH R. SLUIS** – Richwood

United States Marine Corps Officer - Retired; Senior Naval Science Instructor, Retired from Spring Branch ISD. Kenneth loves God's creations and creatures; would like to help protect the environment and preserve the natural environment. He likes both outside and inside activities. He also has special interest in fish stocking and wildlife relocation.



**SHERYL (SHERRI) WILSON** – Surfside Beach

Sheryl is also another wonderful retired person. She was a former owner of a small custom embroidery business. She says that she is ready to give back to her community. She isn't affiliated with any other nature related organizations at this time, so we will have her all to ourselves for the moment. She is ready for some outside projects, nature outings and studies, plus nature trails. She has lots of general boating and fishing knowledge. She has spent time caring for kitty cats (especially a diabetic cat).



**LORNA WITT** - Lake Jackson

Lorna is Retired Medical Staff Coordinator, Idaho Medical Center; Brazoria County Clerk of the Court, JP Courts software support and forms.

Lorna started nature involvement with Girl Scouts ages 7-18. She became a Troop Leader as an adult and then took troops camping as leader for leaders who needed help with outdoor programs. She has gone to birding programs, family camps, attended programs at state and National Parks as she travelled. She likes outdoors and all birds, animals etc.

She likes working with kids, library programs, nature studies, telephone when needed, and nature trails maintenance.



*From left:* Sherri Wilson, Garry Ellis, Janet Jackson-Ellis, Christina Hartman, Lorna Witt, Kim Richardson, Joycelynn Grigson, Michelle Hague, Dawn Logan, Gretchen Minor, Linda Sluis, Ken Sluis, Breana Kitchen, David Plunkett, Cindy Goodrum, John Minkert, Larry Kirby, Mel McKey, Lou Golish. *Not shown:* Denice Apgar, Hope Cepak, Sheree Muzny.

Photo: Richard Schaffhausen