



Chapter News

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The Texas Master Naturalist program is coordinated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

COT lost a valued member recently

Carl Dodson, president of our chapter in 2005 and again in 2010, passed away in early January. Carl retired from Dow Chemical after 31 years of employment. After retirement, Carl volunteered at Sea Center Texas for 14 years, and was a proud member of the Master Naturalist program. He was instrumental in establishing our INEOS Environmental Educational Program.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MIKE



February: the edge of the Gulf Coast spring is upon us. We see the return of goldfinches, eastern bluebirds and the chapter dues. INEOS and DEEP are in full

swing. Yard work is beckoning us outside. A new intern class has just begun. So many demands and so little time.

This month's meeting will be a dual intern training and AT session by Ann McLain. Her presentation will start at 9:30 so we will have a short business session. John Marshall and JoAnna Harlan will be set up at 8:30 in the conference room behind the auditorium to collect dues and hand out shirts both before and after the meeting and training.

The business meeting will include Jerry Eppner with his monthly report about hours and pins. Jerry Krampota will be looking for volunteers to provide snacks for the rest of the year's general meetings. Maybe some signup sheets for volunteers and maybe some quick additional business.

Something I would like for you to consider in your "free" time is our chapter's use of the electronic media to aid and promote us in our mission. Exposure is the key to growing our chapter.

I will be seeking a member(s) who enjoys "Facebooking". We currently have a Facebook page but its use is very seldom. We need someone who can and will monitor our page, keep it up-to-date with information about upcoming events, and report on past events and their benefit.

We also need someone who will take on the task of publicity for our chapter to the local media outlets. This person should be able to find out what's available, deadlines, format, etc. It will not be an easy task to start with but once established it should be "fill in the blank" duty.

I do not know every chapter member personally so I am asking for your help in telling me about your strengths and interests. We have an amazing and diverse group of people, loaded with multiple talents. Help me to put them to use. Drop me a note, call me or grab me at a function/meeting and let me know what's on your mind or how you can help.

—Mike

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Upcoming events

This page does not include:

- BCLS Library Program schedule. See calendar <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar/>
- DEEP School Program schedule. See calendar <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar/>
- INEOS School Program Schedule. See http://tmn-cot.org/INEOS/2012-13_Schedule.pdf

Wednesday, February 6, 8:30 AM
Intern Training Class
 Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton
http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/Intern_Class_2_Agenda_F.pdf

Saturday, February 9, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
Birds & Bottomland Blitz
 Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Lake Jackson
Conditionally approved for Advanced Training.
See Attachment 1 for the full schedule

Wednesday, February 13, 8:30 AM
General Meeting, Advanced Training, and Intern Training
 Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton
Approved for 1.00 Hour Volunteer Time
Approved for Advanced and Intern Training
See Page 3 for details

Wednesday, February 20, 8:30 AM
Intern Training Class
 Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson
 Topic: Ichthyology
 Speaker: Roy Morgan
http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/Intern_Training_Schedule_2013.pdf

Thursday, February 21, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Training
 Brazos Bend State Park
See Page 5 or Details

Saturday, February 23, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
GCWR Wildlife Rescue Basics
 Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences
Conditionally approved for Advanced Training
See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar/>

Wednesday, February 27, 8:30 AM
Intern Training Class
 Brazosport Museum of Natural Science
 Topic: Archaeology
 Speaker: Johnney Pollan, Brazosport Archaeological Society
http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/Intern_Training_Schedule_2013.pdf

Wednesday, March 6, 8:30 AM
Intern Training Class
 Sea Center Texas
 Subject: Oceans Habitat
 Speaker: Connie Stolte, Sea Center Texas
http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/Intern_Training_Schedule_2013.pdf

Wednesday, March 6, 10:00 AM
TMN-COT Board Meeting
 Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton
See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar/>

Birds and Bottomland Blitz

February 9, 9:00 AM

by Dave Brandes

Spring migration will begin soon and there is no better time to learn a little more about our avian friends.



Tony Leukering

Come join us at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory for a session presented by our expert GCBO staff. Learn why and how birds have adapted to different levels in our forests and wetlands. Some have found their niches way up in the canopy while others occupy the mid-story, the lower branches, the ground, the wetlands or the water. All of these birds have developed adaptations to be the most successful exploiting a food source in their niche.

As always, be sure to bring something to drink and binoculars. And, it never hurts to have mosquito spray available.

Map to GCBO: <http://goo.gl/maps/65mUU>

All Birds and Bottomland Blitz events:

- Count as Advanced Training provided that you haven't had the same subject in the past two years.
- Count as Volunteer Time if you assist with the planning and execution of the event.

FEBRUARY 2013 <small>www.freebookmarks calendars.com</small>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Texas Master Naturalist Program Cradle of Texas Chapter General Meeting, Advanced Training, and Intern Training Wednesday, February 13, 2013

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Barbara Burkhardt, Jerry Krampota, Mary Helen Israel, Neal McLain	<b style="color: red;">PAY 2013 DUES PICK UP TMN SHIRTS BEFORE 9:30 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If you haven't paid your 2012 dues, see John Marshal to pay. ■ If you ordered TMN shirts, see JoAnna Harlan for pick up.
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	General Meeting This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.	
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Program <i>Zoology</i> Speaker Ann McLain , Zoologist, Gardener, Writer, and Animal Watcher Location AgriLife Auditorium, Angleton. Map: http://goo.gl/maps/Fi5Ua	
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch Travel to Brazosport College. Lunch on your own. For route map, see Attachment 2 or http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/Route-Map.pdf	
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Lab Leaders <i>Zoology</i> Ann McLain Mickey Dufilho , Assistant Professor of Biology, Brazosport College Location Byron and Sandra Sadler Health Professions/Science Complex, Brazosport College. Map: http://goo.gl/maps/MsOJU	

This is a combined class for current members and interns. Training (class and lab) at this meeting is approved for Advanced Training for current members. The number of approved hours will be announced at the meeting and will be available after the meeting at <http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>

Ann McLain is a retired zoologist. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a member of the TMN-COT Class of 2004.

Ann has been an animal watcher all her life, beginning with the cats, dogs, horses, and sheep of her childhood. This continued on through the University of Michigan, adding mice, rats, guppies, and digger wasps to the mix. After watching two daughters for a number of years, Ann continued on, watching waterfowl, land snails, ghost crabs, and rainbow smelt, right through the University of Wisconsin.

After some years as research assistant, lecturer, academic advisor, and secretary of several wet science graduate programs, Ann retired. Since coming to Texas, she has been watching dogs, grandsons, anoles, geckos, birds, and feral hogs, while avoiding watching snakes.



Mickey Dufilho is Assistant Professor of Biology at Brazosport College. She holds a B.A. in Biology from the University of Missouri and a M.S. in Biology from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is a member of the TMN-COT Class of 2004 and is a Certified Texas Master Naturalist.

Mickey returned to Brazosport College in 2005 after retiring from a long career in the Petrochemical industry. She taught part time in the Math and Life Sciences Department from 1981 to 1990. She is married with three grown children and two grandchildren.

Mickey has offered our chapter the use of her Brazosport College classroom for the afternoon lab session.



2013 Intern Training Class Kickoff!

By Ed Johnson, Training Chair

Another enthusiastic group of individuals came into this first class Wednesday, January 30, 2013, with a commitment to become member volunteers of our Cradle of Texas chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. We can't help but have high expectations for the volunteer capabilities and friendship of these highly experienced and talented folks.



I especially appreciate that this year's President, Mike Mullins, and our other Board of Director members were present to help greet Interns upon their arrival and to spend the morning and lunch time meeting, visiting with and getting to know the Interns. Speaking of lunch, we all shared a wonderful taco soup lunch and desserts prepared by immediate Past President Barbara Burkhardt.

Interns received orientations and introductions to many of the basic tools and opportunities that they will utilize in their volunteer and membership activities. An important and large section of the day's training consisted of presentations by the Cradle of Texas chapter's Partner Organizations.

These Partner representatives, with whom our current members are already intimately familiar, were very generous in contributing their time to educate the Interns about their agencies and the many volunteer opportunities they covet and need from Texas Master Naturalists.

We had a very successful kickoff training day, and it was entirely possible because of the preparation and presentations of many of our busiest and most dedicated TMN members. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to continuing the Intern training next Wednesday with the second orientation class and then on to the specific subject classes! All you current members will get to meet the Interns at our February 13 general member meeting and Zoology Advanced Training.

Thanks to Dave Brandes for shooting the accompanying photos of the intern class members. I hope you enjoy them and use them to help you get to know the Interns even faster. Intern graduation day May 8 will be here before we know it!

Many, many thanks to all of you who help so much with your kind support and time.



Roger Allen

DeeEtta Eddins

Michelle Hague

Randy Holcomb

Chris Kneupper

Patsy Lepper

Becky McClendon

Richard Schaffhausen

Patrick Wilson

The Class of 2013 Photos by Dave Brandes

Go WILD Aquatic Training Offered

By Peggy Romfh, Vice President, Programs

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department sponsors a suite of Project WILD Programs, each offering an outstanding hands-on approach to learning. One of the four, The *Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum*, will be offered Feb. 21st from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Brazos Bend State Park. The park is located at 21901 FM762, Needville, TX.

Class members will include primarily Texas Master Naturalists and Brazos Bend State Park Volunteers. The fee is \$25 for materials. Preregistration required. No refunds are given after the registration deadline. Deadline: February 11, 2013.

To register on line, go to <http://conta.cc/VrorSu> or to <http://bit.ly/vljoo1> and follow the on-line instructions.

For information contact Barbara Keller-Willy at BarbaraAnKeller@aol.com at 281-265-4500 or cell 281-520-7335.



The Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum and the Activity Guide emphasize aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecosystems. A guide provided with the training is full of 48

activities that emphasize hands-on, inquiry-based, and cooperative learning strategies.

The project WILD Program includes four workshops. *Project WILD Overview* provides a focus on environmental and conservation education. The *Flying Wild* activity introduces students to bird conservation. *Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife* introduces high school students to local environmental action projects aimed at benefiting wildlife. The *Project WILD Aquatic* activity emphasizes aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecosystems.

Classroom activities associated with Project Wild have been approved for advanced training by TMN-COT. Please code your timesheet "TWPD" (even though these classes take place at Brazos Bend State Park, they are run by TPWD, not BBSP).

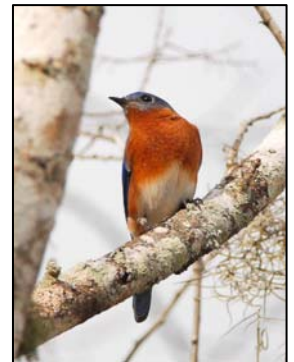
Photo Gallery Monthly Highlights

By Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery Editor

Several new species have been added to the TMN-COT/Friends Photo Gallery website in the last couple of months. There are over 700 photos currently on the site, and new photos are always welcome.

Winter is a great time to see duck species such as ring-necked ducks and passerines such as eastern bluebirds or vermilion flycatchers (seen recently at Brazos Bend State Park). The honking calls of sandhill cranes were heard as the cranes flew in at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge FM 2004/CR-227 site. Snowy plovers were seen huddling on the sand at Bryan Beach.

A few of the new photos is show below. To see all the photos that have been posted to date, go to the new TMN-COT web site <http://tmn-cot.org/> and click on Photo Gallery.



Eastern Bluebird
Photo by Pete Romfh



Ring-necked Duck Photo by Pete Romfh



Sandhill Cranes Photo by Pete Romfh

San Bernard River: Blocked again

By Neal McLain

The San Bernard River arises at a spring near New Ulm, Texas and flows to its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico, some 120 miles to the southeast of the source. Along its course, it passes through portions of Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda and Wharton counties. It passes alongside the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, flows across a salinity-barrier dam at ConocoPhillips' pumping station near Old Ocean, and continues on southeast to San Bernard NWR where it reaches the Gulf of Mexico. It drains approximately 1,850 square miles of land, and its basin area is home to approximately 87,000 people according to the 1990 census.

According to Wikipedia, the San Bernard is "one of a small number of rivers in Texas which empties directly into the Gulf."

Except that it doesn't. When the Corps of Engineers diverted the nearby Brazos River in 1929, silt from its new mouth



Fig. 1. Mouth of the San Bernard River, 2010.

Image © 2012 OpenStreetMap contributors under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL). Cartography licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 license (CC-BY-SA). <http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>



Fig. 2. Mouth of the San Bernard River, July 2010, looking southeast toward the Gulf of Mexico. Note the silt deposition on the northeast side of the river — a broad sandy beach, completely covering the channel dredged the previous year. Composite photo P1100648.JPG by Neal McLain. Public domain.

progressively choked the mouth of the less powerful San Bernard River, four miles away. By 2006, the San Bernard no longer reached the Gulf, and the resulting blockage had diverted the water flow into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway eastward, exiting through the Brazos River Flood Gates. The increased velocity there has created problems for commercial navigation.

In January, 2009, the Galveston District of the Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$2 million contract to begin dredging the mouth of the San Bernard River. The contract called for dredging almost 339,000 cubic yards of material using a shallow draft pipeline dredge. The work was completed before the end of the year.

Almost immediately, the mouth began silting up again. By July 2010, the mouth had already shifted southwest, leaving a broad sandy beach where the dredged channel had been (Figs. 1 and 2.). By mid-2012, the mouth was completely blocked, and the entire discharge of the river again flowed northeast through the Intracoastal Waterway to the Brazos (Fig. 3.).

So what next? Friends of the River San Bernard, a local non-profit volunteer organization, has mounted an effort to convince the Corps of Engineers to dredge another channel. For its part, the Corps has announced proposed changes in the swing schedule at locks on the Intracoastal Waterway near the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. But it has been silent on the question of dredging another channel.

Is the Corps now going to have to spend \$1 million of taxpayer money every year to keep the mouth open?



Fig. 3. Mouth of the San Bernard River, January 2013. Photo courtesy of Albert Smith. Reprinted by permission.

Sources:

- Friends of the River San Bernard
<http://www.sanbernardriver.com/>
- Texas Highways 02/2013
<http://bit.ly/14sJVUS>
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<http://1.usa.gov/12beFv1>
- Wikipedia: San Bernard River
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Bernard_River

In Memoriam: Carl Elton Dodson Jr.

Carl Dodson Jr., 71, resident of Lake Jackson, Texas, peacefully passed away on January 8, 2013, at his home surrounded by family. Carl served on the Lake Jackson City Council, was chairman of the Lake Jackson Parks Board, a founding member of the Brazoria County Boys Club, and a long-time member of the Lake Jackson Jaycees.

Carl was an active member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. He served as Chapter President during 2005 and for a few months during 2010. During his tenure as president, he was instrumental in established the Environmental Education Program at BP Amoco, predecessor to the company known today as INEOS Olefins & Polymers USA. Carl was also a very active volunteer at Sea Center Texas.



With Laura Brandes, AgriLIFE Auditorium, December 2008



Carl with Barbara Burkhardt, John Boettiger, and Mickey Dufilho. Hog Wild Holiday Feast, December 2004.



Leading a BP Amoco Environmental Education class. Chocolate Bayou Wildlife Conservation Center, 2005.

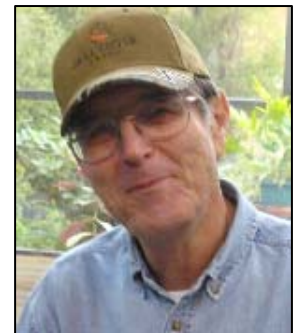
Photo courtesy of BP Amoco.



Carl (red shirt) with Laura Brandes, Dave Brandes, Dianne Richmond, and Ruby Lewis. Houston Yacht Club, after a trip aboard the R.V. Karma, May 2008.



With Candace Novak, AgriLIFE Auditorium, December 2004.



At Hog Wild Holiday Feast, 2008.

More photos:

- BP Amoco/Innovene/INEOS EE program
<http://cbwcc.blogspot.com/>
- Aboard the R.V. Karma
<http://aboardthekarma.blogspot.com/>

Attachments

This issue of *Chapter News* contains two attachments:

Attachment 1 - Birds and Bottomlands Blitz Schedule 2012-13
<http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2012/09/BBB.pdf>

Attachment 2 - Route map from AgriLIFE to Brazosport College
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/Route-Map.pdf>

The January general meeting was canceled due to weather, so no minutes were recorded.

This month's Advanced Training includes an afternoon lab session at Sadler Health Professions Science Complex at Brazosport College. If you've never been there, see Attachment 2 (link above) for a route map. All training, including the afternoon lab session, is approved for Advanced Training hours. The number of approved hours will be announced at the meeting, and will be available after the meeting at <http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS	
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