



# Chapter News

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Chapter News is published by Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter.

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<http://tmn-cot.org>

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.

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MIKE



Fellow Members:  
This will be a really special meeting. We will start off with the Chapter business which will include acknowledgement of our chapter members who won or placed at

the Migration Celebration photo contest. The Chapter meeting will also include the next wildly popular and critically acclaimed Peggy's Place. At this meeting she will have a guest host, our own Leo Novak, who will present a quiz on trees. From what I understand, this is so popular and so many members want to contribute that members must take a number and something about a lottery to see who will be her next host.

After the Chapter business is concluded the Class of 2013 will give their presentations followed by their graduation ceremony.

Following the Class of 2013 graduation we will proudly induct our first Members Emeriti. The chapter celebrates these two gentlemen who have freely given of their time and talents to make the Cradle of Texas chapter a place of learning and sharing of this knowledge.

We will then have a luncheon for all members, new members and families and Members Emeriti and families.

Please plan on attending this meeting and welcome our new members and inductees. As always, check the calendar on the website for the latest on volunteer and advanced training opportunities. Have a safe and happy May.

—Mike

Mike Mullins [mcmprm@embarqmail.com](mailto:mcmprm@embarqmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair

Near the end of April, twenty-four COT members have turned in 2069 hours of VT. Two more chapter members have recertified for 2013: Angelika Fuller and Denis James. Good job guys!!

## TMN-COT SHIRTS AVAILABLE

By Barbara Burkhardt, Past President

We have some extra TMN-COT shirts, size 2XLG in stock. They're available for sale if anyone needs one.

For further information or to purchase one, see me at the May meeting or contact me at 979-297-4386 or [bburkhardt@tmn-cot.org](mailto:bburkhardt@tmn-cot.org)



**Butterfly Encounter.** A young visitor reaches for a butterfly at the Butterfly Encounter tent at Migration Celebration.

## 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](http://tmn-cot.org/INEOS/2012-13_Schedule.pdf)

Wednesday, May 1, 8:30 AM

Intern Training Class

Speaker: David Heinicke, Park Naturalist, BBSP

Topic: Herpetology

Brazos Bend State Park

[http://tmn-cot.org/Intern\\_Training/Agenda\\_05-01-2013.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/Agenda_05-01-2013.pdf)

Wednesday, May 1, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

TMN-COT Board Meeting

Agrilife Building, Angleton

See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>

~~Saturday, May 4, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM~~

~~Sweeny Pride Day (exhibit booth volunteers needed)~~

~~See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>~~

Wednesday, May 8, 8:30 AM

General Meeting, Intern Presentations, and a special program

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton

Program: *Intern Presentations*

*Approved for Volunteer Time*

**See page 3 for details**

Thursday, May 9, 9:00 AM (time subject to change)

Friday, May 10, 9:00 AM (time subject to change)

TPWD Coastal Expo (exhibit booth volunteers needed)

Matagorda Bay Nature Park

**See page 7 for details.**

Saturday May 11, 9:00 AM

Birds & Bottomland Blitz

Wildflowers of the our Coastal Prairies and Bottomlands

Conditionally approved for Advanced Training.

**See sidebar at right**

Saturday May 18, 9:00 AM

Monthly Bird Banding at GCBO

See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>

Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 AM

TMN-COT Board Meeting

Sea Center Texas

See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>

MAY 2013						
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	29	30	31	

## Birds and Bottomland Blitz

May 11, 9:00 AM

by Dave Brandes

## Wildflowers of the our Coastal Prairies and Bottomlands

with Flo Hannah



You really won't want to miss this adventure. Flo Hannah is a Senior Sanctuary Steward with Houston Audubon and is their Urban Sanctuaries Manager. As a relentless advocate for prairie conservation and nature in general, Flo brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this GCBO session. Come explore this natural world of beauty with a presentation and nature walk.














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. Timesheet Code: GCBO.
- Count as Volunteer Time if you assist with the planning and execution of the event. Timesheet Code: GCBO.

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
 Cradle of Texas Chapter  
 General Meeting, Intern Project Reports, Intern Graduation  
 Wednesday, May 8, 2013  
 AgriLife Building, Angleton**

Revised May 4, 2013

<p><b>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Fun and Fellowship</b>                  Refreshment Team: Jim Hillis, Angelika Fuller, John Boettiger, Mary Helen Israel</p>
<p><b>9:00 AM - 9:50 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Business Meeting</b>                  This meeting is approved for 2.00 hours Volunteer Time.                  There will be no Advanced Training at this meeting</p>
<p><b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b></p> <div data-bbox="155 737 350 978">  </div> <div data-bbox="152 980 302 1050"> <p>Dave Brandes Field Projects Coordinator</p> </div> <div data-bbox="94 1745 370 1816"> <p>Photos: Dave Brandes, Neal McLain, Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh</p> </div>	<p><b>Intern 2013 Field Project Reports</b></p> <div data-bbox="513 737 1057 959"> <p align="center"><b>FIELD PROJECT TEAM "A"</b>  <b>NATURE TRAIL</b>                  Advisers: Marty Cornell, Kirby Rapstein</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1081 730 1256 957">  </div> <div data-bbox="1279 730 1455 957">  </div> <div data-bbox="1078 963 1432 991"> <p>Marty Cornell      Kirby Rapstein</p> </div> <div data-bbox="617 1016 784 1236">  </div> <div data-bbox="808 1016 976 1236">  </div> <div data-bbox="1000 1016 1167 1236">  </div> <div data-bbox="1192 1016 1359 1236">  </div> <div data-bbox="613 1243 1377 1270"> <p>Roger Allen      Randy Holcomb      Chris Kneupper      Dick Schaffhausen</p> </div> <div data-bbox="513 1295 1057 1518"> <p align="center"><b>FIELD PROJECT TEAM "B"</b>  <b>BEACH ECOSTEMS</b>                  Advisers: Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1081 1304 1256 1524">  </div> <div data-bbox="1279 1304 1455 1524">  </div> <div data-bbox="1078 1528 1419 1549"> <p>Pete Romfh      Peggy Romfh</p> </div> <div data-bbox="617 1554 784 1774">  </div> <div data-bbox="808 1554 976 1774">  </div> <div data-bbox="1000 1554 1167 1774">  </div> <div data-bbox="1192 1554 1359 1774">  </div> <div data-bbox="613 1780 1284 1806"> <p>Dee Eddins      Patsy Lepper      Becky McClendon      Pat Wilson</p> </div>
<p><b>11:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Intern Graduation Ceremony</b>  <b>Members Emeriti Induction Ceremony</b>  <b>All-chapter lunch provided by the Board of Directors</b></p>



## Photo Gallery Monthly Highlights

By Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery Editor

Several new species have been added to the TMN-COT/Friends Photo Gallery web site this month. There are over 900 photos currently on the site, and new photos are always welcome from TMN members.

We enjoyed watching so many plants blossom and flower along roadsides, meadows, woods, and marsh this month. We also observed some of the thorny species that exist along the coast.

New plant species added to the galleries are listed in the table below.

Non-plant species added included Seaside Lady Beetle, Spotless Lady Beetle, White-throated Sparrow, and American Redstart

Special thanks to Dave Heinicke from TPWD, Thomas Adams from USFWS, and Dave Brandes and Chris Kneupper, TMN members, for help in species identification. Thanks to Ed Johnson and Dave Brandes for sharing photos.

To see all the photos that have been posted to date, go to the new TMN-COT website <http://tmn-cot.org/> and click on Photo Gallery. Send new photo submissions to [peggyromfh@tmn-cot.org](mailto:peggyromfh@tmn-cot.org).

Wormseed Goosefoot	Macartney rose	Green Hawthorn
Roundflower Catclaw	Boxelder	Tropical Sage
Carolina Geranium	Black Willow	Powdery Alligator Flag (Thalia)
Catchweed Bedstraw	Blackgum	Water Locust
Hercules' Club	Coralberry	Texas Honey Locust
Parsley Hawthorne	Mustang Grape	White Clover
Burclover	Pennywort	Eastern Swamp Privet
Southern Iris	Peppervine	Alligatorweed
Scarlet Pimpernel	Poison Ivy	Resurrection Fern
Texas Bluebonnet	Spotted Beebalm	



**Water Locust**

Photo: Ed Johnson



**Roundflower Catclaw**

Photo: Dave Brandes



**Hercules' Club**

Photo: P. Romfh



**White-throated Sparrow**

Photo: P. Romfh



**Carolina Geranium, fruit**

Photo: P. Romfh



**Spotless Lady Beetle**

Photo: P. Romfh



**Boxelder**

Photo: P. Romfh

## Nature Quiz #2 from April 2013 Meeting

By Peggy Romfh, Program Chair



### #1 Clues:

- Not a burglar but definitely a criminal
- Diptera
- Piercing-sucking mouthparts
- Eats bees, dragonflies, grasshoppers, etc.



### #2 Clues:

- Large shrub/ small tree
- Deciduous
- Berries orange
- Aquifoliaceae (Holly) family
- Not Yaupon
- Songbirds eat fruit in winter



### #3 Clues:

- Not the king
- Mullerian mimic
- Caterpillar sequesters salicylic acid from willows and tastes bitter
- Lepidoptera



### #4 Clues:

- Bird makes no nest
- Abrupt dives create booming sound
- Winters in South America
- Not a hawk
- Active at dawn/ dusk – not night



### #5 Clues:

- Asteracea family
- Numerous disk flowers but no ray flowers
- Has spines but no backbone
- Named for its home state

For everyone that was unable to attend the April TMN-COT meeting or for those of you who would like a second chance to review, here is the Nature Quiz from the last meeting.  
Have fun with species ID!!

—Peggy Romfh,  
Program Chair

Answer Key: 1 - Robber Fly (*Promachus rufipes*); 2 – Possumhaw, Possumhaw Holly, Deciduous Holly, Winterberry (*Ilex decidua*); 3 – Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*); 4 - Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*); 5 - Texas Thistle (*Cirsium texanum*)



# Sally Jewell confirmed as Secretary of the Interior

Compiled from information published by the Department of the Interior

**WASHINGTON DC**, April 10, 2013 — The Senate voted today 87 to 11 to confirm the nomination of Sally Jewell as the new Secretary of Interior, replacing Ken Salazar. After being sworn in she will oversee 500,000,000 acres of public land, including the wildland fire management activities of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Jewell, 56, will resign from her job as the chief executive officer of Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), a Company that sells outdoor clothing and equipment.

Born in England as Sally Roffey, Jewell moved to the United States in 1959 when her father, an anesthesiologist, took up a fellowship at the University of Washington. After she graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in mechanical engineering she worked for Mobile Oil in the oil fields of Oklahoma for three years.

After that she became a petroleum engineer for Rainier Bank during a time when banks began to hire engineers to understand the value of collateral under the ground so that they could make intelligent loans. Rainier Bank was acquired by Security Pacific, and Jewell ran their business banking activities.

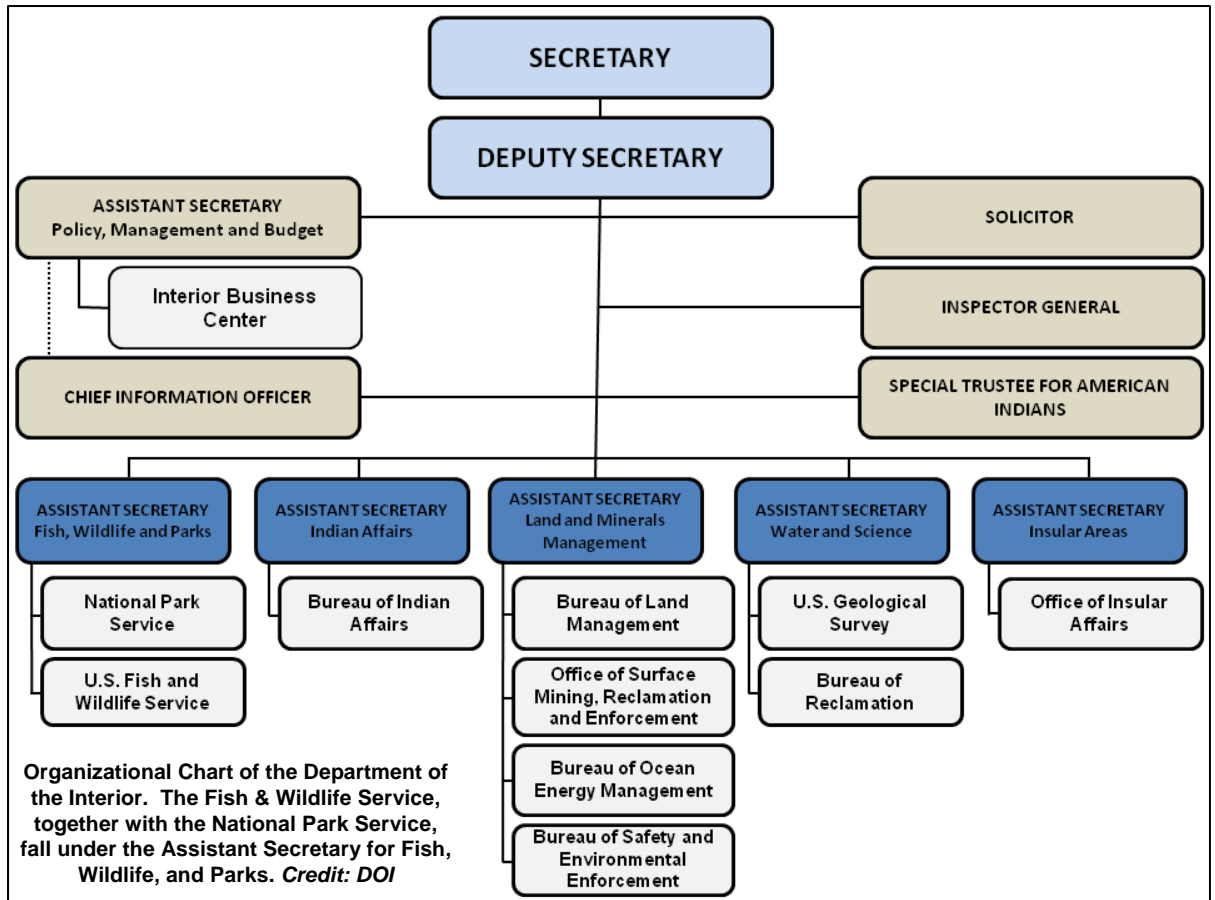


After 20 years in the banking industry she became a board member of REI, and in 2000 was hired as their chief operating officer. In 2010 the company had 118 stores and \$1.7 billion in sales. She represents a break from the past Secretaries of Interior, who have primarily been career politicians from the western United States.

As Secretary of the Interior, Jewell leads an agency with more than 70,000 employees. Interior serves as steward for approximately 20 percent of the nation’s lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands; oversees the responsible development of conventional and renewable energy supplies on public lands and waters; is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western states; and upholds trust responsibilities to the 566 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

Over her career, Jewell has worked to ensure that public lands are accessible and relevant to all people from all backgrounds.

“We have a generation of children growing up without any connection to nature,” said Jewell. “From our urban parks to the vast lands of the BLM, the Department of the Interior is well positioned to build a deep and enduring connection between the great outdoors and a new generation of Americans and visitors.”



## Volunteer Help Needed

### SEA TURTLE PATROL MAY – JULY 2013

*Sea Turtle Patrol is an ongoing project sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project is administered by San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge staff. A temporary employee, Danielle Robisheaux, will administer the program during the 2013 breeding season.*

**Date . . . . . Ongoing during nesting season**  
**Location . Gulf of Mexico Beaches**

Objectives of the Sea Turtle Program:

- Locate Kemps ridley's nest to excavate the eggs and transport them to an incubation facility on the Padre Island National Seashore.
- Locate live turtles stranded and transport them for rehabilitation at the NOAA facility in Galveston.
- Document any dead or stranded turtles.

We accomplish this mission with the help of volunteers. Volunteers may patrol the beach by walking, by bicycle, or by driving a USFWS off-road vehicle. Agency training is required before using any USFWS vehicle.

Even If volunteers can't donate more than a couple hours of time a week, that is still a big help. The more eyes we have on the beach the better.

To volunteer please contact  
Shane Kasson, Manager  
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge  
979-964-3639  
[shane\\_kasson@fws.gov](mailto:shane_kasson@fws.gov)

Participation in this event is approved for volunteer time by TMN-COT. You may claim:

- All time spent on patrol or in patrol training.
- Travel time for one round trip per day

**Please code your timesheet "USFWS."**

### WILDSCAPE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Submitted by Connie Stolte, Sea Center Texas

*Sea Center Texas is looking for Volunteers to help us maintain our gardens in the Wildscape area. The gardens have been subdivided, planted with wildflowers and are currently thriving with color but we need help pulling unwanted plants.*

**Date . . . . . Ongoing**  
**Location . Sea Center Texas**

Contact: Connie Stolte at 979-292-0100,  
[connie.stolte@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:connie.stolte@tpwd.state.tx.us)

This project is approved for volunteer time by TMN-COT. You may claim:

- All time spent on duty at SCT
- Travel time for one round trip per day

**Please code your timesheet "SCT."**

### TPWD COASTAL EXPO MAY 9-10, 2013

Submitted by David Plunkett and Connie Stolte  
*Coastal Expo/Beach Fest is an annual two-day event sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Lower Colorado River Authority for grade-school students primarily from Bay City ISD. This year, TPWD expects 500 students each day. Volunteers are needed to assist with the planning and execution of the event.*

**Date . . . . . May 9 and 10, 9:00am – 3:00pm**  
**Location . .Matagorda Bay Nature Park**  
**GPS . . . . . 28.6028159, -95.976541**  
**Map . . . . . <http://g.co/maps/ufemv>**

Two TMN-COT partner organizations need volunteers for this event:

- **Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges**, on behalf of **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, will host three programs:
  - “Reptiles“
  - “Amphibians“
  - “Trash Talk“ (impact of beach trash on sea life).
 To volunteer, please contact David Plunkett 979-297-3322 or [plunkett@refugefriends.org](mailto:plunkett@refugefriends.org)  
**Timesheet code: "USFWS."**
- **Texas Parks & Wildlife Coastal Expo** (TPWD ) needs help for several other tasks. Volunteers are needed to accept spur-of-the-moment assignments. To volunteer, please contact Kris Shipman at 512-389-8737 or [kris.shipman@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:kris.shipman@tpwd.state.tx.us)  
**Timesheet code: "TPWD"**

This event is approved for volunteer time by TMN-COT for members who assist any of the above organizations. You may claim:

- All time spent at the Nature Park including setup, takedown, breaks, and meals.
- Round-trip travel time to the Nature Park (not to exceed the number of VT hours claimed).

**Please code your timesheet using the timesheet codes indicated above.**

## Attachments

This issue of *Chapter News* contains two attachments:

- Minutes of the April General Meeting  
[http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-05\\_Attach-1\\_Minutes.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-05_Attach-1_Minutes.pdf)
- ~~Migration Celebration 2013~~  
~~[http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-05\\_Attach-2\\_Migration.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-05_Attach-2_Migration.pdf)~~

Reminders about the May General Meeting:

- The morning refreshment team includes Jim Hillis, Angelika Fuller, John Boettiger, Mary Helen Israel
- The entire meeting is approved for 2.00 hour of Volunteer Time.
- There will be no advanced training at this meeting.
- The meeting will conclude with lunch provided by the Board of Directors. Plan to stay for lunch!

<b>CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS</b>	
President	Mike Mullins, Sweeny
Vice President/Program	Peggy Romfh, Houston
Secretary	Marty Cornell, Lake Jackson
Treasurer	John Marshall, Lake Jackson
State Representative	Ed Barrios, Lake Jackson
Past President	Barbara Burkhardt, Lake Jackson
Training Director	Ed Johnson, Angleton
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner, Lake Jackson
Volunteer Service Chair	Neal McLain, Brazoria
Advanced Training Chair	Tom Morris, Lake Jackson
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota, Alvin
Calendar Editor	Andy Smith, Lake Jackson
Webmaster	Neal McLain, Brazoria
Facebook Editor	Angelika Fuller
Chapter Advisers	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
Newsletter Editor-at large	Mary Helen Israel
Newsletter Columnists	Mike Mullins, Peggy Romfh, Jerry Eppner
Newsletter Production Editor	Neal McLain
Website	<a href="http://tmn-cot.org">http://tmn-cot.org</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://facebook.com/TMN.COT">http://facebook.com/TMN.COT</a>
E-mail Listserv	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail</a>
