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

Contact us at
Texas A&M Agrilife
Brazoria County Office
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515-8903

979-864-1558 (Angleton)
979-388-1558 (Brazosport)
281-756-1558 (Alvin)
979-388-1566 (Fax)
<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



Greetings all:

A quick question: Why did you join the Texas Master Naturalists? To teach others? To learn? How about to make a difference?

Several things go on this time of year that give you the chance to make a large impact that is very visible and rewarding. One is the Turtle Patrol out of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. As of today a total of four Kemp's Ridley nests have been found on Matagorda Peninsula and Bryan Beach.

Last year we had two for the entire season. These nests contained a total of 381 eggs. If left to Mother Nature 3-5 turtles per nest may make it to breeding age. With the recovery and hatching of the eggs 97% or roughly 370 eggs will at least make it back into the Gulf of Mexico. Now that is a difference.

The second thing I would like to mention is the Eastern Bluebird. As you know they are cavity nesters and their numbers were in steep decline due to nest predation and displacement by European Starlings and the Common House Sparrow. It was found that the Eastern Bluebird would nest in a specifically built nesting box and their numbers have stabilized and begun to increase.

You can set up a Bluebird box if you have the right conditions. It is very rewarding to watch them as they go about their daily routine and know that you are making a difference.

I have three boxes at our house. Two of the boxes are used by (I'm guessing since they aren't banded) the same pair that alternates nests between boxes. They will have four clutches in a season alternating between boxes each clutch.

This has been their routine for 2 years now. The third box is used by a Carolina Wren.

Finally, if you have the time, Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue is in need of some volunteers to actually raise baby birds. This is an opportunity to take a baby songbird that otherwise would probably not make it and give it a fighting chance to return to the wild. Contact GCWR at 979-849-0184.

All these things are way cool. It impresses children and is easily turned into a learning experience for young and old. Our mission is to learn, share and to leave this place a little better than we found it.

If you want to do the Turtle Patrol contact Danielle Robisheaux at sanbernardseaturtlemail@gmail.com.

If you would like to do some Bluebird boxes let me know and we will see what we can make happen. Maybe establish a Bluebird trail at one of the local parks or refuges?

—Mike

Mike Mullins is the President of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. He can be reached at mcmprm@embarqmail.com

Upcoming events

This page does not include BCLS Library Program schedule.
See calendar <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar/>

Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

TMN-COT Board Meeting

Sea Center Texas

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

Saturday June 8, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Birds & Bottomland Blitz

Insects of the Bottomlands Wetland

Conditionally approved for Advanced Training.

See sidebar at right

Saturday June 8, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Brazoria County Historical Museum day camp

Volunteers need to assist

Approved for Volunteer Time

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

Monday - Friday, June 10-14, 0:00 AM - 1:00 PM

GCBO Bird Camp

Volunteers need to assist

Approved for Volunteer Time

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

Wednesday, June 12, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

General Meeting and Advanced Training

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton

Program: *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary*

Speaker: *Kelly Drinnen, Education and Outreach Specialist,*

Approved for 1.00 Volunteer Time + Advanced Training

See page 3 for details

Saturday June 15, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Monthly Bird Banding at GCBO

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

Wednesday, July 3, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TMN-COT Board Meeting

AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton

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

JUNE 2013 <small>www.freebootcalendars.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	29
30						

Birds and Bottomland Blitz

June 8, 9:00 AM

by GCBO

Insects of Bottomlands Wetlands with Dave Brandes and Ed Barrios



. This month's topic is Insects of the Bottomlands wetland. Master Naturalist and GCBO board member Dave Brandes and Master Naturalist Ed Barrios will be our leaders. Both are involved with many education programs in the area and their knowledge and fun approach to catching and identifying the critters in GCBO's demonstration wetland will help each participant determine just how healthy our wetland is.

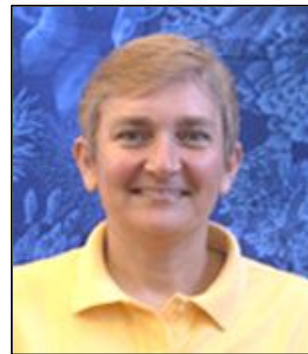
Bring the whole family and enjoy a morning at the GCBO headquarters sanctuary.

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 and Advanced Training Wednesday, June 12, 2013 AgriLife Building, Angleton

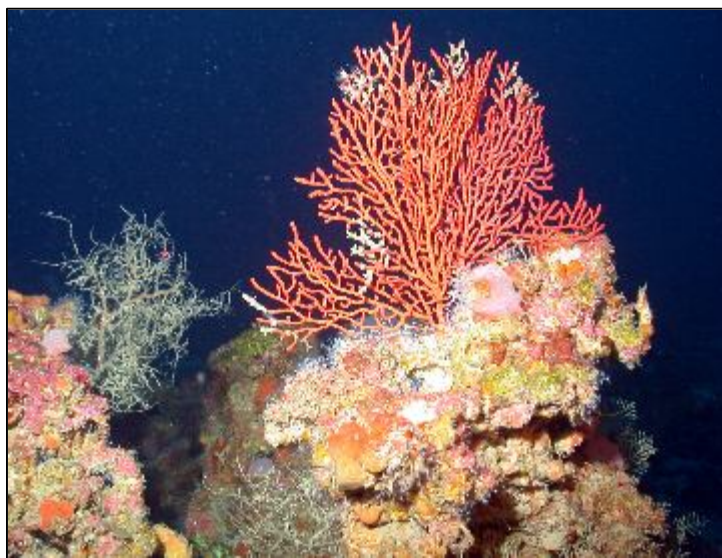


8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Jim Calvert, Kathleen Murray, Ruby Lewis, Torry Tvedt
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	General Meeting <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</i>
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Program: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Speaker: Kelly Drinnen, Education Specialist Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Galveston, TX 77551 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>This training is approved for Advanced Training. 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</i> </div>

Kelly Drinnen joined the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary team in August 2004. As Education Specialist, she is responsible for developing, revising and maintaining many of the communication tools used to share sanctuary information with the public. She also conducts workshops and presentations.

Kelly holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from James Madison University and has over thirteen years experience with informal science education from Moody Gardens and Sea World of Florida, as well as two years of experience in a 4th grade classroom.

Kelly comes from a family full of educators and likes to say she has "teaching in her genes." This, coupled with her love of the ocean, and wildlife in general, led her to a career in informal education where she gets to share her interests in two languages and meet people from around the world. Kelly is also a certified SCUBA diver and former Down Under, Out Yonder workshop participant.



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 federally designated underwater areas protected by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the only site located in the Gulf of Mexico.

Situated 70 to 115 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana, the Flower Garden Banks sanctuary includes underwater communities that rise from the depths of the Gulf of Mexico atop underwater mountains called salt domes.



<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

Congratulations Class of 2013!

The Intern Training Class of 2013 was honored at a Graduation Ceremony during our General Meeting on May 8, 2013. Each graduate received a certificate of membership, an official TMN-COT shirt, and a TMN-COT nametag. For photos of the graduation ceremony see Page 5.

As part of the training class, two teams conducted independent research projects and presented reports of their research during the meeting. Two teams were represented:

TEAM A — Team members Roger Allen, Randy Holcomb, Chris Kneupper, and Dick Schaffhausen presented a report about their species study at the Betty Brown Unit of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. Marty Cornell and Kirby Rapstein served as advisers to Team A.

Team A's PowerPoint presentation is posted on the chapter website at

<http://tmn-cot.org/Presentations/BettyBrownUnit-3.pdf>

TEAM B — Team members Dee Eddins, Patsy Lepper, Becky McClendon, and Pat Wilson presented a report about their species study at the Gulf of Mexico beaches. Peggy and Pete Romfh served as advisers to Team B.

Roger Allen and Dick Schaffhausen elected as student reps to board

According to our Chapter's Policies & Procedures Manual, at the completion of each training class, the members of the class elect two of their members to serve as Training Class Representatives on the Board of Directors. These graduates serve one-year terms as non-voting members.

Members of the Class of 2013 have elected Roger Allen and Dick Schaffhausen to serve in this capacity. They will serve until the end of the Class of 2014 Training Class.



Dick Schaffhausen



Roger Allen

Pete Romfh appointed TMN-COT Volunteer Chair

Pete Romfh, a Member of the Class of 2012, has assumed the position of Volunteer Chair for the COT Chapter. Romfh was appointed to this position by Chapter President Mike Mullins at the chapter's Board Meeting, held May 1, 2013 in Angleton.



In this position, Pete will be responsible for approving new volunteer projects, and for maintaining partnership agreements with our partner organizations. Pete will also be responsible for maintaining a list of volunteer service projects and for notifying the membership of these opportunities. This list is available on our Chapter website at:

<http://tmn-cot.org/Ongoing/index.html>

In the future, all Volunteer Project & Activity Request (VPAR) forms should be submitted to Pete at peteromfh@tmn-cot.org. A blank VPAR form is posted at:

http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2011/01/VPAR_Blank.doc

Volunteers Needed

During the past few months, we have received requests for volunteers for several projects. Following is a list of the most recent requests. For a complete list, please see the "Volunteering" pages on the chapter website at <http://tmn-cot.org/Ongoing/index.html>. All of the projects listed below are approved for Volunteer Time.

COT Training Director. Ed Johnson, our Chapter's Training chair for the classes of 2012 and 2013, has elected to step down from this position. This position is now available immediately. The Training Director will be responsible for leading our next training class, expected to begin in January 2014. Timesheet Code: "COT." For information, contact Mike Mullins, Chapter President, at mcmprm@embarqmail.com

Facebook Editor. Angelika Fuller, our Facebook editor, is planning to move away from the area this summer. This position is now available immediately. Timesheet Code: "COT." For information, contact Mike Mullins, Chapter President, at mcmprm@embarqmail.com

Baby Bird Rehabber. Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue needs volunteers to raise baby birds. This is an ongoing request; interested volunteers may participate at any time. Timesheet code: "GCWR." For information, contact GCWR at 979-849-0184.

GCBO Bird Camp GCBO needs volunteers to assist with its Bird Camp program, May 10-14. Timesheet code: "GCBO." To volunteer, contact Carol Jones at GCGO at 979-480-0999 or cjones@gcbo.org.

Master Naturalist Training Class of 2013 - Graduation

ANGLETON, TEXAS — May 8, 2013. Eight members of the Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter's Training class of 2013 successfully completed the training were honored in a graduation ceremony held today at the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service building. Each graduate received a certificate of graduation, a nametag, and a Master Naturalist shirt. Photos by Pete Romfh and Neal McLain.



Ed Johnson, Pat Wilson, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Dick Schaffhausen, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Roger Allen, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Becky McClendon, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Dee Eddins, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Chris Kneupper, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Patsy Lepper, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Randy Holcomb, Mike Mullins



Ed Johnson, Roger Allen, Becky McClendon, Dee Eddins, Randy Holcomb, Chris Kneupper, Patsy Lepper, Dick Schaffhausen, Pat Wilson

Members Emeriti Induction Ceremony

In 2012, the Board of Directors of the Cradle of Texas Chapter created a new class of membership known as Chapter Member Emeritus

A Chapter Member Emeritus is a previous chapter member who has made significant contributions to the chapter but is no longer active. Candidates for Member Emeritus status are nominated by an active member and elected by the Chapter membership.

Members Emeriti are entitled to the privileges of a Chapter membership including the right to vote, but they are exempt from paying dues.

Two chapter members have been nominated for Emeritus status: Gardner Campbell and Oliver Osborn. Their nominations were approved by the Chapter membership at the March 13, 2013 General Meeting, and they were formally inducted at the general meeting on May 8, 2013.

GARDNER CAMPBELL

Nomination by Jerry Eppner

I would like to nominate Cradle of Texas Chapter member Gardner Campbell for the status of Member Emeritus.



Photo: McLain

Gardner was a member of the class of 2002. He was very active in chapter volunteer activities up to 2009 having accrued 1389 hours of volunteer time. Gardner helped construct the Bobcat Woods trail at SBNWR and was part of the team to establish trails at Hudson Woods.

Gardner participated in a number of flora/fauna surveys of local properties including USFWS Halls Bayou and Betty Brown units. He helped conduct wildlife surveys at the Levi Jordan and Varner Hogg plantation sites. Gardner provided leadership in organizing numerous mucking trips to help TMN members learn more about what flora and fauna are in our area. He has been an active participant in bird banding projects in our area, including grassland species on USFWS properties. He has also been active as a GCBO volunteer and with Brazosport Birders.

In 2009, Gardner's deteriorating health began to limit his ability to continue volunteer activities as a TMN. Nevertheless, he still has that drive to always learn more. He still loves to get out and observe Nature when possible, but mainly from the comfort and convenience of an automobile.

Gardner is a man of high character and pleasing personality. He has been a good role model for master naturalists coming behind him, and I believe he deserves the recognition that elevation to Member Emeritus status would bestow on him.

For your consideration,
Jerry Eppner



Susan Conaty, Gardner Campbell

TMN-COT Tenth Anniversary Luncheon

Lake Jackson Civic Center, Lake Jackson, Texas, September 2011

Photo: McLain



Induction of Gardner Campbell, May 8, 2013

Jerry Eppner, Gardner Campbell, Mike Mullins

TMN-COT General Meeting, Texas Agrilife Extension Service, Angleton, Texas

Photo: McLain

Members Emeriti Induction Ceremony

OLIVER OSBORN

Nomination by Tom Morris and Jim Renfro

We would like to nominate Cradle of Texas Chapter member Oliver Osborn for the status of Member Emeritus.

Oliver is a charter member of the class of 2001. His credited 83 hrs of volunteer time does not reflect the time and effort he devoted to Texas Master Naturalists.



Photo: TAMU

Oliver was active in the early years of the Chapter and attended meetings and outings regularly. He contributed often in discussions using his lifetime of naturalist experience to mentor others. He seemed genuinely pleased to find others had joined him to enjoy the natural world.

Oliver provided the meal for chapter/intern meetings on more than one occasion. He put together pretty fine fare. He gave at least one presentation to the chapter on wildflowers — one of his passions.

Though not a chapter function, he hosted the Muckers in an exploring/wildlife inventory of his ranch, outside Fairfield in Freestone County. He put some of the party up in a cabin and fed us some good meals. Several chapter members were on the outing.

Oliver had a stellar career at Dow Chemical, becoming a lab director and was awarded a Life Time Achievement award from Texas A&M University for his support of the University and achievements at Dow.

Oliver promoted Texas A&M in many ways and was influential in recruitment and scholarships.

In 2005, Oliver's deteriorating health began to limit his ability to continue volunteer activities, but he attended meetings periodically.

We believe Oliver deserves and would be appreciative of the recognition that Member Emeritus status would bestow on him.

For your consideration,
Tom Morris
Jim Renfro



Photo: McLain

Oliver Osborn, John Boettiger

TMN-COT Tenth Anniversary Luncheon

Lake Jackson Civic Center, Lake Jackson, Texas, September 2011



Photo: McLain

Induction of Oliver Osborn, May 8, 2013

Oliver Osborn, Jim Renfro, Tom Morris, Mike Mullins

TMN-COT General Meeting, Texas Agrilife Extension Service, Angleton, Texas

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 1,000 photos currently on the site (approximately 500 species).

Congratulations to all of you that have contributed photos in the last year – we have more than tripled the gallery size and created a great reference guide of Texas Mid-Coast species.

New plant species added to the galleries this month include Shoreline Seapurslane, Violet Woodsorrel, Yellow Woodsorrel, Spider Lily, Louisiana Vetch (Deer Pea Vetch), Lyreleaf Sage, Butterweed, Yellow Thistle, Spreading Hedgeparsley, Beach Evening Primrose, American White Waterlily, Starrush Whitetop (White-topped Sedge), Marsh Seedbox, Velvetweed, Purple Meadow-rue, Indigo Bush, Downy Hawthorn, Common Hoptree, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, Mexican Plum, and Texas Umbrellawort.

New bird species added include Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-throated Green Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, White-crowned Sparrow, Spotted Sandpiper, Swainson's Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Wood Thrush, White-winged Dove, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Gray Catbird, Kentucky Warbler, Ovenbird, and Dickcissel.

New insect species added include Broad-winged Skipper, White-Lined Sphinx caterpillar, Carolina Mantis, and Luna moth. Other new species include Pill-bug, Green-spored Lepiota (fungus), and Blacktip Shark.

Special thanks to Denis Mudderman, Jerry Eppner, Anne Bettinger, Roger Allen, and Chris Kneupper for sharing photos and to Carol Jones, Chris Kneupper, Thomas Adams, and Tom Morris for help with species identification.

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



Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Photo: Pete Romfh



Dickcissel

Photo: Peggy Romfh



Gray Catbird

Photo: Jerry Eppner



Ovenbird

Photo: Jerry Eppner



Monarch butterfly

Photo: Anne Bettinger



Blacktip Shark

Photo: Denis Mudderman



Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum

Photo: Chris Kneupper

Migration Celebration 2013

Photos by Neal McLain and Pete Romfh



Website Advertisement



Information Booth



Peggy Romfh signs a Junior Naturalist Passport



Bug Sweeping run by Mike Mullins



Ruby Lewis demonstrates a baby alligator to young visitors



Continued...

Migration Celebration 2013

Photos by Neal McLain and Pete Romfh



Butterfly Encounter



Rockets carry netting over a flock of duck decoys



Kids scramble to catch the "ducks"



Kids pick their favorite images in the photo contest

Attachments

This issue of *Chapter News* contains one attachment:

- Minutes of the May General Meeting
http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-06_Attach-1_Minutes.pdf

Reminders about the June General Meeting:

- The morning refreshment team includes Jim Calvert, Kathleen Murray, Ruby Lewis, Torry Tvedt
- The business meeting is approved for 1.00 hour of Volunteer Time.
- Training provided at this meeting is approved for Advanced Training. 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	
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	Pete Romfh, Houston
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
Intern representatives to Board	Roger Allen, Dick Schaffhausen
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	http://tmn-cot.org
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