



Chapter News

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MIKE



MMXXIII the total number of participants that according to Ms. Ruby that have been through the Reptile program at the libraries so far. Fantastic!!!!!!! Way to go Ruby and all the volunteers that have been

helping in this. Kudos to you all.

Starting in September the Brazoria County Master Gardeners will start a training class. Now many of you are already MGs as am I but, for those of you that are not let me put in a little plug for them. We as Master Naturalists have many disciplines such as Archeology, Botany — nearly all the ologys. We learn of the plight of the Monarch, the Bluebird, pollinators, etc. and want to do something .The natural thing to do will be to go plant something that will aid in their survival. But, what do we plant and when and where and how to ensure we get the results we want? That is where the Master Gardener training is invaluable.

You will train under the expert tutelage of Donie Stowers who is our Ed Johnson equivalent.

You will be surrounded by the friendliest, helpful bunch of people that, like Master Naturalists, will go out of their way to help you succeed.

At our house we have gone from boxwoods and crepe myrtles to coreopsis, salvia, blue mist flower, Echinacea, firecracker plants, Mexican flame vine and on and on. We now have COLOR year around and the beauty of both flora and fauna that goes with it. I have learned about native plants and why they are so tremendously important.

Our yard is a whole new wonderful place thanks to the knowledge and confidence gained through the Master Gardener program. We have the things that attract all the butterflies and bees that I now take a zillion pictures and constantly bug you experts about to help me identification. Personally, I view the two programs as mates that enhance each other.

If you would like to join the Brazoria County Master Gardeners, see Becky Duke at the AgriLife office or give her a call.

We have the Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalist invitation. At this month's general meeting we will be voting on some changes to our Policies & Procedures. Busy, busy, busy.

C'ya at the general meeting

—Mike

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

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 A&M 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.

Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair

As of June 28, 36 members have submitted timesheets. For 2013, chapter members have submitted 4154 hrs of VT. Members to be recognized at the July General Meeting for recertifying for 2013 include Susan Conaty, Phyllis Gerdes, Chris Kneupper, Leo O'Gorman, Joan Simonsen, and Kathy Speights. Thanks to all that have met their timesheet submission responsibilities.

New Facebook Editor

By Neal McLain

TMN-COT Chapter President Mike Mullins has appointed Dick Schaffhausen, a member of the Class of 2013, to the position of Editor of the TMN-COT Facebook Page. Dick replaces Angelika Fuller, who has left the area.



The Chapter's Facebook page can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/TMN.COT>

Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday, July 3, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM
 TMN-COT Board Meeting
 AgriLife Building, Angleton
 See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>

Monday, July 8, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 "Green Fire" screening
 Approved for 3.00 Hours Advanced Training
See Sidebar for details →

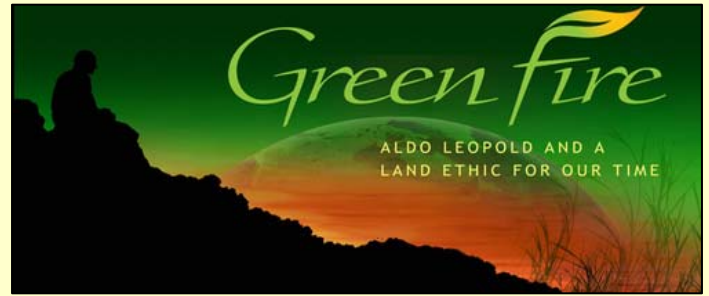
Wednesday, July 10, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
 General Meeting and Advanced Training
 Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton
 Program: *Squids and Squid dissection*
 Speaker: Brittney Zepeda, Educator, Sea Center Texas,
 Approved for 1.00 Volunteer Time + Advanced Training
See Page 3 for details

Saturday July 20, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Monthly Bird Banding at GCBO
 See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>

Saturday July 20, 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
 Southeast Texas Regional Master Naturalist Meeting
 Approved for Volunteer Time + Advanced Training
See sidebar for details →

Wednesday, August 7, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 TMN-COT Board Meeting
 AgriLIFE Extension Building, Angleton
 See calendar for details <http://tmn-cot.com/Calendar>

JULY 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			



Monday, July 8, 10:00am – 1:00pm
Location: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension
 Galveston County
 4102 B FM 519, La Marque TX 77568
Details: <http://tinyurl.com/nz3ef9u>
Lunch: Potluck lunch (bring something to share)
 Bring your own plate, utensils, and water.
RSVP: Emmeline Dodd
Dodd.txdodd@aol.com
Carpool coordinator: Mike Mullins
mcmprm@embarqmail.com
TMN-COT credit information:
 Approved for 3.00 hours Advanced Training.
Timesheet code: "COT"

Southeast Texas Regional Master Naturalist Meeting

Saturday, July 20, 8:30am – 5:30pm
Theme: *How Nature Really Works*
Location: Mercer Arboretum and Nature Center
 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd
 Humble, TX 77338-1071
 281-443-8731 **NOTE NEW LOCATION**
Agenda: <http://tinyurl.com/TMN-SE3>
Registration Form: <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/RegForm-3.pdf>
Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/SJRxx>
TMN-COT credit information:
 Conditionally approved for up to 7.00 hours of Advanced Training. Contact AT Chair Tom Morris for details.
tmorris44@comcast.net
Timesheet code: "COT"

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
AgriLife Building, Angleton**

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Tom Morris, Phyllis Gerdes, Gerald Forrest
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: Squids and Squid dissection Speaker: Brittney Zepeda, Educator at Sea Center Texas, <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>



Brittney Zepeda is the Education and Gift Shop Coordinator for Sea Center Texas. For the past six years, Brittney has been responsible for conducting education programs on water, wetlands and fishing for youth that visit Sea Center. She has instituted several events as education coordinator including summer camps and Sea Center Spooktacular, the hatchery's annual Halloween fest.

Brittney earned her B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University-College Station and M.S. in Biology from University of Houston-Clear Lake. Prior to her employment at Sea Center Texas, Brittney interned at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, the Houston Zoo and worked in the education department at the Downtown Aquarium.



Squid are cephalopods of the order Teuthida, which comprises around 300 species. Like all other cephalopods, squid have a distinct head, bilateral symmetry, a mantle, and arms.

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Mollusca
Class: Cephalopoda
Superorder: Decapodiformes
Order: Teuthida
A. Naef, 1916

Suborders

- Plesiotteuthididae (incertae sedis)
- Myopsina
- Oegopsina

Wikipedia
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squid>
Accessed 26 June 2013

Sea Center Texas is a marine aquarium, fish hatchery and nature center operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The site's visitor center educates through interpretive displays, a "touch tank" and aquariums depicting native Texas habitats including a salt marsh, jetty, reef and open Gulf exhibits. The Gulf aquarium houses nurse sharks, large red drum, gray snapper, Atlantic spadefish, and the state record moray eel. The center offers a variety of educational programs that promote the wise use and conservation of Texas' marine resources.

The facility operates one of the three TPWD marine hatcheries located on the Texas coast that produce juvenile red drum and spotted speckled trout to stock in Texas bays. The hatchery has the capability to produce up to 15 million juvenile fish each year.

Sea Center Texas was established through a partnership with The Dow Chemical Company, the Coastal Conservation Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/seacenter/>

Whooping Crane Trip March 2013

By Tom Morris, Tour Leader

A small group of Cradle of Texas TMN members took a Whooping Crane boat tour on Tuesday, March 5, 2013: Angelika Fuller, Jerry Krampota, Tom Morris, Pam Peltier, Pete and Peggy Romfh, and Dick Schaffhausen attended. We saw 38! whooping cranes from the boat and many other birds.

A full report of the Whooping Crane and King Ranch tours can be seen at the following links:

http://tmn-cot.org/Scrapbook/2013_Whooping-Crane-Report.pdf

http://tmn-cot.org/Scrapbook/2013_King-Ranch-Report.pdf

We would like to dedicate these trip reports in memory of Lois Oakes Morgan (1943-2013). She joined us on the 2011 Whooping Crane trip and was a delightful participant.



What's New on the Chapter Website

By Neal McLain, Webmaster

Quizzes. Our Vice President/Program Chair Peggy Romfh introduced quizzes at the March 2013 meeting. Suddenly, quizzes became an instant tradition. They're now on our website:

- March 2013 - Species Identification
by Peggy Romfh
http://www.tmn-cot.org/Quizzes/2013-03_Romfh.pdf
- April 2013 - Species Identification
by Peggy Romfh
http://www.tmn-cot.org/Quizzes/2013-04_Romfh.pdf
- May 2013 - Tree Species Identification
by Leo Novak
http://www.tmn-cot.org/Quizzes/2013-05_Novak.pdf
- June 2013 - Wading Birds Identification
by Tom Morris
http://www.tmn-cot.org/Quizzes/2013-06_Morris.pdf

Betty Brown Reports. The Intern Training Class of 2013 presented reports at our meeting on May 8, 2013. Team A (Roger Allen, Randy Holcomb, Chris Kneupper, and Dick Schaffhausen) prepared two reports about their findings at the Betty Brown unit of San Bernard NWR. They are posted here:

- Class Presentation – A PowerPoint presentation presented to the chapter membership at the May 8 meeting
<http://tmn-cot.org/Presentations/BettyBrownUnit-3.pdf>
- Citizen Science Report – A written report in HTML (web) format for posting on the website
<http://tmn-cot.org/Scrapbook/BBU/index.html>

Green Fire

By Neal McLain

For those of you who plan to attend the upcoming (July 8) trip to the Galveston County A&M AgriLife office to see a screening of *Green Fire*, here is my personal story about Aldo Leopold. In July 2011, Ed Barrios and I attended the USFWS *Conserving the Future* Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. On the day before the conference, we joined a bus trip to the Aldo Leopold Center, in Sauk County, about an hour's drive from Madison. Here are some links about the Aldo Leopold Center and the Conference generally:

- Aldo Leopold Center (website)
<http://www.aldoleopold.org/>
- A Sand County Visit by Neal McLain, reprinted from the August 2011 issue of *Chapter News*
<http://tmn-cot.org/Scrapbook/Leopold.pdf>
- Photos of the Conference
<http://refugefriends.org/VisionConference/Photos/index.html>

Federal Duck stamps now on sale

By U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WASHINGTON June 3, 2013 — Today our 80th Federal Duck Stamp goes on sale! Did you know that when you buy a \$15 Duck Stamp, 98 percent of your money goes directly toward wildlife habitat conservation?



The 2013 Federal Duck Stamp. Robert Steiner, an artist from San Francisco, Calif., is the winner of the 2012 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest.

Sales of the Duck Stamp to hunters, collectors, conservationists and birders have raised more than \$800 million to acquire more than six million acres of wildlife habitat on our National Wildlife Refuges. On the whole, the conservation achievement of the Federal Duck Stamp Program is impressive.

Today, standing with the chief of the Duck Stamp Office before a large framed case containing reproductions of every Duck Stamp, we were reminded again of how unique every stamp is. These are miniature works of art. These are not simply tiny pictures of ducks; each stamp has its own distinctive details that make it special.



Mark Hazelrigg

Chapter News recognizes the passing of Mark J. Hazelrigg, Jr., 66, of Lake Jackson. Although Mark was not a COT Chapter member, he was a dedicated naturalist and a long time member of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. He participated in numerous activities including trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration and invasive species eradication.

Photo Gallery Monthly Highlights

By Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery Editor

The Photo Gallery web site has had 10,000 views (hits) in the last 12 months! The site currently has 1,200+ photos representing over 500 species.

New plant species added to the galleries this month include Compact Prairie Clover (*Dalea*), Mexican Hat, Japanese Honeysuckle, Sensitive Briar, Winged Flax, Plains Fleabane, Salt Heliotrope, Gulf Coast Penstemon, Grassy Arrowhead, Prairie Parsley, Aquatic Milkweed, Bulltongue Arrowhead, Bur Oak, Firecracker Plant, Golden Dewdrops, Mealycup Sage, Mexican Flame Vine, Pickerelweed, Sweetgum, Rattan-

vine, Texas Frogfruit, Halberdleaf Rosemallow, Broadleaf Cattail, Southern Cattail, Common Sow Thistle, and Common Sunflower.

Aquatic plant species added include Carolina Fanwort, Coon's Tail, Common Duckmeat (Giant Duckweed), and Common Duckweed.

New bird species added include Wilson's Phalarope,

New insect species added include Halloween Pennant dragonfly, Four-spotted Pennant, and Black Swallowtail.

Other new species include Peppered jumper spider, American

Green Tree Frog, Squirrel Tree Frog, Little Brown Skink, Mediterranean House Gecko, Common Garter Snake, Lightning Whelk, Smooth Goose Barnacle, and Goose Barnacle.

Special thanks to Denis Mudderman, Pete Romfh, and Jerry Eppner for sharing photos and to Dave Brandes, Thomas Adams, Carol Jones, and Brenda Bowling for help with species ID.

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. Send new photo submissions to peggyromfh@tmn-cot.org



Goose Barnacle

Photo: Pete Romfh



Halberdleaf Rosemallow

Photo: Peggy Romfh



Wilson's Phalarope

Photo: Denis Mudderman



Salt Heliotrope

Photo: Peggy Romfh



Halloween Pennant

Photo: Denis Mudderman



Black Swallowtail

Photo: Jerry Eppner

Museum Camp – Navigate the Gulf

TMN-COT chapter members provided support to the Brazoria County History Museum's (BCHM) "Navigate the Gulf" event on June 8th. Coordinated by John O'Connell, Jami Geserick (AgriLife) and Jennifer Caulkins (BCHM), the two hour event featured activities for families and children at the museum in Angleton.

Mary Holler, Betty Bouley, Gerald Forrest, Pete Romfh, and Peggy Romfh all participated in the event.



Above: Kids dug for eggs in a sand "turtle nest".

Interactive displays and learning activities included a "turtle egg" dig, shells and other sea creatures from Gulf beaches, fish paintings, and a shrimp trawling demonstration.

Left: Gerald Forrest and John O'Connell demonstrated how a shrimp trawling net functions. Kids participated by tossing tennis ball "shrimp" into the net.



Coral Reefs, Advanced Training Session



Above: A colony of TMN "polyps" grow together to form part of a coral reef.

An "up close and personal experience" into the daily lives of coral polyps was one of the highlights of the AT session at the June 12th chapter meeting. Kelly Drinnen from Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary taught the group about how a coral reef exists as a living ecosystem. To become living coral each participant placed a (paper bag) calcium carbonate base over their arm, added colored algae (dots) to their translucent (plastic glove) polyp and allowed

their (fingers) tentacles to wave in the current searching for bits of food drifting by (on a string). Besides being educational, the exercise provided quite a bit of hilarity as the blind polyps eagerly searched for anything drifting nearby.



Stories and photos by Pete Romfh

Attachments

This issue of *Chapter News* contains one attachment:

- Minutes of the June General Meeting
http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-07_Attach-1_Minutes.pdf

Reminders about the July General Meeting:

- The morning refreshment team includes Tom Morris, Phyllis Gerdes, Gerald Forrest, Pam Peltier
- 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	Vacant
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
Facebook Editor	Dick Schaffhausen, Alvin
Intern representative to Board	Dick Schaffhausen, Alvin
Chapter Advisers	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
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Newsletter Production Editor	Neal McLain
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