



Chapter News

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MIKE



The Intern Training Class of 2014 is starting to take shape with three new member applications already in hand. Remember, anyone of us can recruit new members to come to the meetings and after they fulfill the chapter entry paperwork they can begin to volunteer and enjoy the Master Naturalist experience. New member applications are on the web and cost is \$100.

One of the things the board will be discussing this month will be the subject of AT speakers and their cost. Most of our AT speakers are in-house or partners. They usually do not cost the chapter anything. When we go out for a speaker on a subject that cannot be covered this way we run into the question of covering expenses.

Our Program Chair Peggy has calculated that a reasonable cost for having a speaker would be in the \$350 range. Many of you earlier this year responded to her questionnaire that you would like to have the occasional expert present at our meetings. To do this and remain neutral on our account balance we would need to possibly do one of the following: charge a fee for the event, have a fund raiser, raise dues enough to cover one speaker a year, or ??????

We are your board. Let me (address below) or one of the other board members know what you would like to do. This is in the preliminary stage and we welcome all input from YOU, the ones that make the Cradle of Texas the best chapter in Texas.

C'ya

—Mike



facebook.com/TMN.COT

5000

Yahoo!!!!!!! One of our own has reached this spectacular milestone this month: 5000 Volunteer Hours..

Drum roll please ...Mr. Marty Cornell. Yes it is true: Marty has reached this fantastic achievement. After graduating with the Class of 2004 he has volunteered tirelessly with the DEEP program, Friends and many chapter events. Please join us at this month's general meeting to honor him on this accomplishment.

September gets us in the busy season again with Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza, Special AT session on Sept. 18th, a beach cleanup, Levi Jordan Plantation, and lots of other events that could use your help.

Please check the calendar for opportunities and their dates.

The September meeting is at its usual place in Angleton in case I left the wrong impression after last month's meeting. This should be a really good one this month with David Heinicke talking about **The Big Cats of Texas**, a nature quiz on (sorry— can't tell—was sworn to secrecy) and MARTY'S 5000. We are awaiting word if our OCTOBER meeting will be held at the Phillips 66 Recreation center.

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.

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

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
AgriLife Building, Angleton**

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Dee Eddins, Randy Holcomb, Joan Simonsen, Sandy Henderson
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: Big Cats of Texas Speaker: David Heinicke is the head naturalist at Brazos Bend State Park <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>



David Heinicke is the head naturalist at Brazos Bend State Park, a unit of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, a position he has held for the past thirteen years. He is in charge of environmental education, assists in coordinating research projects and, oversees volunteering at the park. David is also responsible for Law Enforcement at the park, and holds a commission as a State Peace Officer. Before joining TPWD, David volunteered at the park for four years. His interests include hiking, biking, paddling, backpacking and just about anything outside.

Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair

As of August 30, 47 members have submitted timesheets. For 2013, chapter members have submitted 6205 hours of VT.

Members to be recognized at the August General Meeting for recertifying for 2013 include James Calvert, Marty Cornell, Jim Hillis, Patsy Lepper, Neal McLain, Kirby Rapstein, Dick Schaffhausen, and Patrick Wilson,.

Patrick Wilson, 2013 Intern, also reached the 250 hr VT milestone. Good job, Patrick! . As announced by President Mike, Marty Cornell, Class of 2004, has achieved the 5000 hour volunteer hour milestone. Paperwork has been sent to state for Marty to receive his special pin and recognition at the state TMN meeting in October. Congratulations, Marty, and thanks for your service to the community.

News from San Bernard NWR

After a female alligator was injured and could no longer care for her nest, refuge staff from San Bernard NWR adopted 44 alligator eggs. The nest was carefully excavated and packed into an old ice chest, surrounded by vegetation from the nest. It was kept in the field office garage for incubation, where temperatures would remain warm enough and fairly constant. After nearly 40 days, the alligators began to hatch. When they begin feeding on their own, refuge staff will put them with an existing female and clutch on the refuge, where they will be adopted once again.



Texas Mid-coast Refuges / Facebook

Photo Gallery Monthly Highlights

By Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery Editor

In spite of the drought, the prairies are alive with fall-blooming flowers and insects are plentiful.

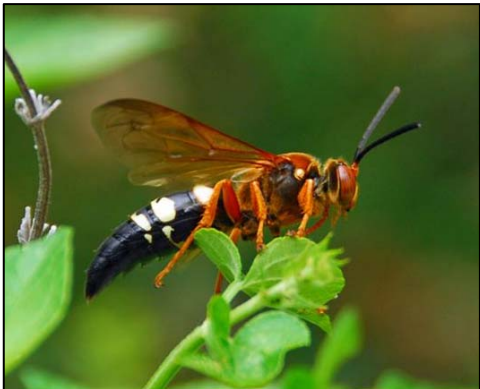
Plant species added to the galleries this month include Berlandier's Yellow Flax, Aster (White), Giant Cane, Lemon Beebalm, Showy Blue-Star, Yellow Sweetclover, Common Reed, Plains Coreopsis, American Glasswort, Seaside Saltwort (Turtleweed), Christmas Fern, Sturdy Bulrush, Curly Dock, Virginia Saltmarsh Mallow, White Gaura, Catchfly Prairie Gentian, Straggler Daisy, and Gayfeather (Cusp Blazing Star).

Insect species added include Eastern Cicada Killer, Metallic Wood-boring Beetle, June Bug, Eastern Leaf-footed Bug, Red Cross Beetle, Horse Fly, Hanging Thieves Robber Fly, American Bumblebee, and Black and Yellow Mud Dauber.

New bird species include the Pileated Woodpecker. New fish species include both the sand seatrout and spotted seatrout.

Thanks to Denis Mudderman, Ed Johnson, Pete Romfh, and Mike Mullins for their contributions.

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



Eastern Cicada Killer
Photo: Ed Johnson



Snow on the Prairie
Photo: Peggy Romfh



Black and Yellow Mud Dauber
Photo: Pete Romfh



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo: Mike Mullins



Showy Blue-Star
Photo: Denis Mudderman

FUN FACTS

- Eastern Cicada Killer females line their nests with cicadas (one cicada/male egg, >1 cicada/ female egg) and close each nest cell with dirt.
- Mud Daubers line their nests with spiders, deposit eggs, and close each nest cell with mud.
- Hatchling larva eat the prey that was captured for them.
- Pileated woodpeckers are the largest woodpecker in the USA



Spotted Seatrout
Photo: Mike Mullins



Sand Seatrout
Photo: Mike Mullins

We need
more fish
photos in
gallery.

Attachments

This issue of *Chapter News* contains one attachment:

- Minutes of the August General Meeting
http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/2013-09_Attach-1_Minutes.pdf

Reminders about the September General Meeting:

- The morning refreshment team includes Dee Eddins, Randy Holcomb, Joan Simonsen, Sandy Henderson
- 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	
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Vice President/Program	Peggy Romfh, Houston
Secretary	Marty Cornell, Lake Jackson
Treasurer	John Marshall, Lake Jackson
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Advanced Training Chair	Tom Morris, Lake Jackson
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Facebook Editor	Dick Schaffhausen, Alvin
Intern representatives to Board	Chris Kneupper, Brazoria; Dick Schaffhausen, Alvin;
Chapter Advisers	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
Newsletter Editors	Mary Helen Israel, Neal McLain
Newsletter Writers	Mike Mullins, Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh, Jerry Eppner, Neal McLain
Website	http://tmn-cot.org
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