



Chapter News

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

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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.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Volunteer Opportunities change with the seasons

The current school year will be coming to a close very soon. That means some programs such as DEEP will be suspending for the summer and some, such as the Summer Library Programs will be gearing up. We are never without opportunities to work our mission. See you there ☺.

VMS News

Our Volunteer Management System (VMS) just keeps getting better ... no, seriously. If you've entered time in the last few days, you may have missed it. It was a very small change with a big impact on our entry error rates. Previously, when you selected an opportunity, 3 radio buttons appeared under it in very small print. We were required to select one of them as the hours type being submitted – Admin, Advanced Training or Service Project. This section was easily missed even by very experienced users. Well, this section is GONE. Now when you select an opportunity, the hours type is matched to it

automatically by the system. Like I said, it just keeps getting better. .

The Invasion Continues

I noticed an invasive species I was not aware of in a recent invasive species newsletter and I thought I would share it with you. Though it has not yet reached Texas, it is marching in our direction, so keep your eyes open

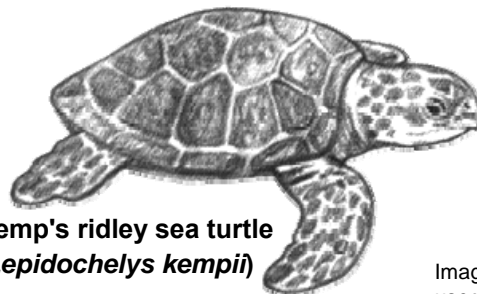
I'm talking about the Giant African Land Snail, *Lissachatina fulica*. This is a very large snail, growing up to 8 inches in length and 5 inches in diameter with a darkly striped brown



Andrew Derkson, FDACS/DPI

shell. The lengthwise stripes distinguish it from the Apple Snail, *Pomacea canaliculata*.

Continued on Page 4



Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)

The Cradle of Texas Chapter participates in the annual Sea Turtle Monitoring program. The program is now in progress and will continue through July. Volunteers are needed during the current breeding season. See page 7 for details.

Image © 2016 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment. Image used pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Terms and Conditions. <https://seaworld.org/en/terms-and-conditions>

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, May 11, 2016
Texas AgriLife Extension Building
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903**



8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Ruby Lewis, Kim Richardson, Christina Hartman, Jim Calvert, Ann Lange.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation ceremony for Intern Class of 2016. • Project Reports by Class of 2016 Project Teams . • Crock-pot Cook-off. See page 4 for details

This meeting may be approved for Advanced Training. Approved hours will be announced at the meeting.



TEAM: NASH PRAIRIE PRESERVE

- **Team members:** Larry Peterson, Suzie Safley, Melba Beken, Marshana Gill.
- **Mentors:** Susan Conaty, Chris Kneupper
- **Project:** Nash Prairie Preserve a unit of The Nature Conservancy.
<http://tinyurl.com/2016-NPP>



TEAM: QUINTANA BEACH COUNTY PARK

- **Team members:** Denise Kaplan, Caylie Harris, Jimmy Salinas, Chip Sweet.
- **Mentors:** Patty Brinkmeyer, Rich Tillman
- **Project:** Quintana Beach County Park a unit of the Brazoria County Parks Department.
<http://tinyurl.com/2016-QBCP1>



TEAM: CAMP MOHAWK COUNTY PARK

- **Team members:** Jo Myers, Herb Myers, Kristine Rivers, Lisa Myers, Karen Leder
- **Mentors:** Bryan Frazier, Jerry Krampota.
- **Project:** Camp Mohawk County Park, a unit of the Brazoria County Parks Department.
<http://tinyurl.com/2016-CMCP1>



TEAM: DEEP

- **Team members:** Jackie Hicks, Larry Ruhr, Judy Green, Pam Patterson, Oron Atkins
- **Mentors:** Becky McClendon, Dave Brandes
- **Project:** Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) an educational program operated by the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service.
<http://tinyurl.com/2016-DEEP>

MEET THE (REAL) INTERN CLASS OF 2016

This is a reprint of an article previously published in the March 2016 issue of *Chapter News*. At that time, our Chapter had “20 energetic interns” enrolled in the Class of 2016.

Unfortunately, two members have dropped out so now we have 18 energetic interns in the Class of 2016. But they’ve been busy! At our May meeting each team will take the floor for a short summary of their respective projects. And then we’ll celebrate with a Crock-pot Cook-off!

Here they are — the 18 dedicated members!



Oron Atkins



Melba Beken



Marshana Gill



Judy Green



Caylie Harris



Jackie Hicks



Denise Kaplan



Karen Leder



Herb Myers



Jo Myers



Lisa Myers



Pam Gonzales



Larry Peterson



Kristine Rivers



Larry Ruhr



Suzie Safley



Jimmy Salinas



Chip Sweet

KRISTINE RIVERS and LARRY RUHR ELECTED as REPRESENTATIVES to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS by the CLASS OF 2016

ANGLETON, TEXAS — May 4, 2016. During a meeting of the Intern Class of 2016 held here today, the members of the Class elected Kristine Rivers, of Pearland, and Larry Ruhr, of Lake Jackson, to serve as **Representatives to the Board of Directors**. Kristine and Larry will serve in this capacity until the final day of the Intern Training class in 2017.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, *Chapter News* welcomes Kristine and Larry to the Board!



Kristine Rivers



Larry Ruhr

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator



As expected COT members did an outstanding job of helping with Migration Celebration and the hours submitted to VMS reflect that effort and the effort to man the GCBO Spring Fling station at Quintana. As of April 22, our members have entered 5488 hours of volunteer time and 726 hours of advanced training this year. This is tremendous. And quite a bit of this effort was carried out by our new intern class. It is believed (this doesn't make it fact) that the class of 2004 was the best ever. Well as a member of that class I can say we are holding our breath that that distinction will be maintained. However, the intern class of 2016 is a great one and challenging that belief. Lots of volunteering going there. So much so that we already have six interns submitting enough hours of VT and AT that they will have certified once they graduate in May. Those interns having enough hours to certify include:



Oron Atkins Karen Leder Herb Myers Jo Myers Lisa Myers Kristine Rivers

Great job interns!

As noted in our April newsletter, I will be out of pocket for a couple of weeks and will not be at the May general meeting. We will resume awarding recertifications and milestones in June.

Now a quick note on VMS. If you spot a duplicate entry in your logbook and you are sure you did not enter it twice, please do not delete the duplicate, but report it to me so we can get state to look into this quirk.

Not choosing the correct type hour continues to be an issue. Remember you **MUST** pick the type of hour that is in parentheses in the code name. The good news is that state is going to soon roll out a new twist in the system that will do away with this choice of hour and the error it creates. Thanks for your attention to this detail.

—Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator
jeppner@comcast.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

Giant African snails cause extensive damage to plants in tropical and subtropical systems, and are known to feed on over 500 different types of plants, including peanuts, beans, peas, cucumbers, and melons. They will eat a wide variety of ornamental plants if vegetables or fruits are unavailable, and have even been found eating paint and stucco on houses. These large snails are also a threat to human health, carrying a parasitic worm that can cause meningitis.

Like other snails, they are principally active at night and during wet weather. They normally seek shady resting locations with high humidity, but can climb trees and walls to rest.

The Giant African Snail poses a serious risk to ecosystems and is one of the "Dirty Dozen" pest species identified by the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council and USDA-APHIS. If you see it, please report it on the Texasinvasives.org website or their reporting app.

Intern Graduation

Our interns will be graduating at our general meeting this month. The meeting program will be their presentations of the projects the teams conducted. I've seen some of their work, it is outstanding and I can't wait to see these. And don't forget the Crock Pot Cook-off, or as I like to call it -- Yum, What a Crock. Just like the presentations, I can't wait to taste these creations. If you are lucky, Pam may choose you as a judge.

See you soon,

—Dave

Dave Brandes is the president of Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. He can be reached at brandes@tmn-cot.org

ATTENTION ALL MASTER NATURALISTS! GET READY FOR THE CROCK-POT COOK-OFF!

By Pam West, Chapter Host

During our next general meeting, May 11, 2016 our interns will present their projects. I have heard there are some great presentations in the works so don't miss it!!!!

We also like to celebrate their graduation with our annual cook-off celebration. This year we are going to have a "Crock-Pot Cook-Off". This means the lid is wide open! You may enter the cook-off with anything that will fit in a crock-pot.

So far, we have ten crock pot entries. We would like to round up a few more entries. We also need desserts and drinks. Please let me know what you would like to bring. You may call me at cell 979-864-9340 or email me at pwest331@gmail.com

Since we are celebrating the interns graduation into Master Naturalisthood, interns are exempt from bringing a dish. Please make it a priority to join in on the fun! Hope to see you there!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for NATURE CAMP at CAMP MOHAWK COUNTY PARK

By Ed Barrios, 2011

Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk is sponsored by Brazoria County Parks Department. Nature Camp is unique among the environmental education programs in that TMN-COT members lead the training. It is a 4-day event in which the same kids attend every day.

Date June 13-16, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Location . Camp Mohawk County Park

GPS 29.3345531, -95.2854484

Map <http://tinyurl.com/2016-CMCP2>

Website: . <http://tinyurl.com/2016-CMCP1>

Each day has a different theme and the activities support the theme for the day. The kids are divided into three groups, based age, and each group participates in three 50-minute activities every morning.

We need volunteers to work on the planning of the event and volunteers to help with implementation. Some of the typical events include Birds and Bird Rehab, Owl Pellets, Pond Life, Fish Casting, Snakes, gators, and turtles, Bug Sweeping, Animal Tracks, and Archery

This is a very rewarding opportunity teach the same group of kids every day. They are so excited to be there. You kind of get attached to these little People. Our first planning meeting will be announced soon.

To volunteer, please contact Ed Barrios:

979-297-1815 (home)

979-415-4998 (cell)

ed77566@comcast.net

This event is approved for volunteer time by TMN-COT for members who assist with the planning and execution of the event. You may claim.

This event is approved for **up to 5.00** hours of VT plus your travel time.

VMS Code: **"TR: I trained Others"**

Type: **"Service Project"**

Description: **"BC: Nature Camp at Mohawk"**



Photos: Marty Cornell, 2011

REFUGE JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2016-17



BRAZORIA, TEXAS – May 1, 2016. The Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex has announced that applications for the 2016-17 Refuge Junior Naturalist Program are now being accepted. The application deadline is May 20, 2016.

The Refuge Junior Naturalist program is a special opportunity for a selected number of children ages 10 to 12 to work with wildlife biologists and other refuge professionals on projects at Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges. Participants learn basic naturalist skills such as nature photography, GPS, field sketching, and plant and animal identification and then apply these skills to real projects

For further information see <http://refugefriends.org/RJN/>



Former San Bernard NWR manager Shane Kasson (right) with an RJN program student in 2013.

TMN-COT LIBRARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE - SUMMER 2016

TMN-COT conducts a series of educational programs for Brazoria County Elementary Schools during the Spring and Fall. Library Programs are coordinated by TMN-COT Member Ruby Lewis with assistance from other chapter members. Volunteers are needed to assist with the administration and execution of the library programs. Volunteer duties include providing class instruction, demonstrating animals, conducting activities, and assisting with program administration. To volunteer please contact:



Ruby Lewis

Ruby Lewis, BCLS program administrator.

979-549-0940

rubylewis77515@ymail.com

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 13 WES 2 pm	14 ALV 10 am 2 pm & 4 pm	15	16 MAN 1 pm & 3 pm	17
20 FRE 2 pm	21 DAN 3 pm	22	23 CLU 10:30 am & 1:30 pm	24 SWE 2 pm
27 PEA 12 pm 2 pm & 4 pm	28 ANG 10 am & 2 pm	29 LAK 2 pm & 4 pm	30 BRA 12 pm & 2 pm	July 1
July 4 CLOSED	5 BRA 2 pm	6	7 SWE 2 pm	8
11 WES 2 pm	12 ANG 2 pm	13	14 MAN 2 pm	15
18	19 DAN 3 pm	20	21 CLU 1:30 pm	22
25 FRE 2 pm	26	27 LAK 2 pm	28 ALV 2 pm	29 PEA 2 pm

Maps to libraries:

<http://tmn-cot.org/Maps/index.html#BCLS>

Library websites:

<http://bcls.lib.tx.us/>



VMS coding:

Each session is approved for up to 3.00 hours of VT + Travel Time

VMS Code: "PO: Public Outreach"

Type: "Service Project"

Description: "BCLS: Location" (of the library)

ALV - Alvin
ANG - Angleton
BRA - Brazoria
CLU - Clute
DAN - Danbury
FRE - Freeport
LAK - Lake Jackson
MAN - Manvel
PEA - Pearland
PWS - Pearland Westside
SWE - Sweeny
WES - West Columbia

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SEA TURTLE MONITORING PROGRAM

The Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter participates in the annual Sea Turtle Monitoring program. The program is now in progress and will continue through July. Volunteers are needed to help complete the current breeding season.

Sea Turtle Patrol is an ongoing project sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Here in Brazoria and Matagorda Counties the project is administered by San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge staff. Vicky and Bryan Adams and Cheri Young administer the program during the 2016 breeding season on behalf of the refuge.

Objectives of the Sea Turtle Program:

- Locate Kemp's ridley's nests to excavate the eggs and transport them to an incubation facility at 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.

Most of these activities require specialized training beyond the turtle patrol training. Never handle a sea turtle or try to locate the eggs yourself. Always call **866-turtle-5**.

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.

You must have the training class to patrol for the refuge. Training classes for the 2016 breeding season were offered during April and are no longer available. However, interested volunteers may ride along with authorized drivers to learn the basics before the next training classes in April 2017..

For those of you who have had training in the operation of USFWS vehicles, keep in mind that the training is good for three years. If you need to update your training please let Vicky know.



Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) at Padre Island National Seashore Photo: Wikipedia

CREDIT (TMN-COT MEMBERS ONLY)

- **Training: Approved** for Advanced training for actual hours for *first-time trainees only*. Not approved for members who have had the same training in 2014 or 2015.
- **Program Participation: Approved** for Volunteer time for all turtle-patrol activity including travel..

VMS Coding:

- *RM: Managing Natural Resource Areas & Wildlife*
- *Type: Service Project*
- *Description: USFWS: Turtle Patrol*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Turtle hotline 866-887-8535 or 866-TURTLE-5
Curtis Jones 979-299-3965 (San Bernard NWR manager and primary contact if you spot a sea turtle or sea turtle tracks)
Roland Davis 979-799-8950 (San Bernard NWR assistant manager in charge of the Sea Turtle Program)
Vicky Adams 979-373-6971 (Volunteer Coordinator)
Email sanbernardseaturtle@gmail.com

To volunteer contact:
Vicky Adams, Volunteer Coordinator
sanbernardseaturtle@gmail.com

IMMEDIATELY REPORT

ALL SEA TURTLES ON THE BEACH



Call 1-866-TURTLE-5

IN MEMORIAM: GARDNER CAMPBELL 1933-2016

Chapter News recognizes the passing of Chapter Emeritus member Gardner Campbell.

Campbell was a founding member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter and a member of the Class of 2002. Educated at the University of West Virginia and West Virginia Institute of Technology School of Engineering, he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college,

he worked at a number of jobs involving engineering in West Virginia and Ohio. In 1965, Gardner joined Dow Aerospace Service for NASA Apollo Space Program at Cape Kennedy, Florida. He then transferred to Dow Texas Operations and held positions as Production Engineer, Project Manager, Design and Capital Project Engineer. After 32 years of service at The Dow Chemical Company, Gardner retired in 1997.



Campbell (left) with Roy Morgan and Gerald Forrest, at the TMN-COT Tenth Anniversary Celebration, Lake Jackson Civic Center, Lake Jackson, Texas, September 2011.



Campbell (left) with Ellis Burkhardt and Jerry Eppner at *Ever Green*, announcement of cooperative agreement among Reliant Energy, NFWF, and USFWS, Hudson Woods Unit of SBNWR, Baileys Prairie, Texas, March 2008.

In 2013, Chapter member Jerry Eppner nominated Gardner Campbell for Emeritus status (see sidebar). The nomination was approved by the Chapter membership at the March general meeting, and Campbell was formally inducted at the general meeting on May 8, 2013.

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.



Campbell (center), with Volunteer Coordinator Jerry Eppner and Chapter President Mike Mullins, at Members Emeriti Induction ceremony, Texas AgriLife Extension, Angleton, Texas, May 8, 2013.

Nomination by Jerry Eppner

I would like to nominate Cradle of Texas Chapter member Gardner Campbell. 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 Sate Historic 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.

ED BARRIOS RECOGNIZED FOR 5000 HOURS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

ANGLETON, TEXAS — April 13, 2016. The Texas Master Naturalists Cradle of Texas Chapter has announced that member Ed Barrios was recognized for contributing over 5000 hours of service to our community. Ed was a member of the Class of 2004. He qualified for certification in December 2004 and has recertified every year since.



Volunteer Coordinator Jerry Eppner and Chapter President Dave Brandes presented the award: a gold Dragonfly pin inset with a diamond.

Ed earned President's Call to Service Award in March 2014 in recognition of his volunteer work for the Chapter, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, and Migration Celebration



Dave Brandes, Barrios, Jerry Eppner

Photo: Richard Schaffhausen

IN MEMORIAM: LEON SKEETE



Palms Funeral Home

Chapter News notes the passing of Leon Hines Skeete, Jr. in March 2016. Before his retirement he had worked for The Dow Chemical Company for many years. After retiring, Leon and his wife Lula volunteered for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as members of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges.

Although Leon was not a member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, he was an active participant in numerous activities at the Wildlife Refuges including the DEEP program and

Migration Celebration.

Leon and Lula were named *Volunteers of the Year* in 2004 for their volunteer work on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A NEW FACE AT DISCOVERY CENTER



Photo: McLain

Johnny Dwyer has been hired as Environmental Education Coordinator for USFWS. In this capacity he will administer the DEEP and HWEPP programs, effective May 5, 2016. He will be replacing Kelly Koch who is relocating to Alaska.

Johnny's duties also include assisting with the Refuge Junior Naturalist Program.

<http://juniornaturalist.net/>

Johnny is a native of Cincinnati. He grew up there, and holds degrees in Environmental Studies and Photojournalism. He has studied ecology throughout the United States, including 38 the 50 states. His studies have taken him to several Central American countries including Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

Back in Ohio he founded a homeschool naturalist group known as the Young Naturalists of Ohio (YNO).

He reports that his new position as program administrator offers him a chance to further explore the United States and to learn a new biome.

Welcome to Texas Johnny!.

Contact info:

Johnny Dwyer

513-502-3141

dwyer5jm@gmail.com

THANKS to PEGGY and PETE from GCBO



Photo: GCBO

Editor's note: The following article appeared in the May 1 issue of GCBO May enews, an online newsletter published by GCBO.

We wanted to send out a special thank you to Pete and Peggy Romfh for their outstanding efforts to organize, coordinate, and maintain our Spring Fling event at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary. Pete and Peggy did everything for this event and those of us at GCBO who have organized it in the past know how much work that is! Thank you so much Pete and Peggy for all your hard work. Spring Fling was a big hit and I'm pretty sure everyone came away with a good experience.

SHELDON LAKE STATE PARK RESTORATION INCLUDES BRAZORIA COUNTY PLANTS

by Peggy Romfh

In a March 31st article in the *Houston Chronicle*, reporter Andrew Kragle described how Texas Master Naturalists and other volunteers have transformed over 100 acres at Sheldon Lake State Park from farmland into prairie and wetlands habitat.

Sheldon Lake is located 15 miles northeast of downtown Houston. The original wetlands were leveled during World War II to make way for rice fields. Using maps from early 20th century aerial photography and soil cores, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees traced the original outlines of the wetlands basins. Over the last 12 years, the original basins have been restored and replanted with native plants.

Master naturalist volunteers have spent more than 9,000 hours replanting at Sheldon Lake. Susan Conaty, from the Cradle of Texas Chapter, is among the volunteers at Sheldon Lake. She started volunteering after she took a class on wetlands plants there. Susan commented, "Even though it is almost 90 miles away from my house, I still go and volunteer mainly because of the friendships I have....I like being around...people who enjoy each other and the work. This is a great group of people."

According to Mary Carol Edwards, Stormwater Wetland Program Coordinator, "Locations in Brazoria County have been key spots for the restoration at Sheldon for collecting *Iris* and *Thalia* (plants), *Canna glauca* (seeds), plus occasional loads of *Spartinas*, *Eleocharis quadrangulata* and *Rynchospora carniculata*." She added, "Until we established a connection with the Cradle of Texas Chapter, the volunteers were usually Galveston Bay Area and Gulf Coast Master Naturalists."

She added that, in addition to on-site volunteers such as Susan Conaty, the COT volunteers that support the wetlands programs are now directly participating in Sheldon Lake restoration with their plant contributions. The *Thalia* and *Iris* that was recently dug in Brazoria County has gone in part to the Sheldon Lake project.

The wetlands nursery that was built at Gulf Coast Observatory serves as a temporary repository for seedlings and plants that have been gathered in ditches and, with permission, at Sea Center Texas and San Bernard NWR. Although some of these plants have been used to support large projects such as Sheldon Lake, they will also be used to support Brazoria County wetlands projects.

The Texas Coastal Watershed Program volunteer day at GCBO is the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.



Left: TMN-COT member Chris Kneupper loads a tub of freshly dug *iris* from San Bernard NWR into the trailer for transport to the nursery. [Feb. 2016] Over 1,000 *iris* plants were dug by COT volunteers to support wetlands projects. Right: Peggy Romfh and Susan Conaty pot plants at the GCBO nursery. [Jan. 2016]

Photos by Pete Romfh



Some of these beautiful *iris* from Brazoria County now grace the wetlands at Sheldon Lake State Park.

Photo by Chris Kneupper



Some of powdery alligator flag (*Thalia dealbata*) from the ditches along Hwy 288B north of Angleton have been planted in the wetlands at Sheldon Lake State Park.

Photo by Peggy Romfh

TMN-COT MEMBERS WIN IN MIGRATION CELEBRATION PHOTO CONTEST

by Peggy and Pete Romfh

The 2016 Migration Celebration Photo Contest offered three different opportunities for awards and photo displays and exhibits: Migration Celebration Photo Contest awards (including display at the Migration Celebration dinner and the Migration Celebration event), Photos of Merit (photos that will be displayed at Refuge Headquarters for the next year), and Center for Arts and Sciences Art League Studio (photos that will be exhibited from mid-April to mid-May). In addition, some photos from the 2015 Photo Contest will be included in the Art League exhibit. All of the Migration Celebration 1st-3rd place winning photos will be available for viewing on the Migration Celebration web site.

TMN members that won Migration Celebration Photo Contest awards:

Patty Brinkmeyer and Jill Carroll.

TMN members that won Photos of Merit:

Patty Brinkmeyer and Dick Schaffhausen.

TMN members with photos in the Art League exhibit:

(2016) Patty Brinkmeyer, Jill Carroll, Anna King, and Dick Schaffhausen.

(2015) Roger K. Allen, Patty Brinkmeyer, Jerry Eppner, and Steve Zilliox



1st Place, Wildlife Invertebrates, Texas Mid-Coast, "**Paper Wasp**" by Patty Brinkmeyer



2nd Place, Wildlife Invertebrates, Texas Mid-Coast, "**Dragonfly Eye**" by Patty Brinkmeyer



3rd Place, Wildlife Invertebrates, Refuge, "**Carolina Satyr**" by Patty Brinkmeyer




3rd Place, Wildlife Vertebrates, Texas Mid-Coast, "**Anole Warrior**" by Patty Brinkmeyer




2nd Place, Landscape/Scenery/Nature as Art, "**Red Dew**" by Jill Carroll

MIGRATION CELEBRATION PHOTO CONTEST EXHIBIT at BRAZOSPORT ART LEAGUE

BRAZOSPORT ART LEAGUE PRESENTS
A FOCUS ON NATURE IV
 Migration Celebration Best of Show 2016



"Ring-necked Duck on a Foggy Morning"
 Photo by Stan Bravenec

Sponsored by


Tues, April 19th - Sun, May 22nd
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



CLUTE TEXAS – April 19, 2016. The Migration Celebration Photo Contest exhibit opened today under the sponsorship of Phillips 66, at the Brazosport Art League Gallery at the Center for Arts and Sciences, 400 College Drive, Clute, Texas 77531.

An opening reception was held on April 21 at the Gallery. Led by Jet Booth, Art League President, speakers included representatives of Phillips 66 and the Migration Celebration Committee.

The exhibit will continue through May 22.



Form left: Phil and Michelle Bodden representing Phillips 66; Jet Booth, Brazosport Art League President



BEST OF SHOW 2015

Don't Come Any Clossser

Photographer *Patty Brinkmeyer*

Location *Brazoria NWR, Brazoria County*

Category *Wildlife Vertebrates Refuge*

Award *1st Place, Best of Show and People's Choice*



BEST OF SHOW 2016

Ring-necked Duck on a Foggy Morning

Photographer *Stan Bravenec*

Location *Houston*

Category *Birds Texas Mid-Coast*

Award *First Place and Best of Show*

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson
Vice President/Program	Jill Carroll, Pearland
Secretary	Jean Britt, Lake Jackson
Treasurer	Donald Sabathier, Pearland
State Representative	Ed Barrios, Lake Jackson
Past President	Mike Mullins, Sweeny
Training Coordinator	Carolyn May-Monie, West Columbia
Membership Coordinator	Jerry Eppner, Lake Jackson
Volunteer Service Coordinator	Pete Romfh, Houston
Advanced Training Coordinator	Peggy Romfh, Houston
Outreach Coordinator	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
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MASTER NATURALIST EMAIL LISTS

TMN-COT Chapter list

- Instructions http://tmn-cot.org/Email_Lists/index.html
- Send messages to TMN-COT@googlegroups.com
- Message Archive <http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail>
- All messages are sent immediately.

State Master Naturalist list

- Instructions <http://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmn-listserv/>
- Subscribe listserv@listserv.tamu.edu
- All messages are held for moderation by the TMN State Coordinator

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