



# Chapter News

## CONTENTS

- Page 1**  
President's Message
- Page 2**  
Next General Meeting
- Page 3**  
Membership Report
- Page 4**  
Photo Gallery Potpourri
- Page 5**  
Judy's Jottings
- Page 6**  
Officers and Directors

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Well, here we are again.... hurricane season headed toward the peak. And, you know how Mother Nature loves to throw curve balls (aka hurricanes) at us from the African coast this time of year. She's been hard at it the last couple of weeks. If

you have been on the coast for a while, you know the need for a hurricane plan. How many of you have already developed or updated your checklist? How many have you have walked through it with whole family this season? How many of you have assigned family members a part of the list to emphasize its seriousness and ensure engagement? If you wait until it must be executed, it's unlikely to go well. Enough said.

### Invasive Species

You've probably noticed I have a thing about invasive species. With the ease of



world-wide travel, more diligence than ever is needed at our borders and by our retailers. Now Emerald Ash Borers have been found in Harrison County. Because of the potential for devastating damage to ash trees in our state, Harrison County has been placed under quarantine in its entirety. This action has been taken to prevent further spread of EAB.

## Celebration in September

Guess who has a birthday in September.... WE DO! That's right, we turn 15. Umm... hormones, that must be why we're getting a little crazy, and it affects our September meeting. And guess who is



retiring the end of this month.... one of our founding members and Chapter Advisor. Yes, Connie Stolte is retiring from Sea Center Texas. While she will not be able to continue her role representing TPWD, she is a certified Texas Master Naturalist and will not be retiring from us!

**For more information about the party see Pam West's message on Page 3.**

Please make a note in **BIG LETTERS** that our September general meeting will be held at the **Lake Jackson Civic Center on September 14**. The party kicks off at **10:00 AM** with a business meeting (but no AT). Then we'll celebrate our birthday and thank Connie for her service to our chapter.

And finally, please don't forget to **RSVP** to Pam so she'll know how many people will attend. Pam's email is:

[pwest331@gmail.com](mailto:pwest331@gmail.com)

And let her know if you will be bringing a salad, side or dessert.

That's all for now. We can talk more at our meeting Wednesday.

—Dave

*Dave Brandes is the president of Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. He can be reached at [brandes@tmn-cot.org](mailto:brandes@tmn-cot.org)*



<http://facebook.com/TMN.COT>

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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.

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Wednesday, August 10, 2016  
Texas AgriLife Extension Building  
21017 County Road 171  
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903**



<b>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship</b> <b>Refreshment Team:</b> Joanna Harlan, Lisa Myers, Richard Schaffhausen, Cindy Goodrum, Denise Kaplan, Robert Salzer
<b>9:00 AM – 9:50 AM</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</i>
<b>10:15 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Program: “Brazoria County Mosquito Control Presents the Mosquito”</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Darrin Griffith, assistant supervisor at Brazoria County Mosquito District <i>This program is approved for Advanced Training Hours to be announced at meeting.</i>

The Brazoria County Mosquito Control District protects the health and well-being of county residents through surveillance, education, and with control measures to prevent and control mosquitoes and mosquito borne diseases. <http://brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/mosquito-control>

# Mosquito Bite Prevention (United States)



**Not all mosquitoes are the same. Different mosquitoes spread different viruses and bite at different times of the day.**

## Type of Mosquito



*Aedes aegypti,*  
*Aedes albopictus*

## Viruses spread

Chikungunya,  
Dengue, Zika

## Biting habits

Primarily daytime, but  
can also bite at night



*Culex* species

West Nile

Evening to morning

**Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator

Well I am back from our vacation and online again. Our members have been very busy. Lots going on this summer. As of August 5, 104 COT members and interns have entered 9813 hours of Volunteer Time for 2016 and 1111 hours of Advanced Training. And the good news is the data-entry error rate is now just about zero. Thanks to everyone for paying attention to the details.

At the September general meeting, members recertifying since our last report include

- Jill Carroll
- Judy Green (2016 intern)
- Mel McKey,
- Jo Myers (2016 intern)
- Herbert Myers (2016 intern),
- Lisa Myers (2016 intern)
- Laurel Owen.

It is really good to see our 2016 intern class taking such an active role. Congratulations to all!!

Those reaching VT milestones include:

- Oron Atkins (250)
- Jerry Eppner (2500)
- Jeanne Manry (1000)

And we have two very special milestones reached.

- Jim Calvert has accrued 4000 hours of VT and is eligible for the President's Call to Service Award,.
- Our president, Dave Brandes has reached the 5000-hour milestone.

Pins and certificates for these levels must come from the state. They have been ordered and we will celebrate these achievements in October. Great effort!!

## PARTNER NEWS:

### FRIENDS OF BRAZORIA WILDLIFE REFUGES

By Neal McLain

There's been a lot of activity over at our partner, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife (which technically isn't a "partner"— it's a "partner-of-a-partner" — but we'll ignore that).

#### Board of Directors

Two TMN-COT members have been elected to the FOBWR Board of Directors: Kim Richardson and Oron Atkins. And Richard Schaffhausen has been elected Treasurer. Congratulations all!



Richardson



Atkins



Schaffhausen

#### BNWR 50<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Celebration

The year 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. FOBWR volunteers are already busy working with Fish & Wildlife staff to present a 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration on November 12, 2016, at the refuge. The theme of the celebration will be the history of the land, both natural and cultural.

We'll need lots of volunteers for this event so mark your calendars for a chance to rack up some Volunteer Hours!

To volunteer contact Tom Schneider at 979-964-4011 or

[tsschneider98@gmail.com](mailto:tsschneider98@gmail.com)

## NEXT MONTH WE CELEBRATE THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHAPTER!

By Pam West, Chapter Host

Don't forget our 15th Anniversary Celebration at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 14. We are also celebrating Connie Stolte's retirement from Sea Center Texas.

The event will be held at the Lake Jackson Civic Center on State Highway 332 (but you have to enter the parking lot from Circle Way).. We will hold a regular business meeting but we will not have an Advanced Training program that usually follows.

So we will meet then eat, celebrate, and just have some good old fashioned fun. You may bring one guest, if you like. Brisket and sausage will be served. We are asking members to bring the side dishes, salads, and desserts.

We need to know how many people are attending so we can make appropriate plans. Please RSVP Pam West

[pwest331@gmail.com](mailto:pwest331@gmail.com) or

979-864-9340 by Wednesday, August 31. No later, please.

Please join in on the fun and help us CELEBRATE!!!!



COT Member Roy Morgan checks progress of the main course for the 2010 Migration Celebration kickoff dinner

## PHOTO GALLERY POTPOURRI

by Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery Editor

Although the high water and flooding have been a significant part of nature in Brazoria County this spring and summer, Brazoria County remains home to many interesting plants and animals. Here are a few photos taken by COT members that showcase some of these species.

### Ladies' Tresses

[photo by Mike Mullins, Sweeny]



Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes* sp.) are one of only a few species of orchids found in Brazoria County. As with many orchids, the flowers are **resupinate**, twisting during development into an upside-down position.

### Mississippi Kite

[photo by Mike Mullins, Sweeny]



Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) live in bottomland hardwood forests of the Southeast. They are agile flyers and catch insects on the wing. They migrate to central South America for the winter. The oldest kite on record was 11 years old.

### Lincoln's Sparrow

[photo by Jerry Eppner, Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary]



Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*) is a short-tailed sparrow with a small bill and peaked crown. During breeding season, it primarily eats arthropods such as spiders, larvae and beetles. During winter, its diet consists of seeds and invertebrates. It was named after a friend of Audubon, not after President Lincoln.

### Cat-Faced Spider

[Photo by Patty Brinkmeyer, San Bernard NWR]



Cat-faced Spider (*Araneus gemmoides*) is an orb-weaver that makes a sticky web a few feet above the ground. It often hides in the corner of the web, but when a vibration occurs in a thread of a web from an insect landing, it quickly smothers it in silk and then paralyzes it with digestive saliva.

### Purplehead Sneezeweed

[Photo by Susan Conaty, Nash Prairie Preserve]



Purplehead Sneezeweed (*Helenium flexuosum*), is identified by the purplish-brown ball of its disc flowers. The ray flowers are yellow and slightly drooping. Its flowers are a great source of nectar and pollen.

### Baby Hognose Snake

[Photo by Susan Conaty, Brazos Bend State Park]



The Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) is commonly yellowish brown. It is best known by its broad head and its enlarged and pointed snout. It is often found near streams, ponds, and lakes. Adults are typically 2-4 feet in length.



## JUDY'S JOTTINGS

### WATCHING A CREEPING WATER BUG SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF A SCUD

By Judy Green. Photos by Marty Cornell

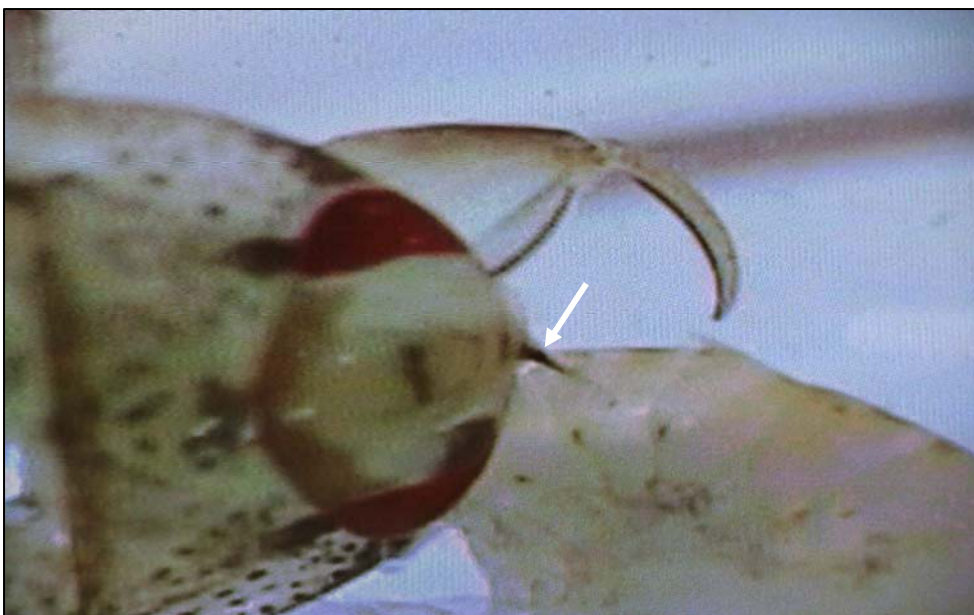
"It's Weird! And I like weird!" exclaimed 13-year old Kamille as she saw a Creeping Water Bug devour a Scud on the large overhead screen. Kamille and 34 other children from the Judson Robinson Community Center in Houston visited Microworld, a DEEP lab session, at BNWR on July 21. TMN Marty Cornell grabbed his camera and snapped some great shots of the carnivorous bug activity, one of which is included here.

Creeping Water Bugs, or *Hemiptera*, a term meaning

"half wing," referring to the fact that part of the first pair of wings is tough and hard. *Hemipteras* are deemed to be true bugs with over 35,000 species. They are predators possessing a piercing beak to kill their prey. They then inject enzymes to dissolve the tissue then ingest the liquid back through their beak. If a *Hemiptera* bites your finger it can be quite painful, the pain lasting about five minutes. These water bugs also tend to be pollution tolerant and closely resemble their parents, except that the young do not possess wings.



Creeping Water Bug [*Pelocoris femoratus*] (left) attacks the Scud (*Hyaella azteca*)



The piercing beak (arrow) of the water bug

#### Creeping Water Bug

Class: *Insecta*

Order: *Hemiptera*

Family: *Naucoridae*

Genus: *Pelocoris*

Species: *P. femoratus*

<http://tinyurl.com/JJ-Bug-1>

<http://tinyurl.com/JJ-Bug-2>

<http://tinyurl.com/JJ-Bug-3>

#### Scud

Class: *Malacostraca*

Order: *Amphipoda*

Family: *Dogielinotidae*

Genus: *Hyaella*

Species: *H. azteca*

<http://tinyurl.com/JJ-Scud-1>

<http://tinyurl.com/JJ-Scud-2>

### 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 Coordinators	Carolyn May-Monie, West Columbia Laurel Owen, Brazoria
Membership Coordinator	Jerry Eppner, Lake Jackson
Volunteer Service Coordinator	Pete Romfh, Houston
Advanced Training Coordinator	Peggy Romfh, Houston
Outreach Coordinator	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
Chapter Host	Pam West, Freeport
Publicity Coordinator	Richard Schaffhausen, Alvin
Publications Coordinator	Neal McLain, Brazoria
Class of 2016 representatives	Kristine Rivers, Pearland Larry Ruhr, Lake Jackson

Chapter Advisers	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
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E-mail Listserv	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail</a>



### MASTER NATURALIST EMAIL LISTS

#### ***TMN-COT Chapter list***

- Instructions [http://tmn-cot.org/Email\\_Lists/index.html](http://tmn-cot.org/Email_Lists/index.html)
- Send messages to [TMN-COT@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto:listserv@listserv.tamu.edu)
- All messages are held for moderation by the TMN State Coordinator

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