



Chapter News

CONTENTS

- Page 1**
President's Message
- Page 2**
Next General Meeting
- Page 3**
Membership Report
- Page 4**
Thank You Volunteers!
- Page 5**
2017 Training Schedule
- Page 6**
Christmas Bird Counts
- Page 7**
Controlled Burns
- Page 9**
BBSP Butterfly Count
- Page 10**
Officers and Directors

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.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



10:00 AM
This is when we will kick off our December General Meeting. We will still have a 30-minute social time beginning at 9:30AM. We are beginning the meeting a little later because there will be no advanced training at this meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Yes, it's that time of year again when we renew our organization's leadership. Below are the nominations for our executive board recommended by our board of directors.
Further nominations will be accepted from the floor prior the voting at our December General Meeting

2017 Officer Nominations offered by COT Board of Directors

| President | Vice-President | Secretary | Treasurer |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| Kristine Rivers | Jill Carroll Incumbent | Lisa Myers | Don Sabathier Incumbent |

Current state TMN management documents have changed the way board members are elected and it affects us this time around. In the past, we elected our officers who then immediately took office. The remaining appointed board members were appointed by the President and confirmed by the

executive committee at the January Board Meeting. Both the officer nominees and appointed director nominees were put forward by a nominating committee appointed by the current President prior to our December meeting. All of these
Continued on page 3



The 117th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 14, 2016 to January 5, 2017. See Page 6 for the schedule of local counts.

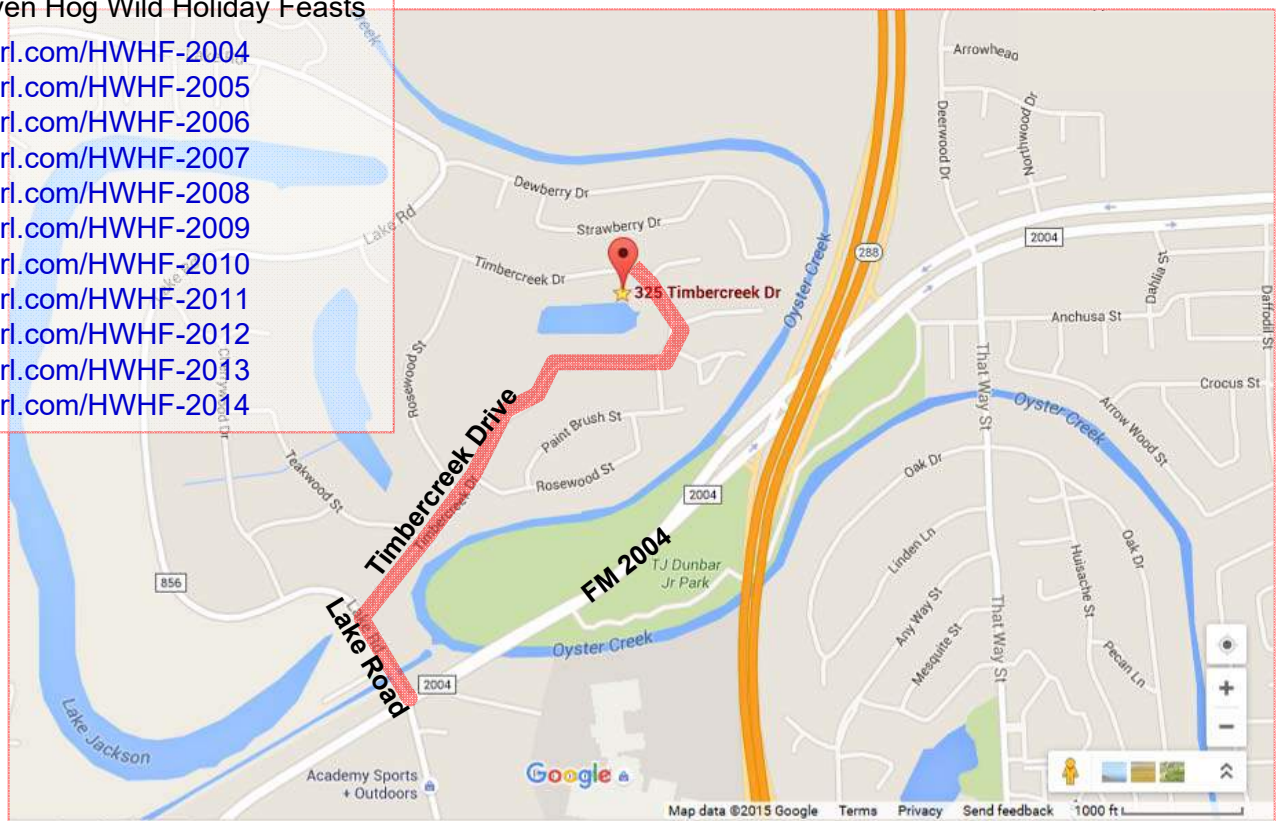
**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
AgriLife Building, Angleton**



| | |
|--|---|
| <p>9:30 AM - 9:50 AM NOTE LATE STARTING TIME</p> | <p>Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Mary Holler, Rainbo Johnson, Neal McLain Plus any bonus goodies other members would like to bring</p> |
| <p>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (tentative)</p> | <p>General Meeting Agenda: Election of Officers for 2017 Holiday Party (bring some goodies to share, if you wish). <i>This business part of this meeting is approved for Volunteer Time.</i> <i>There will be no Advanced Training at this meeting</i></p> |
| <p>12:00 PM - ???</p> | <p>Twelfth Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast Hosted by Ed Barrios and crew. Location: 325 Timber Creek Drive Lake Jackson, TX 77566 979-287-1815</p> |

New to the Chapter? Here are photos of the first eleven Hog Wild Holiday Feasts

- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2004>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2005>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2006>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2007>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2008>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2009>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2010>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2011>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2012>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2013>
- <http://tinyurl.com/HWHF-2014>



PRESIDENTS'S MESSAGE contd.

nominations were published to the general membership at least 15 days prior to the December meeting. It was a simple and straightforward procedure.

Now the officer-election process is still pretty much the same, except they do not take office until January, and we must appoint our other directors before January. After the election the new President-elect must name another nominating committee to put forward nominations for all of the appointed positions. The president-elect will then, after any discussion, appoint new directors to the board. Following these appointments, the new officer-elects, along with the past-president and chapter advisors, must confirm them before January 1.

Previously this entire appointment process took place at our first board meeting in January. This year we anticipate performing this new appointment process immediately following our December General Meeting.

And finally I'm really happy to see Tom Morris is organizing a Whooping Crane trip this year. This is a fun excursion with an opportunity to see these endangered species up close. Thanks Tom!

—Dave

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

Editor's note: The Whooping Crane Trip is scheduled for February 14, 2017. For further information see the announcement at

<http://tmn-cot.org/s/WhoopTrip2017.pdf>

NEWS FROM THE MID-COAST WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

Discovery Center Open House

December 26, 2016 — January 1, 2017.

Volunteers needed. Contact Tom Schneider

tom_schneider@fws.gov or 979-964-4011 x27

Welcome back Johnny!

Johnny Dwyer has been appointed to a full-time position with the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex effective January 8, 2017. He will assume responsibility for the Environmental Education Programs including DEEP and HWEPP.

Johnny filled a similar position for several months during 2016 as a Conservation Intern with the Student Conservation Association. SCA trains interns and assigns them to temporary positions with a wide range of

clients including National Wildlife Refuges.

<http://www.thesca.org/>.

Johnny says the biggest shock will be turning in his green SCA T-shirt for a tan USFWS polo shirt.

<https://www.facebook.com/johnny.dwyer.39>



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator

As of December 4, 109 COT members and interns have entered 14212 hours. of Volunteer Time for 2016 and 1569 hours of Advanced Training..

At the December general meeting, we will be recognizing some milestones. Members recertifying for 2016 include



Elaine
Crews



Marlies
Greenwood



Rainbo
Johnson



Christina
Hartman



Mary Helen
Israel



David
Plunkett

. Congratulations to all.

Also, Marlies Greenwood and Karen Leder have reached the 250 hour service milestone. Rainbo Johnson has passed the 1000-hour VT service level.

Well done, folks.

We are rapidly approaching the end of 2016. With the exception of Christmas Bird Counts and a few other opportunities, the vast majority of us have completed our volunteering for the year. Our VMS 2016 hour entry needs to be done prior to mid-January so that the state TMN office can compile an accurate record of our chapter's accomplishments this year. So please take some time to enter those hours you have already accumulated at your earliest convenience.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRAZORIA NWR

FREEPORT, TEXAS — November 12, 2016, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the 50th Anniversary of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge today at the Refuge. Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges assisted the Service. A highlight of the Celebration was the Conservation Partner Recognition Ceremony led by Team Leader Jennifer Sanchez. Guest speakers at the ceremony included Ron Bisbee, a former manager of the refuge, and Percy Beacroft, representing the Maddox family.



See Attachment for photos

http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/Attachment_2016-12.pdf

Thank You!

Thank You Cradle of Texas Volunteers for all that you did in 2016 to educate children and adults about the wonderful world of nature in Brazoria County, to support and improve wetlands, prairies, and bottomland forests, and to train and support the master naturalist community.

May your holidays be happy days, filled with love and laughter, and may each day bring joy your way in the year that follows after!



Photos from DEEP session at Brazoria NWR on 12/01/2016 illustrate the commitment of Cradle of Texas volunteers. *Top:* school bus with class on board takes tour around ponds. *Above:* Marty Cornell talks about seining to attentive class. *Right:* Ruby Lewis hugs alligator prior to sharing reptiles with students. [Photos by P&P Romfh]

INTERN CLASS OF 2017 TRAINING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

ANGLETON, TEXAS The Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter has announced its 2017 Intern Training Class Schedule.

- Registration opens October 1, 2016 and closes January 7, 2017
- Maximum class size is 20 participants.
- Registration fee is \$100.
- Classes begin January, 18, 2017 and run through May 3, 2017.
- To register download this form: <http://tmn-cot.org/Forms/InternApp.pdf>
- The abbreviated class schedule is shown below.
- View complete schedule: http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/index.html
- For further information contact the Training Coordinators:

Carolyn May-Monie
979-236-3341

cmaymonie@embarqmail.com

Laurel Owen
858-335-7668

laurelowen1@yahoo.com

| DATE | CLASS TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Jan. 18 | TMN-COT Introduction Session I | Training Coordinators |
| Jan. 25 | TMN-COT Introduction Session II | Training Coordinators, Marty Cornell, COT member |
| Feb. 1 | ICHTHYOLOGY | Connie Stolte, Retired and Brittney Zepeda, Sea Center Texas |
| Feb. 15 | AQUATIC SYSTEMS ECOLOGY | John O'Connell AgriLife Coastal & Marine Agent |
| Feb. 22 | ARCHAEOLOGY | Johnney Pollan Brazosport Archaeological Society |
| Mar. 1 | PLANTS | Dr. Ann McLain Volunteer Instructor |
| Mar. 15 | URBAN ECOLOGY | Tyler Froberg Supt. Parks and Natural Resources, Pearland |
| Mar. 22 | WETLAND, ESTUARY, BEACH ECOLOGY | Rich Tillman COT Member |
| Mar. 29 | ORNITHOLOGY | Kristine Rivers COT Member |
| Apr. 5 | FORESTS - COLUMBIA BOTTOMLANDS | Thomas Adams Botanist USFWS - SBNWR |
| Apr. 19 | MAMMALS | David Heinicke Brazos Bend State Park - Park Naturalist |
| Apr. 26 | ENTOMOLOGY | Ed Barrios COT Member |
| May. 3 | HERPETOLOGY | David Heinicke Brazos Bend State Park - Park Naturalist |
| May. 10 | INTERN PROJECT REPORTS AND GRADUATION | Chapter President, Training Coordinators; Intern Class Members |

LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE 2016-17

Following is the schedule of local Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in 2016-17. For further information contact the following TMN-COT members:

| | |
|--|--|
| David Plunkett | Tom Morris |
| 979-297-3322 (h) | 979-297-4678 (h) |
| 979-418-1411 (c) | tmorris44@comcast.net |
| doplunkett@sbcglobal.net | |

Participation in any Audubon-accredited bird count is approved for volunteer service hours provided that you sign in and participate in the counting activity. "Counting activity" includes all time spent in the field plus training meetings, travel among count sites (if any), the countdown, and your travel time to and from the meeting points.

VMS Code: FR: Citizen Science/Field Surveys
Description: CDC + location of event

December 19, 2016

Matagorda Co. - Mad Island Marsh CBC

Most of the count is on private land and participation in the CBC is the only way to gain access to some very productive wildlife lands. The diversity of the CBC is great and most sections have multiple exclusives. The CBC features extensive native grasslands, brushlands, floodplain forests, beaches and coastal marshes.

Brent Ortego - 361-576-0022
brentortego@hotmail.com

December 14, 2016

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR

This is a wonderful opportunity to bird the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR. This CBC is open to all birders and is one of the highest inland CBCs for diversity in the country.

Sumita Prasad - 832-453-4374 - sumita@utexas.edu

December 15, 2016

Guadalupe River Delta—McFaddin Family Ranches -

This is a unique fun count surveying riparian forests near the Coast. The count is usually sponsored and the CBC will likely provide you access to property not available otherwise. This count was designed by Mark Elwonger and Brent Ortego to maximize the number of lingering neotrops. It contains 15 miles of the lower end of Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers.

Brent Ortego - 361-648-9773
brentortego@hotmail.com

December 20, 2016

Galveston

Although this count has very limited land area and a particularly small amount of wooded areas, it still typically is a top 20 or near top twenty U.S. CBCs. This count is open to anyone who would like to participate and all areas need more observers. If you want to see some great birds, join us. This count undoubtedly produces the most species for the available land area (much of the count circle is water) of all U.S. CBCs.

Richard Mayfield richardm@verizon.net

December 16, 2016

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges

This unique count provides opportunities to bird areas of the refuge not normally open to the public, including a newly-acquired tract along the west end of County Road 306, the Bludworth tract along Cocklebur Slough (2003 acquisition), and the nearby McNeill tract which now boasts the San Bernard Oak, the official state champion Live Oak.

Ron Weeks - 979-299-0066 - ronweeks@sbcglobal.net -

Saturday, December 17, 2016

Brazos Bend State Park

Now in our 30th year, we encourage participants young and old, and all levels of experience to join the fun. Strong leadership will be assigned for all groups and the park entry fee is waived for participants. See Brazos Bend CBC website for further information.

Justin Bower - 832-746-2140 - jbower47@hotmail.com

December 18, 2016

Freeport

The count is consistently one of the top ten in the country and finds the largest number of species of any on the Upper Texas Coast. Habitat includes seashore, barrier islands, prairie and woodland. The circle is divided into ten areas, each with its own leader and unique habitats.

Ron Weeks - 979-299-0066 - ronweeks@sbcglobal.net

December 30, 2016

Brazoria—Columbia Bottomlands

This CBC includes Bar-X Ranch, Columbia Lakes, Hudson Woods unit of SBNWR, Brazoria Reservoir, Harris Reservoir, and southern Nash Ranch. This count was done from 1984-1994 by the Brazosport Birders. In 2009, the count was successfully revived with 45 participants and 145 species recorded.

Tom Taroni - 979-297-5563 - taronitom@gmail.com

December 22, 2016

Bolivar Peninsula

This count circle in Chambers County includes High Island and Anahuac NWR. Newcomers are welcome to join! Compilers this year are Steve Mayes and David Sarkozi.

Steve Mayes sgmayes@hotmail.com

For further information —

<http://refugefriends.org/BirdCounts/index.html>

CONTROLLED BURN ON THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Photos and story by Pete and Peggy Romfh



Controlled burns (prescribed burns) are used on both the Nash Prairie Preserve and on national wildlife refuges to manage and control plant species. On Nov. 17th, we were privileged to see USFWS staff in action doing a controlled burn on the San Bernard NWR land along CR 306. We contacted Jennifer Sanchez, Project Leader of the Texas Mid-Coast Unit, who provided us with information about controlled burns on the refuge.

Controlled burns are used to minimize or eliminate invasive species such as Chinese tallow and aggressive native species such as Eastern Baccharis from taking over the prairies. They also encourage new growth of native vegetation, thus improving habitat for both plant and animal species.

Young Chinese tallow trees will be killed during a controlled burn, but mature tallow trees are not. Plants such as Baccharis allow other shade tolerant plants to grow under their canopy. One goal of a controlled burn is to keep the Baccharis to below 10% of the prairie. Thomas Adams, Refuge Botanist, monitors the effectiveness of controlled burns with before- and after-assessments of the vegetation. Ideally, 75% of the affected area is black after a successful controlled burn.

Most healthy salt or coastal prairie habitats are on a 5 -6 year burn cycle. If there is an increase in unwanted species or the land is in need of restoration, the cycle may be as short as every three years. The primary burn period is October – March, when the prairies have plenty of dry plants that provide sufficient fuel for a fire. An incomplete burn occurs when the land is too wet or too green to support combustion.

Firefighting apparatus (called Engines by USFWS) used for controlled burns include tanker trucks and tracked vehicles. USFWS has three tracked vehicles, which allow for easier off-road access in fire management. Each holds a 250-gallon tank of water with a pump. Similarly, the wheeled trucks have tanks of water on the back. Fire fighters use the water to control hot spots that develop. The Refuge is required to have four engines (a combination of tracked and wheeled vehicles) on each burn.



Top: Firefighters use water from small pumper truck to control spread of burn. **Center:** Firefighters use water from tracked engine to pump water to control spread of burn. **Bottom:** Blackened remains of burned area smolder.

Continued on next page

CONTROLLED BURN ON THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, cont.

Before a fire can be started, a fire break is created around the area to be burned. A fire break may include a natural barrier such as a body of water, but on land a fire break is created with a 15 foot mowed area plus a disc line. A fire break provides a natural 'stop' or barrier that the fire does not cross.

Weather conditions, particularly wind direction, are important before setting a date for a controlled burn. North winds are desirable so that smoke from a fire will naturally blow off shore instead of towards coastal communities. In addition, wind from the north and a frontal passage is typically associated with lower humidity. According to Jennifer Sanchez, lower humidity dries out 1-hour fuels and helps to carry the fire better than when the humidity is around 75%.

A typical controlled burn is started with hand ignition. Staff walk along the outer edge of the area with a tool called a drip torch, a two-gallon canister containing a mixture of gasoline and diesel fuel that is squirted onto the vegetation to start the burn. On large fires, a hand-ignited backing fire may be started and then flanking fires created by use of a helicopter. With a helicopter, ping-pong sized plastic balls containing fuel and glycol are dropped over the area. The balls erupt on impact to start fires at multiple locations within the planned burned areas. The size of a controlled burn may be small, such as the 100+ acres bur recent burns on the San Bernard NWR off CR 306 may exceed 1,000 acres.

The Texas Mid-Coast fire crew includes six firefighters that routinely manage the controlled burns, but they are supplemented by up to five other Refuge staff that provides additional support as needed. David Chisolm is the supervisor of the fire crew.



Above: firefighter with drip torch starting controlled burn along CR306. **Below:** Fire burning Baccharis and other vegetation.

A controlled burn fire plan is about 50 pages long! A complexity evaluation and wind direction impact zone maps are included in each plan.



21ST ANNUAL BRAZOS BEND BUTTERFLY COUNT REPORT

By Rich Jespersen, Leader

It was a beautiful day for a walk in the park as 53 observers arrived for the count. It was especially gratifying to see five families with children and a total of 34 people who were participating in the Brazos Bend Count for the first time. To assist newcomers with identification, our seven parties included Brazos Bend Volunteers, Master Naturalists and other experienced observers.

About 60 percent of the park was flooded in early spring and again in summer, but plant life recovered well and many wildflowers were available for the nectaring butterflies.

This was the 11th count since we switched the event from June to October. Observations of six **Pipevine Swallowtails**, 225 **Little Yellows** and 509 **Pearl Crescents** each set new records for the October counts. We were also excited to see **Zebra Heliconian** and **Large Orange Sulphur**, both for only the 2nd time in the 21 years of our count. One species that may have been affected by two consecutive years of flooding is the Broad-winged Skipper. It's host plant is the Southern Wild Rice that grows in the lakes. When present, **Broad-winged Skippers** are usually widespread. This time, most parties saw none, while the party whose area included Creekfield Lake found them in abundance.

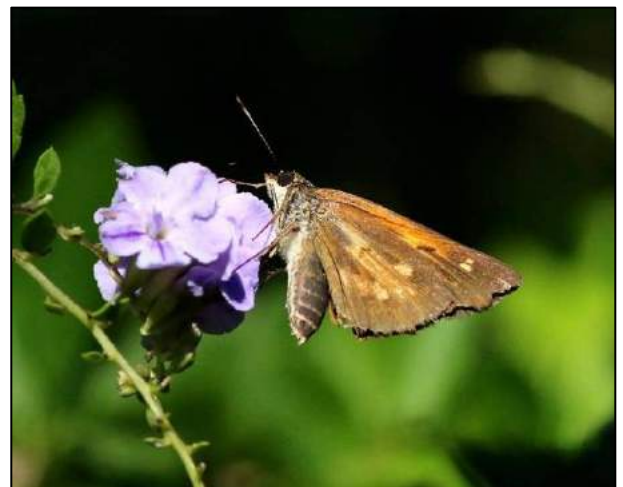
| SWALLOWTAILS | BRUSHFOOTS | SKIPPERS |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6 Pipevine Swallowtail | 3 American Snout | 3 White-striped Longtail |
| 16 Giant Swallowtail | 1 Zebra Heliconian | 5 Long-tailed Skipper |
| 1 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail | 199 Gulf Fritillary | 1 Dorantes Longtail |
| 1 <i>swallowtail species</i> | 7 Variegated Fritillary | 2 Horace's Duskywing |
| | 34 Phaon Crescent | 24 Common Checkered-skipper |
| WHITES & SULPHURS | 509 Pearl Crescent | 31 Tropical Checkered-skipper |
| 69 Cloudless Sulphur | 3 <i>Crescent species</i> | 15 <i>Checkered-skipper species</i> |
| 2 Large Orange Sulphur | 4 Red Admiral | 1 Turk's-cap White-Skipper |
| 225 Little Yellow | 50 Common Buckeye | 3 Neamathla Skipper |
| 3 <i>sulphur species</i> | 6 Viceroy | 20 Clouded Skipper |
| | 15 Hackberry Emperor | 5 Least Skipper |
| HAIRSTREAKS | 55 Tawny Emperor | 1 Fiery Skipper |
| 20 Gray Hairstreak | 5 <i>Emperor species</i> | 1 Little Glassywing |
| 1 Dusky-blue Groundstreak | 2 Gemmed Satyr | 2 Sachem |
| 1 <i>hairstreak species</i> | 111 Carolina Satyr | 37 Broad-winged Skipper |
| | 10 Monarch | 20 Dun Skipper |
| BLUES | 45 Queen | 1 Brazilian Skipper |
| 1 Ceraunus Blue | | 2 Ocola Skipper |
| 1 <i>blue species</i> | | 3 <i>Skipper species</i> |
| | | 6 <i>unknown butterfly</i> |

Total 1589 individuals / 41 species

Thanks to observers Wesley Brown, Leah Schlater-Brown, Haley Burns, Chris Carey, Julie d'Ablaing, Chuck Duplant, Jerry Eppner, Sudhaa Gade, Surya Gade, Linda Heinicke, Sandy Henderson, Lucy Herrsen, Madelyn Herrsen, Richard Hlinsky, Nancy Huffman, Sandy Jespersen, Clint Lacy, Julie Morgan Lock, Jacquelyn Marquez, Jim Murphy, Christine Pao, Montana Patin, Frances Pham, Christopher Price, Staci Price, Rowan Price, Warren Pruess, Lynne Ray, John Rickel, Emily Rickel, Roxanna Rickel, Kelly Rhodes, Johnny Rhodes, Taina Rhodes, Gavin Rhodes, Dustin Rhodes, Fred Robinson, Betsy Robinson, Robert Schwartz, Julian Sillero, Maria Sillero, James Smith, Barb Tucker, Debra Walker, Mary Waters, Nathan Whittle, Garrett Zylicz and Fatima (sorry I did not get your last name or the names of your family members).

The next count will be held on October 1, 2017.

Rich and Sandy Jespersen are members of the TMN-COT Class of 2001. They have been leading the BBSP Butterfly Count since 2006.



Broadwing Skipper

Photo: Jerry Eppner

This issue of Chapter News includes one Attachment
BNWR 50TH Anniversary Photo Spread
http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/Attachment_2016-12.pdf

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 Adviser | John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service) |
|-----------------|---|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Newsletter Editor | Neal McLain, Brazoria |
| Newsletter Writers | Jerry Eppner, Rich Jespersen, Carolyn May-Monie, Neal McLain, Peggy Romfh, |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Website | http://tmn-cot.org |
| Facebook | http://facebook.com/TMN.COT |
| E-mail Listserv | http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail |



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

Chapter News is published monthly on Monday before the General Meeting by the Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome. Submission deadline is 5:00 PM on Saturday before the General Meeting. Submissions should be sent by email to *Chapter News* Editor at tmn.cot@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.