

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter News – June 2010 Editor, Mary Helen Israel

Report from Membership Chairman, Jerry Eppner

As we enter into June, 32 chapter members have submitted time sheets so far this year. A total of 3760 volunteer time hours has been reported. The chapter is doing very well! Keep up the good work this summer.

Recognition at the next meeting for recertifying in 2010 will include Barbara Burkhardt, John Boettiger, Neal McLain, Rik Martinez, Mary Holler, Jerry Eppner, Denis James, Clyde Zilliox and Steve Zilliox. Steve Zilliox will be recognized for reaching the 500-hr VT level.

Reminder from Chapter Hosts, Jerry Krampota and Justina Dent

The following folks signed up to bring refreshments for the June meeting: Jane and Jerry Eppner, Candace Novack and Pam Peltier. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkramkota@hotmail.com.

June Meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2010 Intern Training, and Advanced Training AgriLife Extension Building, Angleton

- 8:30 a.m.** - Coffee and Social Time
- 9:00 a.m.** - Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m.** - Phil Huxford will discuss Partnerships: TMN and Friends Groups and the Copperhead Study

Training Report, Laura Brandes

INSTRUCTORS for "2010 Fall Intern Calendar": The calendar is set; you received the several changes; and Neal has it posted on the website. I offered to photocopy materials for each session but no one took me up on that offer. The materials available to copy are in the closet, back left corner. (Each topic is in a named file and each handout is separated by a pink sheet.)

I have asked the Interns to contact you when they plan to attend a class. As of this moment, we have six Interns completing the program, four paid Interns ready to go and and 14 still sitting on the application. I cannot promise that you will have a class of more than one or as many as 15. This program requires us to "swallow" our pride and teach those that come. Remember, one is better than none!

No one has offered to do coffee, water, etc. so you will be on your own. I have coffee in my freezer and a large pump thermos, cups, sugar, creamer, etc. and can get a quantity of munchies and bottled water which we can arrange to get to you before class. The projector and laptop are at my house if you need them.

Each Instructor is going to have to take attendance and get the names to me so that I can chart them on my Intern spreadsheet. Stephanie has the one we use for COT meetings or you can do it your way.

I want to thank each of you for volunteering so quickly that I got the calendar done before my surgery. I appreciate your taking "charge" of your topic which takes the burden from me of being at each and every session. As of this date, my surgery will be June 2nd and the recovery is unknown since none of the five vertebrae have the same problem. (Seat belts save lives but they can do a lot of damage from the impact!)

As Training Director, I am a phone call or email away. Just contact me and we will resolve any problems, answer any questions, etc. Thank you, again.

Laura Brandes
Training Director
ljb823@comcast.net
979.265.3813

Get Well Wishes

COT-TMN wishes our Training Director, Laura Brandes, the best of healing and hope to see you back soon without all the pain you have been suffering the last months. We hope your back surgery has solved all your problems.

Federal Junior Duck Stamps go on sale on June 25, 2010

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>
Edited by Neal McLain



WASHINGTON — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that 18-year-old Rui Huang, of Columbus, Ohio, has won the 2010-11 Federal Junior Duck Stamp competition. The painting of a single Hooded Merganser will grace the next Junior Duck stamp, which will be available for purchase beginning June 25, 2010.



"I'm excited to celebrate our winning artist and all of the young people who participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program each year," said Rowan Gould, acting director of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chosen by a panel of judges at the National Junior Duck Stamp design contest held April 23 at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul, the prisma-color entry, which previously won the Ohio State Junior Duck Stamp contest, was judged the winner among best-of-show entries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Proceeds from the \$5 stamp support environmental and conservation education programs in the United States.

Huang will receive a \$5,000 award as well as a trip to the First Day of Sale ceremony for the federal and junior duck stamps, to be held June 25 at the Bass Pro Shops in Hanover, Maryland. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Editor's note: The 2010 Texas Junior Duck Stamp Competition was administered by the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, based in Brazoria County. Entries were judged on March 24, 2010 at Bass Pro Shop in Pearland. TMN-COT members Barbara and Ellis Burkhardt, Pam West, Carolyn Schlein, and Denis Mudderman assisted with the organization of the entries and the preparation for the judging. Barbara's report on the project was published in the April 2010 Newsletter. <<http://tinyurl.com/April10-Attach-3-pdf>>

USFWS Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/index.html>
Edited by Neal McLain



Boom protection surrounding the Breton Island National Wildlife Refuge.

What We Are Doing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sent more than 200 personnel into the Gulf of Mexico region to respond to the BP Oil Spill. We are working with BP and many partners to do everything we can to minimize the impact of the oil spill on fish, wildlife and habitat.

Our people are preparing for potential oil impact at wildlife refuges that line the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. We are conducting aerial and ground surveys to assess the damage, and recovering oiled or injured wildlife to be cleaned, healed and released in safe locations

Refuges at Risk

There are 33 National Wildlife Refuges at risk from the BP Oil Spill. These precious national resources are home to dozens of threatened and endangered species, including West Indian Manatees, Whooping Cranes, Mississippi Sandhill Cranes, Wood Storks and four species of Sea Turtles.

Although so far oiled wildlife recovered has been minimal, we expect the number to increase.

The Threat to Wildlife

Many species of wildlife face grave risk from the spill.

Birds can be exposed to oil as they float on the water or dive for fish through oil-slicked water. Oiled birds can lose the ability to fly and can ingest the oil while preening.

Sea turtles such as loggerheads and leatherbacks can be impacted as they swim to shore for nesting activities. Turtle nest eggs may be damaged if an oiled adult lies on the nest.

Oil has the potential to persist in the environment long after a spill and have long-term impacts on fish and wildlife.

Editor's note: Although the above press story mentions only 33 refuges (none in Texas), a separate article on the USFWS website cites the following refuges as being at risk:

Alabama

Bon Secour

Louisiana

Bayou Sauvage

Big Branch Marsh

Breton

Delta

Shell Keys

Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex

Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife

Refuge Complex

Mississippi

Grand Bay

Florida

Cedar Keys

Chassahowitzka

Crocodile Lake

Crystal River

Egmont Key

Great White Heron

Island Bay

J.N. Ding Darling

Key West

Lower Suwannee

Matlacha Pass

National Key Deer

Passage Key

Pine Island

Pinellas

Saint Marks

Saint Vincent

Ten Thousand Islands

Texas

Anahuac

Aransas

Brazoria

Laguna Atascosa

Lower Rio Grande Valley

McFaddin

San Bernard (including Big Boggy)

Texas Point

Attachments and Links

There are three attachments included with the newsletter:

Attachment 1 - TMN COT May 12, 2010 General Meeting Minutes
June10-Attach-1.pdf

Attachment 2 - President's Call to Service Award
June10-Attach-2.pdf

Attachment 3 - Field Trip to Matagorda Island
June10-Attach-3.pdf

More photos of the Matagorda Island trip are posted on the web:
<<http://refugefriends.org/TMN/LagunaReef/index.html>>
<http://refugefriends.org/TMN/Mat_Island/index.html>

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

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