

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
**Chapter News – March 2011**  
Editor, Mary Helen Israel

## A MESSAGE FROM “the PREZ”

Thanks to everyone for helping with Sea Center Texas Nature Day and the Heritage Day activities in Brazoria. The weather was a little rough early in the day, but we had a good turnout, especially for Sea Center. Hopefully, a good time was had by all. It is a great treat to see everyone sharing their love of nature with the community, especially the kids. Hopefully, our efforts will light a spark in their hearts so that they will want to get out, enjoy and learn about the wonderful world around them.



Marty and the kids with the alligator



Charlie and Friend

Next month, we have one of the major events for the year—the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Migration Celebration**. If you haven't already signed up for an event/time slot, contact Ed Barrios or make sure to look for the signup sheets at the meeting Wednesday. Sandy Henderson and I will be making the salad for the Friday evening dinner. We will need help (2 or 3 folks) preparing salad greens (washing/drying/cutting) and peeling and slicing up apples. Let either of us know if you're interested.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to our newest certified Master Naturalist! **Charlie Clements**. Congratulations to **Kathleen Murray** on completion of her course work. We are very happy to welcome them to the chapter.

**Neal McLain**, the COT “eccellente, superbo” computer” GURU. Neal was recognized by the Friends of the Brazoria Refuges, as Volunteer of the Year. Seems Neal works his computer magic for the Friends organization as well as COT. The recognition is richly deserved.

**Denis Mudderman** was recognized by USFW as the National Volunteer of the year. See the following article.

**Thanks to everyone for your help and support**  
with our projects and events. You have gotten our year off to a wonderful start and will make 2011 a very special anniversary year.

I'll think about you all as I enjoy great birding in the Guanacaste and Monteverdi areas of Costa Rica next week. ¡Hasta luego, hasta pronto!

**WRS 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award  
Denis Mudderman, Tamarac NWR, MN**

Denis Mudderman combines his technological expertise with his enthusiasm for environmental education and public outreach to continually find new and creative ways to promote the conservation mission of Tamarac NWR in Minnesota and Brazoria NWR on the Texas coast.

Since 2005, he has contributed more than 7000 hours during the spring, summer, and fall seasons at Tamarac and has spent the last 3 winters volunteering at Brazoria. As a volunteer at Tamarac NWR and through involvement with the Tamarac Friends, Denis designed and launched the [Friends of Tamarac's website](#). He also researched, selected the needed equipment, and worked with refuge staff to install a camera in an active beaver lodge which provides streaming video to the refuge visitor center. Not only does he excel in increasing the effectiveness of existing refuge conservation, interpretation and outreach programs, Denis also shines at researching and organizing new projects that are both sustainable and adaptable. The photography workshops he developed, including “Photo Safari” events geared towards families, are popular and effective with refuge visitors off all ages.

At Brazoria NWR Denis is active in the Friends of Brazoria NWR and the Texas Master Naturalists, and has developed displays for Brazoria's Discovery Center. He helped plan and execute the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex's Migration Celebration. In 2009 he received the *President's Call to Service Award* in honor of his dedicated service to the Refuge System.



*Denis Mudderman, NWRS 2011 Volunteer of the Year*

### **Report from Membership Chairman, Jerry Eppner**

The chapter is off to a good start for 2011. Thirteen members have submitted time sheets to date. Total volunteer time submitted is a very respectable 1159 hr. Great effort!

At the March general meeting, the following people will be recognized for their service: Certification - Charlie Clements. Recertification – Dave Brandes, Laura Brandes, Marty Cornell, Gerald Forrest and Denis James. Well done, folks!

The time sheet, new for 2011, is being used correctly, for the most part. The only glitch so far is a couple of members neglected to enter their email address into the cell just below their name on the preferred Excel time sheet. Remember, we need all members to do this to meet the state requirement that we have signed time sheets. If you are submitting Word or PDF timesheets, you must manually sign your timesheet before submitting to meet this requirement.

### **Reminder from Chapter Host, Jerry Krampota**

Those members who signed up to bring refreshments for the March meeting are Charlie Clements, Roy Morgan, Kerry Magee, and Sandy Henderson. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at [jkrampota@hotmail.com](mailto:jkrampota@hotmail.com).

**March Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2011**  
**Intern Training, and Advanced Training**

- 8:30 a.m.** - Coffee and Social Time
- 9:00 a.m.** - Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m.** - Whooping Cranes, presented by Felipe Chavez,  
Director of Conservation Programs at the Gulf Coast  
Bird Observatory

If you travelled to Rockport in January (or within the last three years) for the Whooping Crane trip, AT cannot be earned for this meeting. The same applies to the Matagorda trip planned for May. Advance Training hours can only be earned for the same topic every three years. If you have any questions, refer them to Candace Novak, AT chair, or to our president, Barbara Burkhardt.

**Training, Laura Brandes**

*WE HAVE TWO NEW INTERNS!* Welcome Chris Rhoads and Lee Jacobs to the 2011 Intern Class. This couple lives in West Columbia and both are retired (Chris as an electrician and Lee from finance). Fishing is their favorite weekend activity and they are already volunteers at Sea Center Texas. Welcome them to the COT.

*WE HAVE A NEW TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST!* Congratulations to Kathleen Murray who just completed her Intern Training. If you don't know Kathleen, you will sooner than later. She's a real "go-getter" and has been a very valuable volunteer at DEEP and INEOS. Kathleen will be recognized at Wednesday's General Meeting with her Name Tag and TMN polo shirt. Be sure to give her your best wishes.

*INTERN UP-DATE:* Seven (7) of the 2011 Interns have completed 50% of their training requirements. They are all involved with 1st Year Certification and have gotten involved with many of the COT programs and activities. What a great group of future Texas Master Naturalists!!!

**INTERN TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH:**

(March 4th was the "Coast, Dunes and Wetlands" at Surfside Beach taught by Rich Tillman. This was Intern Training—2 Class and 2 Field OR Advanced Training for TMNers.)

(March 5th was "Nature Day" at Sea Center Texas and Brazoria "Heritage Day". For Interns this is Volunteer and Travel Time under "Certification".)

March 9th (Wednesday): General Meeting at AgriLife in Angleton with Advanced Training on "Whooping Cranes", Volunteer Time for meeting and Travel Time under "Certification" NO Intern hours.

March 23rd (Wednesday): “Herpetology” at BNWR Discovery Center beginning at 2:00 pm. Instructors are Justina Dent, Ruby Lewis and Laura Brandes. Be comfortable since we will be in air conditioning with no mosquitoes! The Interns will earn 4 Class hours and TMNers can earn Advanced Training hours.

March 30th (Wednesday): “Prairies” taught by Kirk Feuerbacher of The Nature Conservancy. The class will be held at St. Mary’s Social Hall in West Columbia then we will drive to Nash Prairie for field experience. Wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen/mosquito spray. Bring a camera and notebook. Interns will earn 2 hours Class and 2 hours Field. TMNers can earn AT and TT.

### **Do you recognize this important resting place?**



It may be quiet now, but in 3 to 4 weeks, this place will be jumping with both feathered friends and their avid observers. During April, volunteers are stationed at the GCBO Host Trailer parked at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary to assist visitors. The Host Trailer is open 9:00 am to 3:00 pm seven days a week. Volunteers are needed to assist the GCBO staff. Volunteer training is scheduled for Sunday March 27 at 2:30 pm. For further information: <http://tinyurl.com/GCBO-SpringFling> . This event has been approved for volunteer time by the Cradle of Texas Chapter. You may claim all hours spent at the Host Trailer. You may claim travel time up to a maximum of 2.00 hours. Please code your timesheet "GCBO" in the "Partners and Events" column.

**HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR YET?????**

### **APRIL 8, MIGRATION CELEBRATION BAKE SALE**

Lake Jackson Wal-Mart: 8:00-2:00

Contact Donna Jablecki, [jablecki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jablecki@sbcglobal.net)



### **APRIL 15-17: Migration Celebration**

FRIDAY, APRIL 15: Kick Off Dinner and Silent Auction

Winners of the 2011 Photography Contest

River Place, Freeport, Texas Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased from a member of Friends of the Refuge. Keynote Speaker: Kathy Adams Clark

Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17: Outdoor Activities, San Bernard NWR

See <http://refugefriends.org/> for complete information or contact Ed Barrios to sign up as a volunteer.



### **OUTREACH REPORT, Ruby Lewis**

These are the events scheduled to be presented at Family Night at the Angleton Library. Laura and Dave Brandes presented a program on Bats recently and it was well attended and well received. Plan to attend if possible.

March 21	Birds of Prey
April 18	Sea Center Texas
May 23	Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County
August 29	Hummingbirds
Sept. 26	Insects

### **ATTACHMENTS**

There are three PDF Attachments to the newsletter:

Attachment 1 - Minutes of the February 9 General Meeting

Attachment 2 - "Mark your Calendar for Migration Celebration" by Sarah Heller.

Attachment 3 - USFWS Dinner

## CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Barbara Burkhardt
Vice President/Program	Mary Holler
Secretary	Marty Cornell
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Ed Barrios
Past President	Dave Brandes
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner
Training Director	Laura Brandes
Volunteer Service Chair	Neal McLain
Advanced Training Chair	Candace Novak
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Newsletter Editor	Mary Helen Israel

Chapter Advisors	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) Corrie Bowen (AgriLife Extension Service)
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Website	<a href="http://tmn-cot.org">http://tmn-cot.org</a>
FaceBook	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Facebook">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Facebook</a>
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