



Chapter News

Editor: Mary Helen Israel

JULY CALENDAR

July 1-10 – Nature Photo Exhibit, The Center, Clute

July 13 – General Meeting, AgriLife Bldg., Angleton. See Page 3 for details.

July 16 – Monthly bird banding at GCBO.

August 2 – Board Meeting, AgriLife Bldg., Angleton.

See page 5 for additional events.

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A MESSAGE FROM “the PREZ”

A very busy summer so far!!!

My thanks to Denis Mudderman and Sarah Heller for organizing the great nature photography display at The Center. Most of us had enjoyed the photographs at the Migration Celebration, but seeing them displayed in the art gallery with proper lighting, made such a difference.

I would also like to thank **BASF** for sponsoring the exhibit. We hope that the **Brazosport Art League** will feature the great nature photos from Migration Celebration.



Organizers Sarah Heller and Denis Mudderman



Jerry Eppner enjoying the photographs

ConocoPhillips LEEP: Mary Holler began the TPWD’s Project Wild training with our ConocoPhillips partner for their LEEP educational project. Project Wild presents “lesson plans” which can be used for grades K-8. These plans will help CP design and again implement the LEEP classes, after a three-year lapse. Phil Huxford, who has been involved with the LEEP project since 2002, and Jeanne Manry, were also present. More training classes are planned until CP has their curriculum established.



Project Wild Training Class



Mary Holler and ConocoPhillips LEEP volunteers exploring the Little Linnville site.

Brazoria County Libraries: The summer library program has been a great success. We have had a “full house” at all of branches. The day I volunteered at the Freeport Library, we had over 100 children and parents taking part. It is a real joy to watch their faces as they do the activities or talk about the wildlife in their yards or nearby parks where they play. The program ignites that one little spark that gets them thinking about and involved with nature and hopefully, off the couch and out in nature.

We couldn't do this without “Miss Ruby” and her dedication to the program. My thanks also go out to some of the regular volunteers i.e., Justina Dent, Mary Helen Israel, Pam Peltier, Ed Johnson, and Ed Barrios. Some of the new members Kathleen Murray and Jeanne Manry are also involved. If I left out a name, let me know and I will say thanks in person.

Next month, Ruby and her “crew” will be doing “Reptiles” for the kids. This will again be held at the various county libraries. We will have a full summary in the August “News”.

10th Anniversary Committee: The committee had their first meeting. Ed will be reporting on some of the plans at the July meeting. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the committee members: Ed Barrios, Chairman, “Charmin” Charlie Clements, Mary Helen Israel, Mary Holler, Marty Cornell, Jerry Krampota and Susan Severance.

I hope you all got some rain at your house. We had a little. I am still keeping open the idea of a TMN-COT sponsored, county wide rain dance and car washing activity.

The survey results are in a separate attachment. Thanks for giving us this information. It will be helpful in planning our recruitment and programs.

Thanks!!!

“ The Prez”

**Hours, we NEED
hours!!!** ★★

REMEMBER:

We are trying to achieve a milestone this year to celebrate our 10-year anniversary. We have approximately 98,500 hours as of July 1. Please turn in your hours to Jerry so that we will have another “something special” to celebrate in September—

100,000 HOURS!

**Summer Library Program
Ruby Lewis**

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered your time and energy to make TM-COT "Mini Coastal Expo" summer reading library program a success. The program that included six centers was presented at nine libraries with a total of 664 participants (450 children and 214 adults) and 22 different COT volunteers. Carole Wenny, Mary Helen Israel, Ed Barrios, and Justina Dent deserve special recognition for helping at almost every program.

If you were able to assist at one program, you were badly needed. Without all of you the programs would not have been possible. Thank you!!!!

**Texas Master Naturalist - Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Texas Agrilife Extension Office**

**8:30-am - Social-and-snacks
9:00-am - General Meeting
9:30-am - Advanced Training**

“Tenners”

Speakers: Dick Benoit and Sara Snel, TMN Galveston Bay Area Chapter.

“Turtle Egg Harvest”

Speakers: Mary Holler and Rainbo Johnson, TMN Cradle of Texas Chapter

Dick Benoit is the founder of the Texas Master Naturalist Galveston Bay Area Chapter (GBAC), which will celebrate its 10-year anniversary this year. He is a retired teacher -- but that has not stopped his teaching efforts.

Sara Snel joined GBAC in 2004 upon retiring from Union Carbide/Dow. She is the coordinator for the Bay/Island Adventures school program and serves as committee chairperson for Education Outreach, class training coordinator and was a past president.

**Reminder from Chapter Host
Jerry Krampota**

Those members who signed up to bring refreshments for the July meeting are Ed Barrios, Billy Heck, and Rainbo Johnson. If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at jkrampota@hotmail.com.

**Training
Laura Brandes**

Just a reminder--if we are to have at least ten members in the Fall Intern Training class, we all need to be working on recruitment. I have completed several different articles for submission to the print media in mid-July. They all end with the same information on enrollment and training. Please help the written word with your spoken words.

Monthly Bird Banding at GCBO

From GCBO Newsletter *Gulf Crossings*

Join GCBO from 8:00 until noon on the third Saturday of every month for our monthly bird banding session. GCBO Research Associates Robert & Kay Lookingbill will explain the aging and sexing process as they band the birds. Summer is here we are surrounded by youngster (young birds that is). Come see them up close. This is a great way to get kids excited about wildlife, but all ages are welcome. This month's bird banding will be on July 16.



Report from Membership Chairman, Jerry Eppner

To date 37 COT members have submitted timesheets. Total volunteer time submitted in 2011 is 4390 hours. Great job!

At the July general meeting, the following people will be recognized for their service: Recertification – Bill Brown, Elaine Crews, Steve Zilliox and Clyde Zilliox. Congratulations!

SPECIAL REQUEST – OK, so we are half way through 2011, but we are nowhere near half the volunteer hours submitted in 2010. At the end of 2010, 67 chapter members had submitted 13,055 hours of volunteer time. But with only 37 members submitting timesheets so far, there are at least 30 of you guys playing “hide the hours”. We would really like for the chapter to have reached the 100,000 hrs of volunteer time mark (since our chapter founding) by our 10th anniversary celebration in September, but we need your help. If you have not submitted VT this year, please take time to do it now. Summertime is traditionally a slow time for volunteering, but we have had a lot of great volunteer opportunities so far. Ruby Lewis’ summer library program is attracting a lot of volunteers, and the recently completed Camp Mohawk generated a lot of volunteer opportunities under Ed Barrios’ leadership. And I know we are missing a lot of Migration Celebration volunteer time. So, come on, let’s get those submissions going. Too big a mountain to climb? Do the first quarter, and then come back and do the second quarter in August. Piece of cake! Just takes a little time and some initiative. Remember it helps with recognition for our chapter, and it supports grant money for the state organization. If you need help with the time sheets, just contact Jerry Eppner.



Tom Morris appointed Advanced Training Chair.

Tom Morris, a long-time TMN-COT member, has been appointed to the position of Advanced Training Chair by the TMN-COT Board of Directors.

Tom has been an active chapter member for many years. He is a life-long resident of Brazoria County. He grew up in Velasco (now part of Freeport), and graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont Texas. He was employed by The Dow Chemical Company for many years.

Welcome to new Chapter member, Andy Smith

Andy Smith recently transferred his membership from the Mid-Coast Chapter to the Cradle of Texas Chapter.

TMN-COT Membership Chair Jerry Eppner says, “Andy is an active Sea Center Texas volunteer, where he is a tour guide and participates in the weekly bird counts. While involved with the Mid-Coast Chapter, Andy was very active and participated in sea turtle patrols and invasive plant mapping.”



Upcoming events

Through July 10, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm →
 The Art of Photography Exhibit
 Migration Celebration Photo Contest Entries
 Art League, Center for Arts and Sciences
 400 College Boulevard, Clute, TX 77531
<http://www.bcfas.org/index.php?p=28>

July 1 - July 28, various times
 Brazoria County Library System
 Summer Reading Club 2011
 "Reptiles"
Approved for Volunteer Hours
See page 6 in this newsletter for schedule
<http://tinyurl.com/BCLS-2011>

July 12, 7:30 pm.
 Brazosport Archaeological Society Meeting
 Topic: TAS Field School
 Brazosport Museum of Natural Science
 400 College Boulevard, Clute, TX 77531
<http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2011/07/BAS.pdf>

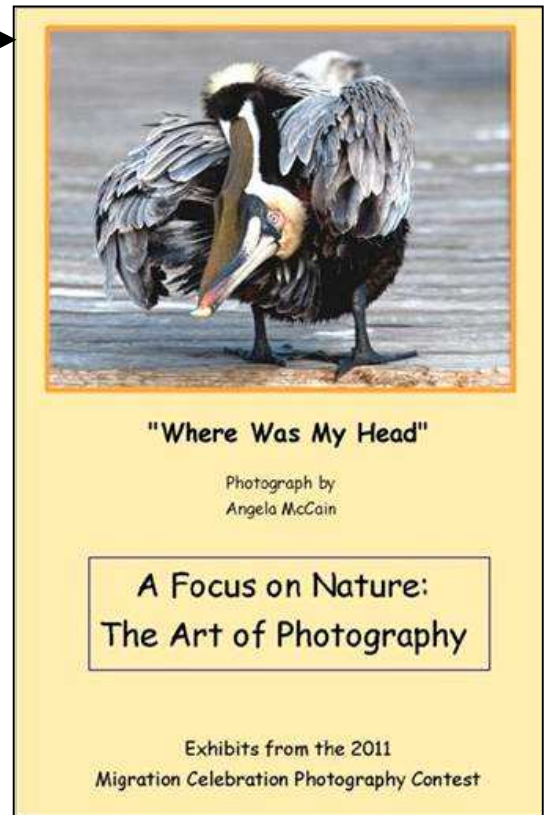
July 12-14, 7:45 am - 5:00 pm. →
 USFWS "Conserving the Future" Conference
 Madison, Wisconsin
 Live online coverage
<http://americaswildlife.org/conference/>

July 13, 8:30 am
 TMN-COT
 General Meeting and Advanced Training
Approved for Advanced Training
 Agrilife Extension Auditorium, Angleton
See page 3 in this newsletter for schedule

July 16, 8:00 am
 Monthly Bird Banding at GCBO
 Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
<http://tinyurl.com/MBB-GCBO>

August 3, 3:00 pm
 TMN-COT Board Meeting
 Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton
Approved for Volunteer Hours
 All TMN-COT members are invited to attend

August 6, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
 Levi Jordan Plantation SHS Open House
<http://tinyurl.com/LJ-Plantation-SHS>
<http://www.visitlevijordanplantation.com/>



Conserving the Future
 WILDLIFE REFUGES & THE NEXT GENERATION

Online conference attendees will be able to watch the *Conserving the Future* Conference live on July 12 – 14, 2011 via <http://livestream.com>. Conference coverage will start at 7:45 am and conclude at 5:00 pm, Central time.

To watch the conference online, go to <http://americaswildlife.org/about-the-network/> to set up an account. Follow the onscreen instructions.

America's Wildlife <http://americaswildlife.org> is dedicated to reshaping the vision of the Refuge System for the 21st century, but we can't do it alone. That's why we're hosting the *Conserving the Future* conference this summer and asking for public participation from across the country.

Even if you can't come to Wisconsin in person, you can still let your voice be heard

MASTER NATURALIST OUTREACH

BCLS SUMMER READING CLUB 2011

Reptiles and Mini-Coastal Expo



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 5	6	7 ANG 2:00 pm	8	9 FRE 2:00 pm	10	11
June 12	13	14	15 DAN 11:00 am	16 SWE 2:00 pm	17	18
June 19	20	21 ALV 2:00 pm	22	23 PEA 2:00 pm	24	25
June 26	27	28 BRA 2:00 pm	29 PWS 2:00 pm	30 CLU 1:30 pm	1	2
July 3	4	5 FRE 10:30 am	6	7 PEA 2:00 pm	8	9
July 10	11	12 ANG 10:00 am 2:00 pm	13 MAN 10:30 am	14 SWE 2:00 pm	15	16 LAK 2:00 pm
July 17	18	19 ALV 2:00 pm	20 PWS 2:00 pm	21 CLU 10:30 am 1:30 pm	22 DAN 10:30 am	23
July 24	25	26 WES 10:30 am	27	28 BRA 2 pm 6 pm	29	30

For maps to libraries, see: <http://tinyurl.com/BCLS-2011> and scroll down.

Participation in this event has been approved for Volunteer Time by TMN-COT Chapter. You may claim:

- Volunteer Time = actual hours spent.
- Travel Time = actual drive time OR amount of VT, whichever is less.

Please code your timesheet "BCLS"

Attachments

There are three attachments to this newsletter:

Attachment 1 – Minutes of the June 8, 2011 General Meeting
[July2011-Attach-1_June-Meeting.pdf](#)

Attachment 2 – TMN-COT Membership Survey – June 2011
[July2011-Attach-2_Membership-Survey.pdf](#)

Attachment 3 – Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk
[July2011-Attach-3_Camp-Mohawk.pdf](#)

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS	
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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	Tom Morris
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Newsletter Editor	Mary Helen Israel
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