

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST - CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2011



## Chapter News

Editor: Mary Helen Israel

### SEPT. CALENDAR

- SEPT. 7: EXECUTIVE BOARD
- SEPT. 8: GCBO WORKDAY
- SEPT 10: XHX AT GCBO
- SEPT 14: 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
- SEPT 17: XHX AT GCBO
- SEPT 26: NATURE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY: INSECTS: ED BARRIOS

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Chapter News is published by Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter.

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### A MESSAGE FROM "the PREZ"

**Are you ready for a party?** The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee has been hard at work preparing for our party on Wednesday, September 14, 10:30 to 1:30. It will be held in Terrace Room II, Lake Jackson Civic Center, in downtown Lake Jackson. Even with the construction, it should not be too hard to get to.

Oak Drive will be the key, because not only is there construction on Hwys. 288/332, there is construction in downtown Lake Jackson as well. The Lake Jackson City Hall is on the corner of Hwys. 288/332 and Oak Dr. The Civic Center is directly behind City hall and across the street from the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. Hope these directions help a little, but I know Neal will have a good map for everyone to follow.

Michelle Haggerty, the State Director of Texas Master Naturalist, will be our speaker. Tom Collins, one of the prime instigators, along with Rich Tillman, will be here to tell us about the inspiration for starting the chapter. We would sincerely love to have **all the original class members** join us in celebrating our great organization's special year.

**DEEP:** Bryan Adams has sent out the 2011-2012 DEEP schedule. I hope everyone will come out and educate yourselves about this program. You will join the COT members as they present their programs to the students. You can spend just the morning with us or all day (9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.). Be sure to bring a sack lunch if staying for the afternoon sessions. (This will count as **AT** since you will be learning about the program topics.)

Our chapter's support of DEEP, along with the INEOS and the ConocoPhillips educational programs, are very important to the chapter and to the children we help to educate about nature. With the cut backs in the state education funding, these programs are more important than ever.

Our Gulf Coast Bird Observatory partner is having their annual **Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza** on Saturday, September 10th and 17<sup>th</sup>. You may be getting a call to lend a hand from the GCBO staff. Even if you aren't asked to help, come and support the effort to educate the public about bird and habitat conservation. You will also have the opportunity to "Adopt a Hummingbird", receiving a certificate of adoption with your birds photo and banding data.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: TMN-COT**  
"The Prez"

## Upcoming events

This list does not include DEEP school refuge trips.  
For the DEEP schedule, see Page 6 in this newsletter

### Reminder from Chapter Host Jerry Krampota

Members who signed up to bring refreshments for the September meeting are Mary Helen Israel, Roy Morgan, Howard Allen and David & Laura Brandes. 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). Because the September meeting is our Anniversary Celebration luncheon, please bring bite-size snacks — small cookies, or something similar. Lunch will not be served until about 12:15.

**Wednesday, September 7, 3:00 pm**

#### TMN-COT Board Meeting

Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**

All TMN-COT members are invited to attend

**Saturday, September 10, 8:00 am**

#### Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Monthly Bird Banding

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Guest Speaker: Barbara Burkhardt

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**

*(if you participate as a volunteer)*

**See page 5 in this newsletter for details**

**Wednesday, September 14, 10:30 am**

#### TMN-COT Tenth Anniversary Party

Lake Jackson Civic Center

**Approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer time**

All TMN-COT members are invited to attend

**See page 3 in this newsletter for details**

**Snack crew: see reminder above.**

**Saturday, September 17, 8:00 am**

#### Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Monthly Bird Banding

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**

*(if you participate as a volunteer)*

**See page 5 in this newsletter for details**

**Wednesday-Friday, September 21-23**

Training for Monarch Butterfly Monitors

Cibolo Nature Center auditorium

Boerne, Texas 78006

**Approved for Advanced Training**

<http://bit.ly/MonarchMonitoring>

**Saturday, September 24, 8:00 am**

#### Adopt-a-Beach - Beach Cleanup

Quintana and Surfside Beaches

Sponsored by Brazoria County Parks Department

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**

*(if you participate as a volunteer)*

**See Attachment #3 in this newsletter for details**

**Monday, September 26, 6:30 am**

#### Nature Night at the Library - Insects

Angleton Public Library

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**

*(if you participate as a volunteer)*

401 East Cedar Street, Angleton, TX 77515

**Topic: Entomology with Ed Barrios**

**Saturday, October 1, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

Levi Jordan Plantation SHS Open House

<http://tinyurl.com/LJ-Plantation-SHS>

<http://www.visitlevijordanplantation.com/>

**Wednesday, October 5, 3:00 pm**

#### TMN-COT Board Meeting

Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**

All TMN-COT members are invited to attend

**Sunday, October 9, 2:30 pm**

Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

#### General Meeting

Discovery Center at Brazoria NWR

Program TBA

**Approved for Volunteer Hours**


**Wednesday, October 12 10:30 am**

General Meeting and Advanced Training

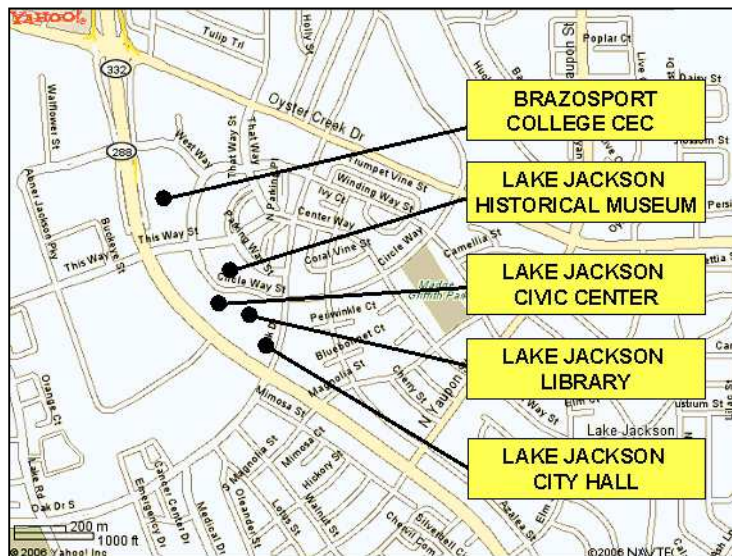
AgriLIFE Building, Angleton

**Approved for Advanced Training**

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
September 14, 2011  
Terrace Room, Lake Jackson Civic Center  
333 Highway 332, Lake Jackson, TX 77566**

<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship</b> This event has been approved for 1.00 Volunteer Hour. Remember to wear your TMN-COT badge!
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Guest Speaker:</b> Michelle Haggerty, State Coordinator, TMN Program <b>Special guests:</b> Tom Collins, President of TMN during the first year. Rich Tillman, former Marine Agent and TMN-COT adviser.
	
	Michelle Haggerty                  Rich Tillman                  Tom Collins
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch catered by <i>Affairs to Remember</i>
<b>1:30 PM</b>	Group Photo

**NOTICE ABOUT TICKETS**  
 Lunch tickets are required for admission. Deadline for ticket orders is Friday September 9, 2011. To order tickets, download order form at <http://bit.ly/10-Tickets>





## Report from Membership Chairman, Jerry Eppner

YOU DID IT!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! We reached our goal of 100,000 hours of volunteer service since the chapter's inception ten years ago. I have tallied 7618 VT hours in 2011 from 47 COT members, and that gets us to a chapter total of 101.650 hr. Well done!!

Members reaching milestones during this period include Ed Barrios, who has re-certified and achieved the 2500 VT hr milestone. Also, Tom Morris has reached the 2500 VT hr milestone. Congratulations to both of you.

As we approach the end of the year, now is a good time to get those time sheets up to date and submitted. Still a lot of unreported hours out there; so let's get them in.

### 2011 State Meeting Planned



The 2011 Texas Master Naturalist State Meeting is scheduled on October 21-23, at the Mo Ranch Conference Center, Hunt, Texas. Information about the meeting will be posted on the TMN-COT website as soon as it's available.

Some meeting events are approved for Volunteer time, and some are approved for Advanced Training. Approved credit will be announced at the meeting, Map to MRCC: <http://bit.ly/MRCC-HuntTX>

### Brazoria Palms



Our favorite local member of the genus *Sabal* finally has a formal binomial name — *Sabal x brazoriensis*, named for Brazoria County. First discovered in 1941, the plant has been studied for years by various botanists in an effort to determine its proper taxonomic identity. In August, 2011,

Douglas A. Goldman et al, of the USDA NRCS National Plant Data Team, finally published a formal description. See Attachment #2 for the story.

## ENTIRE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

### Smith Point HawkWatch

One of the great spectacles in nature is a sky full of swirling raptors soaring their way to central and South America for winter. Smith Point on the eastern shore of Galveston Bay is a natural concentration point for southwardly moving raptors in fall migration. At the peak of fall migration, it's not unusual to see thousands of Broad-winged Hawks, the most numerous species that migrates through Smith Point.

To take advantage of this natural bottleneck the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in partnership with Hawk Watch International and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, instituted an annual census of the raptors migrating through Smith Point each fall. Originating as a part-time all-volunteer effort in 1992, the Smith Point Hawk Watch expanded to a full-time, three-month long count in 1997.

Project Partners:

- Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
- Hawk Watch International
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL  
1986 - 2011

<http://bit.ly/Hawk-Watch>

*Smith Point HawkWatch has been approved for Volunteer Hours be the TMN-COT Chapter. You may claim:*

- *Actual hours spent participating.*
  - *Actual travel time, not to exceed the number of volunteer hours claimed.*
- Please code your timesheet "GCBO."*

## ELEVENTH ANNUAL XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY

by GCBO staff

Autumn is hummingbird season in Texas, as thousands of these tiny creatures move through the state on their southward migration to Mexico and Central America. Nature enthusiasts welcome them with old-fashioned Texas hospitality, readying their gardens of nectar-producing plants and putting up special feeders filled with fresh sugar water.

"Essentially, all the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that breed in the eastern half of the United States and Canada—estimated at 7.3 million—migrate along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico each fall," says John Arvin, the Observatory's Research Coordinator.

The male hummers grab your attention with their striking throat feathers, which act like a prism to bend light into a shimmering red spectrum. Females and juveniles lack the scarlet throat, though juvenile males often show red dots on the throat. But they all have one purpose—engorging enough nectar to bulk up their body fat to fuel for their migratory flight.

Many Ruby-throats will travel 600 miles straight across the Gulf to the Yucatan Peninsula, and some will fly around the edges of the Gulf to points in Mexico. All will ultimately wind up in southern Mexico and Central America, as far south as Costa Rica, for the winter.

You can watch the thumb-sized hummers at the Observatory dart in and out of nectar-producing flowers like lantana, trumpet-vine, and honeysuckle, or you'll spy them sipping nectar at feeders hanging from tree limbs and building awnings. Better yet, you'll enjoy seeing a bird-bander hold a tiny hummingbird while taking measurements of the bird, weighing it, and clamping a thin, number-coded band on one of its teensy-weensy legs. <sup>[1]</sup>

Come on out and watch the banding, adopt a hummingbird, browse the Nature Store, walk the nature trails, or buy a plant to attract hummingbirds and butterflies.



Photo: Dave Brandes  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird female  
*Archilochus colubris*  
Brazoria County, 2008



Photo: Neal McLain  
Bird Banders Robert and Kay Lookingbill  
Migration Celebration, 2011

**TMN-COT Members** please note: This event has been approved for Volunteer Time by the TMN-COT Chapter. You may claim all hours spent at GCBO as a *volunteer* assisting GCBO or TMN-COT personnel. You may claim travel time equal to your actual travel time or an amount equal to the number of VT hours claimed, whichever is less. This event is not approved as VT if you simply attend as a visitor without volunteering. This event is not approved for Intern Training or Advanced Training.

Each week will include an informative lecture:

- September 10 - *Gardening for Hummingbirds* - Barbara Burkhardt
- September 17 - *Bird Photography* - Mike Gray and Dick Barrett

[1] Clark, Gary. "Hum's the Word." Texas Highways Magazine, July, 2006.

## DEEP: DISCOVERY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM 2011-12 CLASS SCHEDULE

by Bryan Adams

DEEP School Refuge trips for 2011-12 are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, all trips will be at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. These trips begin at 9:00 and end at 1:30, with a half-hour lunch. Docents usually arrive by 8:30 to allow time to prepare their stations. This schedule may need to be modified as additional schools schedule trips or weather conditions force postponement of a trip. If a trip is canceled, I will send out a notice by 6:30 AM on the day of the trip - but I will try to let you know the day before. Check your email or the website: <http://refugefriends.org/calendar/index.html>

Don't forget to bring a lunch!

October 4	BISD Elizabet Ney Elementary	4th Grade
October 6	BISD Jane Long Elementary	4th Grade
October 18	BISD Velasco Elementary	4th Grade
October 25	BISD Freeport Intermediate	7th Grade
October 27	BISD Freeport Intermediate	7th Grade
November 1	BISD Freeport Intermediate	7th Grade
November 3	BISD Freeport Intermediate	7th Grade
November 10	BISD Lake Jackson Intermediate	7th Grade
November 15	BISD Lake Jackson Intermediate	7th Grade
November 17	BISD S. F. Austin Elementary	4th Grade
November 22	BISD T. W. Ogg Elementary	4th Grade
November 29	BISD A. P. Beutel Elementary	4th Grade
December 15	AISD Northside Elementary	4th Grade
January 24	BISD Lake Jackson Intermediate	7th Grade
January 26	BISD Lake Jackson Intermediate	7th Grade
March 1	BISD Clute Intermediate	7th Grade
March 6	BISD Clute Intermediate	7th Grade
March 20	BISD Lake Jackson Intermediate	7th Grade
March 22	BISD Lake Jackson Intermediate	7th Grade
April 3	BISD Gladys Polk Elementary	4th Grade
April 5	BISD O. A. Fleming Elementary	4th Grade
April 17	BISD Madge Griffith Elementary	4th Grade
April 24	St. Thomas Episcopal School	4th Grade
May 1	BISD O. M. Roberts Elementary	4th Grade
May 3	BISD Bess Brannen Elementary	4th Grade

## Attachments

There are three attachments to this issue of *Chapter News*:

Attachment 1 – Minutes of the General Meeting of August 10, 2011

[Attachment-1\\_Minutes-August-General](#)

Attachment 2 – Brazoria Palms

[Attachment-2\\_BrazoriaPalms](#)

Attachment 3 – Beach Cleanup Day - Saturday September 24

[Attachment-3\\_BeachCleanup](#)

### CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Barbara Burkhart
Vice President/Program	Mary Holler
Secretary	Marty Cornell
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Ed Barrios
Past President	Dave Brandes
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner
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
Chapter Advisors	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) Corrie Bowen (AgriLife Extension Service)

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