



# Chapter News

Editor: Mary Helen Israel

## CALENDAR

**Dec. 7** - Executive Board Meeting *and* Hog Wild Holiday Feast - see Page 3

**Dec. 14** - General Meeting *and* Holiday Party.

**Dec 14-31** - Christmas Bird Counts - see Appendix 2.

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## A MESSAGE FROM "the PREZ"

December wraps up a really great year for the Cradle of Texas Chapter. We have been involved in many great projects and have served a many residents and visitors to Brazoria County's large and varied area.

Migration Celebration attracted one of the largest attendance counts to date. The good weather was a great bonus. Everyone had a good time and our COT members received many "kudos" for their knowledge and help to the public.

The photo contest was a big success and the recognition given to the entrants by the Brazosport Art League was greatly appreciated.

DEEP and INEOS are high on the list of our successes in working with children. Progress was also made in helping the ConocoPhillips LEEP project get started again. Mary Holler and Jeanne Manry are to be congratulated for getting this project back on tract.

Our partnership with the Brazoria County Parks Department gave us opportunities to reach more children and their parents with Camp Mohawk County Park and Family Day at Hanson Riverside County Park. See page 6 for pictures of the volunteers and their activities.

We have already been asked to participate in several new projects and the date for Camp Mohawk has been set for June **11-14, 2012**.

Migration Celebration 2012 has been scheduled for April 21-22, with the kickoff dinner on Friday, April 13—no superstition PLEASE!

COT was recognized by the USFWS Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex with their nomination of COT for the President's Take Pride in America Award. Our chapter was also recognized at the state meeting by winning the Best Chapter Scrapbook contest.



We have two big events coming up this month. First, our very own, very special, **HOG Wild Holiday Feast** at Ed Barrios' home, on Wed., Dec. 7. I hope you have gotten your RSVP into Ed, Marty or myself. At last count, we had over 70 members and guests planning to join in the annual fun, food and fellowship gathering. This is a great time to visit with everyone and meet our sponsors.

*The Prez continues . . .*

Please bring an appetizer or desert of your choice, if you wish. We can never have too many calories!!! Check Appendix 3 for details and a map to Ed's house.

Then, on December 14, starting at **10:00 a.m.**, we will have our general meeting and election of officers, followed by a **Holiday Party**. We will make this a special party time and keep the business meeting to a minimum. I'm sure Jerry Krampota, Chapter Host, will appreciate your tasty contributions to the refreshment table.

Also, please bring a "White Elephant" gift to exchange. The gift should have a value of less than \$10.00. What a great way to re-gift that "treasure" that gathers dust in the corner.



For all your contributions  
in making COT the very  
best in every way!

**"THE PREZ"**

## Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner, TMN-COT Membership Chair

As we enter into the last month of 2011, 54 COT members have submitted 9198 VT hours. Thanks to all that have submitted hours so far, **BUT** we still trail our 2010 end-of-year statistics by quite a bit. In 2010, 67 COT members submitted 13,055 hrs of VT. So there are quite a few non-submitters still out there. Let git'er done!

Members reaching milestones during this reporting period include Bob Woods, Carolyn May-Monie, Georgia Monnerat, Billy Heck and Phyllis Gerdes, all re certifying. Congratulations to everyone.

### TWO IMPORTANT MESSAGES

The **election of next year's chapter board** members will be held at the general meeting Wednesday December 14. **To be eligible to vote in this election you MUST have paid your 2011 dues.**

Second, it is time to **get your final end-of-the-year time reports in shape and ready to submit.** The annual chapter report is due to state on January 16. It takes time for your leaders to collect all the requested year-end data and finalize our submission. To this end, **no timesheets for 2011 VT and AT will be accepted after January 10, 2012.** Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

### Sea Center Texas Blood Drive

By Connie Stolte, SCT Visitor Center Manager

Sea Center Texas will host a Blood Drive on Friday, January 13, 2012 from 10 am to 4 pm. If you would like to participate please let me know your time preference. You can contact me at [connie.stolte@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:connie.stolte@tpwd.state.tx.us) or 979-292-0100.

Please pass on this information to your family and friends and have them contact me to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also be welcome.

Appointments may be scheduled for any 15-minute interval between 10 am and 12:45 pm and 1:45 pm to 4 pm. (There will be a lunch break from 1 pm to 1:45 pm).

All donors will receive a free T-shirt.

## Upcoming events

This list does not include DEEP or INEOS schedules.  
These schedules for 2011-12 are posted at:

- DEEP - <http://bit.ly/DEEP-2011-12>
- INEOS - [http://bit.ly/INEOS\\_2011-12](http://bit.ly/INEOS_2011-12)

For further information about Bird Counts, see:

- Houston Audubon Bird Count List <http://tinyurl.com/798h4w3>
- TMN-COT Bird Count List <http://refugefriends.org/BirdCounts/>

Wednesday, December 7, 1:00 pm  
TMN-COT Board Meeting  
325 Timercreek Drive, Lake Jackson  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*

Wednesday, December 7, 2:00 pm  
• • **Hog Wild Holiday Feast** • •  
325 Timbercreek Drive, Lake Jackson  
All TMN-COT members are invited  
Significant Others welcome!  
**See Attachment 3 for details**

Saturday, December 10, 9:00 am  
**Birds and Bottomlands Blitz**  
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*  
**See Page 5 for details**

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Guadalupe River Delta - McFaddin**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*  
<http://refugefriends.org/BirdCounts/>



Wednesday, December 14, 10:00 am  
TMN-COT General Meeting  
Agenda: Election of Officers for 2012  
• • • • **Holiday Party** • • • •  
Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton  
*Approved 1.00 hour Volunteer Time*

Friday, December 16, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*  
**See Attachment 2 for details**

Saturday, December 17, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Brazos Bend State Park**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*  
**See Attachment 2 for details**

Sunday, December 18, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Freeport**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*  
**See Attachment 2 for details**

Monday, December 19, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Matagorda County - Mad Island Marsh**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Galveston**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*

Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*

Saturday, December 31, 6:30 am  
Christmas Bird Count  
**Brazoria**  
*Approved for Volunteer Hours*  
**See Attachment 2 for details**

## Nominations Committee Report

By Dave Brandes, Chair, Nominations Committee

The nominations committee offers the following candidates for the 2012 TMN-COT Board of Directors. Voting will take place during the December 14 general meeting. The vote for president will be taken by secret ballot. Please note that you must have paid your dues for 2011 to be eligible to vote.

The nominations committee included Dave Brandes (Chair), Ed Barrios, and Joan Simonsen.

**President**

	
Dave Brandes	Barbara Burkhardt

**Vice-President**


Mary Holler

**Secretary**


Marty Cornell

**Treasurer**


Sandy Henderson

**Membership Director**


Jerry Eppner

**Training Director**


Ed Johnson

**State Representative**


Ed Barrios

## "Birds and Bottomlands Blitz"

By Tom Morris

*Editors note: The TMN-COT Chapter and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory have jointly organized a series of presentations known as "Birds and Bottomlands Blitz." These presentations will take place on the second Saturday of each month, and they are open to the public. Chapter members are encouraged to assist with these presentations. Participation is approved for Volunteer Hours. If you would like to participate, please contact Tom Morris at 979-297-4678 or [tmorris44@comcast.net](mailto:tmorris44@comcast.net).*

A *Mini Christmas Bird Count* (CBC) at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) Sanctuary on Buffalo Camp Bayou will be conducted on Dec 10, 2011 from 9 to 11 am for anyone interested in learning what a Christmas Count is all about.

Christmas Bird Counts started on December 25, 1900 to count bird species and the total number of individuals seen in one day. This was to counter a longtime tradition of some to kill as many birds as they could on Christmas Day.

The National Audubon Society president, Frank Chapman started this campaign. It has continued every year since and last year over 62,000 folks in the Americas participated in 2,215 counts and reported 61,359,451 individual birds. Over 646 species were seen in the United States. This year will be the 112th count.

Several local counts will be held here in Brazoria County during December. See Schedule below.

The Mini CBC will be conducted by volunteers of the Cradle of Texas chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. Leaders will be Jerry Eppner and Tom Morris who will discuss more details of a Christmas Count, lead participants in a search for birds and compile results after a tour of short nature trails. If you have binoculars, please bring them. If not, a limited amount of binoculars will be available.

You do not have to be knowledgeable about birds, as there will be volunteers to help you identify the birds seen. A list of the wintering birds to be expected will be given to all participants.

Families are welcome and children must be accompanied by parents.

This is the first in a series of events to be held on the second Saturday of each month through May at GCBO featuring the Columbia Bottomlands.

### 2011 Christmas Bird Count Schedule

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011** - Guadalupe River Delta - McFaddin Family Ranches

**Friday, December 16, 2011** - San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

**Saturday, December 17, 2011** - Brazos Bend State Park -

**Sunday, December 18, 2011** - Freeport Bird Count

**Monday, December 19, 2011** - Matagorda Co. - Mad Island Marsh Bird Count

**Tuesday, December 20, 2011** - Galveston Bird Count

**Wednesday, December 21, 2011** - Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuges

**Saturday, December 31, 2011** - Brazoria Bird Count

See Appendix 2 to this issue of *Chapter News* for details.

## Training Class: Ichthyology at Sea Center Texas

By Barbara Burkhardt, TMN-COT President

### Lake Jackson

November 2, 2011

TMN-COT members Roy Morgan and Charlie Clements presented their Ichthyology class for all members who needed Advanced Training hours. We met in the Conference room at Sea Center Texas.

Twelve members attended the class and a tour of Sea Center Texas.



## Outreach Report: Family Day at the Park Hanson Riverside County Park

By Barbara Burkhardt, TMN-COT President

TMN-COT joined forces with *Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges* at Family Day at the Park, sponsored by the Brazoria County Parks Department.



Right. TMN-COT members (and expert naturalists) Tom Morris, Kirby Rapstein, and Marty Cornell stand ready to lead the next Nature Trail hike through the park.



## More photos from Family Day at the Park



Sheree Etie of *Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue* demonstrates a rescued Barn Owl.

Above, Master Naturalists demonstrate leaf rubbings and animal tracks.

*Right:* Our reptile exhibit is always a winner. Here David Plunkett, Justina Dent, and Jeanne Manry show some of the reptiles to interested children (of all ages).



*Left:* Ed Johnson and Phil Huxford discuss the animal pelts with two of the re-enactors that were also sharing information with the crowd.

## NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY

By GCBO staff



In November, we inducted a new property into our International Site Partner Network - TNC's Cypress Island Preserve, Louisiana.

A beautiful wooded wetland located in our priority zone for Nearctic-Neotropical migrants, this is Site # 70 for the Network.

In this photo, Cecilia Riley (GCBO) presents the Site Partner signage to Preserve Manager Kacy King. GCBO's Site Partner Network conserves over nine million acres of critical stopover habitat for neotropical migrants.

Check out our Site Partner Network map (see link below) and visit one of these great sites along the Gulf Coast.

<http://www.gcbo.org/html/SPNMapWeb.pdf>



We've reached 3000 birds banded at GCBO! Research Associates Robert and Kay Lookingbill are shown above holding lucky number 3000, an adult male Orchard Oriole banded on July 16th.

Join us from 8:00 until noon on Saturday, December 17th for our next monthly bird banding session. Winter residents have arrived. Come see who has returned to spend the winter with us! This is a great way to get kids excited about wildlife, but all ages are welcome.

If you've never visited GCBO before, here are some links to check:

- Website: <http://www.gcbo.org/>
- Road Map: <http://g.co/maps/v85xr>
- Trail Map: [http://bit.ly/GCBO\\_Trails](http://bit.ly/GCBO_Trails)

Source: GCBO E-News, December 2011. <http://www.gcbo.org/html/enewsDec11.htm>

This is the first in a series of once-a-month news articles provided by our partners. Other partners are invited to submit news articles for future issues of *Chapter News*. Please submit articles to Mary Helen Israel, Newsletter Editor, at [mh\\_israel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mh_israel@sbcglobal.net). Please submit articles in plain text. Please send photos separately (as jpg, png, or gif images), not pasted into the text of the article.



## Attachments

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

Attachment 1 - Minutes of the General Meeting of November 9, 2011.

[Attachment-1\\_Nov-2011-GenMtg.pdf](#)

Attachment 2 - Christmas Bird Counts

[Attachment-2\\_Chistmas Bird Counts.pdf](#)

Attachment 3 - Hog Wild Holiday Feast - Flier and map

[Attachment-3\\_Hog-Wild.pdf](#)

**Reminder:** The following members signed up to bring refreshments to the December 14 General Meeting: Al Fedoruk and Neal McLain. Other members are also invited to bring refreshments. Please contact Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or [jkrampota@hotmail.com](mailto:jkrampota@hotmail.com) for suggestions.

### 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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Website	<a href="http://tmn-cot.org">http://tmn-cot.org</a>
FaceBook	<a href="http://facebook.com/TMN.COT">http://facebook.com/TMN.COT</a>
E-mail Listserv	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail</a>

