



# Chapter News

## CONTENTS

- Page 2**  
Next General Meeting
- Page 3**  
Upcoming events
- Page 4**  
Membership Report
- Page 5**  
Volunteers Needed!  
• Camp Mohawk  
• Sea Turtle Patrol
- Page 6**  
Volunteers Needed!  
• QBCP Anniversary  
• Photo Gallery Editor
- Page 7**  
Attachments

### A MESSAGE FROM "the PREZ"

The TMN state co-coordinator, Michelle Haggerty, sent out a notice last week announcing that two TMN members from other chapters have reached the 5000-volunteer-hour milestone. Statewide, there are now a total of twenty-five 5000-hour members.

We should be very proud that we have two of these folks in our Chapter:

- **Phil Huxford**, Class of 2001
- **Jim Renfro**, Class of 2001

Two former members also reached the 5000-volunteer-hour milestone:

- **Tom Collins**, Class of 2001, one of the founding members of our chapter. Tom is now a member of the TMN Hill country Chapter, but he's still an honorary member of our Chapter.
  - **Tracie Teague**, Class of 2002, now a member of the TMN Mid-Coast Chapter
- Every TMN member who reaches the 5000-

hour milestone is awarded a special polished gold dragonfly pin set with a diamond.



Every 5000-hour member also receives an additional award: the *President's Call for Service Award*. This award includes a lapel pin, a Personalized Certificate, and a Congratulatory Letter from the President of the United States.

Two of our members have received this award for volunteer hours earned at other non-profit organizations:

- **Mary Helen Israel**, TMN Class of 2001, received the President's award for her service at Sea Center Texas.
- **Denis Mudderman**, TMN Class of 2008, received the award for his service at Tamarac Interpretative Association, the Friends Group associated with Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota. Denis was also honored by the National Wildlife Refuge System as "Volunteer of the Year" in 2011.

What a great graduation day we enjoyed. Our new members are first class additions to our fine organization.



Chef Marty and his volunteer crew prepared a yummy lunch for us and everyone enjoyed the fun, food, and fellowship. **My thanks to all for making it a special time.**



*Camp Mohawk Nature Camp* begins on June 4<sup>th</sup>, with Ed Barrios coordinating the program with James Glover, our partner at Brazoria County Parks Department.

*Nature Camp* runs for four days, with each day's activities being different. It's a great time, and you still might have a chance to participate. If not, contact Ed Barrios about participating in 2013.

*Continued on Page 2*

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

Contact us at  
Brazoria County AgriLife 21017  
County Road 171  
Angleton, TX 77515-8903

979-864-1558 (Angleton)  
979-388-1558 (Brazosport)  
281-756-1558 (Alvin)  
979-388-1566 (Fax)

Message from The Prez from Page 1



Class of 2012

Pete Romfh, Peggy Romfh, Leo Novak, Mike Mullins, Training Chair Edgar Johnson, Jim Hillis, Julia Geisler, George Bettinger, Ann Bettinger, and Neeta Allen

My very special thanks go out to Ed Johnson. Ed contributed many hours of time and effort to make the 2012 training class such a success. I hope everyone will give him a "thanks" for all his contributions to COT.

Mary Holler will be leading the chapter in June as Ellis and I take a little trip "across the pond". If you have any questions, give Mary a call or send an e-mail.

Remember to contact Ruby Lewis or Mary Helen Israel to help with the library programs coming up in July.

See you then.

*The Prez*

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Wednesday, June 13, 2012  
AgriLife Building, Angleton**

<b>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<p><b>Fun and Fellowship</b> Refreshment Team: Ruby Lewis, Gerald Forrest, Marlies Greenwood, Rainbo Johnson</p>
<b>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b>	<p><b>General Meeting</b> <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</i></p>
<b>9:30 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	<p><b>Advanced Training:</b> <b>Topic:</b> <i>Frogs</i> <b>Speaker:</b> Jaime Gonzalez, Community Education Director, Katy Prairie Conservancy <i>This training is approved for Advanced Training. The number of approved hours will be announced at the meeting and will be available after the meeting at</i> <a href="http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/">http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/</a></p>



## Upcoming events

This list does not include the Summer Library Program. For the Library Program Schedule, see <http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-BCLS-2012>

**June 4 - June 7, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Camp Mohawk Nature Camp**  
 Camp Mohawk County Park  
 Schedule <http://tinyurl.com/7obee9v>  
 Flier <http://tinyurl.com/7b29ruw>  
 Story <http://tinyurl.com/86x7zzt>  
*Approved for Volunteer Time*  
**See page 5 for details**

**June 5 - July 8**  
**A Focus on Nature II: The Art of Photography**  
 Exhibit of the top 100 photos from the  
 2012 Migration Celebration Photo Contest  
 Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences  
 Art League Gallery  
 Flier <http://tinyurl.com/ArtLeague>

**Wednesday, June 6, 2:00 PM**  
**TMN-COT Board Meeting**  
 Board meetings are open to all TMN-COT members  
**Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson**  
*Approved for Volunteer Time*


**Saturday, June 9, 10:00 AM**  
**Quintana Beach County Park 30th Anniversary Celebration**  
 Quintana Beach County Park  
*Approved for Volunteer Time for booth assistants*

**Saturday, June 9, 7:00 PM**  
**Opening Reception for A Focus on Nature II**  
 Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences  
 Art League Gallery.

**June 11 - 15, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**GCBO Summer Bird Camp**  
 Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar  
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>  
*Approved for Volunteer Time*

**Wednesday, June 13, 8:30 AM**  
**General Meeting and Advanced Training**  
*Topic - Frogs*  
*Speaker: Jaime Gonzales, Katy Prairie Conservancy*  
*Approved for 1.00 Hour Volunteer Time*  
*Approved for Advanced Training*  
**See Page 2 for details**

**Saturday, June 16, 8:00 AM**  
**Monthly Birdbanding at GCBO**  
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar  
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>



**"Soft Landing"**

Second Place - Birds of Texas Mid-Coast Category

Photograph by Barbara Rabek

**A Focus on Nature II**  
**The Art of Photography**

Entries from the 2012  
 Migration Celebration Photography Contest

**Art League Gallery Hours**

Tuesday - Saturday	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Monday	Closed

JUNE 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair

As of May 28, thirty-five members have submitted time sheets. A total of 2772 Volunteer Hours have been reported so far. Excellent!

Members to be recognized at our June meeting will include John Boettiger and Kathleen Murray for recertifying for 2012.

Congratulations!

Do a lot of VT for Migration Celebration or DEEP or anything else? If you have not turned in a time sheet in a while, now would be an excellent time to do so before the energy barrier gets even higher.

### Intern Presentations now available online

By Neal McLain. Webmaster

The PowerPoint presentations presented by the Intern Training Class of 2012 have been posted on the TMN-COT website. To view them, go to <http://tmn-cot.org> and click on "Training," then "Training Presentations." Or follow these direct links:

- ***Pond Life, a Survey of the Fresh Water Pond at GCBO*** presented by Team A: Jim Hillis, Mike Mullins, and Leo Novak.  
<http://tinyurl.com/TMN-Team-A>
- ***Dow Woods Tree Study*** presented by Team, B: Neeta Allen, Anne Bettinger, George Bettinger, and Julia Geisler  
<http://tinyurl.com/TMN-Team-B>
- ***Bryan Beach Ecosystem: form shallow tide waters to dunes*** presented by Team C: Peggy Romfh and Pete Romfh  
<http://tinvurl.com/TMN-Team-C>

## Texas Historical Commission Names New Manager Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

By Texas Historical Commission

WEST COLUMBIA, Texas—May 7, 2012.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently named Chris Elliott to the position of site manager at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site in West Columbia, Texas, near Angleton. The site is one of 20 around the state operated by the THC.

The 66-acre site near the Brazos River was donated to the state in 1957 by Miss Ima Hogg, daughter of Texas Gov. James S. Hogg, and opened in 1958. The site tells the story of the plantation's 134-year history, first settled by Austin colonist Martin Varner in 1824. The site was purchased by Gov. James S. Hogg in 1901.

Elliott will serve as the on-site manager, and will work to insure that regional travelers have a meaningful experience when they visit. He will work with partners, residents, and businesses in the community, as well as oversee all operations at the site

Elliott most recently held the position of site manager at Fort Lancaster State Historic Site in Sheffield, and Fannin Battleground near Goliad.

Previously, Elliot worked as maintenance supervisor at historic Indian Lodge in West Texas, and as a tour guide at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. He holds a doctor of education degree from Argosy University in Sarasota, Fla.; a master's degree in military history from American Military University in West Virginia; and bachelor degrees in both liberal arts and biology. Elliott served as a B-1 Bomber crew chief in the United States Air Force.

"We are very pleased to welcome Chris Elliot to the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site," said THC Historic Sites Division Director Donna Williams. "He brings a broad range of experience to the position, and the facility and staff will benefit from his knowledge in oversight of historic properties."



Photo: Texas Historical Commission

## Volunteer Help Wanted

### CAMP MOHAWK NATURE CAMP JUNE 4-7, 2012

Submitted by Ed Barrios  
Camp Mohawk Nature Camp Chair

*Camp Mohawk Nature Camp is sponsored by Brazoria County Parks Department. Nature Camp is unique among the environmental education programs in that TMN-COT supports. It is a 4-day event in which the same kids attend every day.*

**Date . . . . . June 4-7, 9:00am – 12:00pm**  
**Location . . . . . Camp Mohawk County Park**  
**GPS . . . . . 29.3345531, -95.2854484**  
**Map . . . . . <http://g.co/maps/3sq8x>**

Each day has a different theme and the activities support the theme for the day. The kids are divided into three groups, based age, and each group participates in three 50-minute activities every morning.

We need a few folks to work on the planning of the event and we need folks that will help with the implementation. Some of the typical events include Birds and Bird Rehab, Owl Pellets, Pond Life, Fish Casting, Fishing, Snakes/Gators/Turtles, Bug Sweeping, Animal Tracks, Archery and more.

Check out *The Bulletin's* Page 1 story about Camp Mohawk Nature Camp  
<http://www.mybulletinnewspaper.com/051512-web.pdf>

#### It's not too late to volunteer!

To volunteer, please contact Ed Barrios at 979-297-1815 (home), 979-415-4998 (cell) or by email [ed77566@comcast.net](mailto:ed77566@comcast.net)

#### Volunteer Schedule:

<http://tinyurl.com/7obee9v>

This event is approved for volunteer time by TMN-COT for members who assist with the planning and execution of the event. You may claim:

- All time spent at the Camp Mohawk including setup and takedown
- All time spent in planning activities.
- Round-trip travel time to meeting locations and Camp Mohawk (not to exceed the number of VT hours claimed).

**Timesheet code: "BCPD."**

### SEA TURTLE PATROL MAY - JULY

Submitted by Kevin Brown  
San Bernard Sea Turtle Patrol

*Sea Turtle Patrol is an ongoing project sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project is administered by San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge staff.*

**Date . . . . . Ongoing during nesting season**  
**Location . . . . . Gulf of Mexico Beaches**

Objectives of the Sea Turtle Program:

- Locate Kemp's ridley's nest to excavate the eggs and transport them to an incubation facility on the Padre National Seashore.
- Locate any live turtles stranded and transport them for rehabilitation at the NOAA facility in Galveston.
- Document any dead stranded turtles and relay the information to Padre National Seashore for their studies.

We accomplish this mission with the help of volunteers who have taken a one-hour Spotter training class at San Bernard Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Once the training is complete, volunteers may patrol the beach by walking, by a bicycle, or by driving a USFWS off-road vehicle. Agency training is required before using any USFWS vehicle.

To maximize coverage of the beaches we ask volunteers to access our Google site and to indicate which beach segments they are monitoring that day.

Even if volunteers can't donate more than a couple hours of time a week, that is still a big help. The more eyes we have on the beach the better.

Thank you considering participation. Remember: any help we can get will go directly to benefiting the recovery effort of the Kemp's ridley.

Participation in this event is approved for volunteer time by TMN-COT for members who participate in patrol. To Volunteer, contact Kevin Brown at 979-964-3639 or [sanbernardseaturtlemail@gmail.com](mailto:sanbernardseaturtlemail@gmail.com) Spotter Training is approved for Advanced Training. You may claim:

- All time spent on patrol (VT) or spotter training (AT).
- Round-trip travel time required for beach patrol.

**Timesheet code: "USFWS."**

## Volunteer Help Wanted

### QUINTANA BEACH COUNTY PARK 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 9, 2012

Submitted by James Glover  
Brazoria County Parks Department

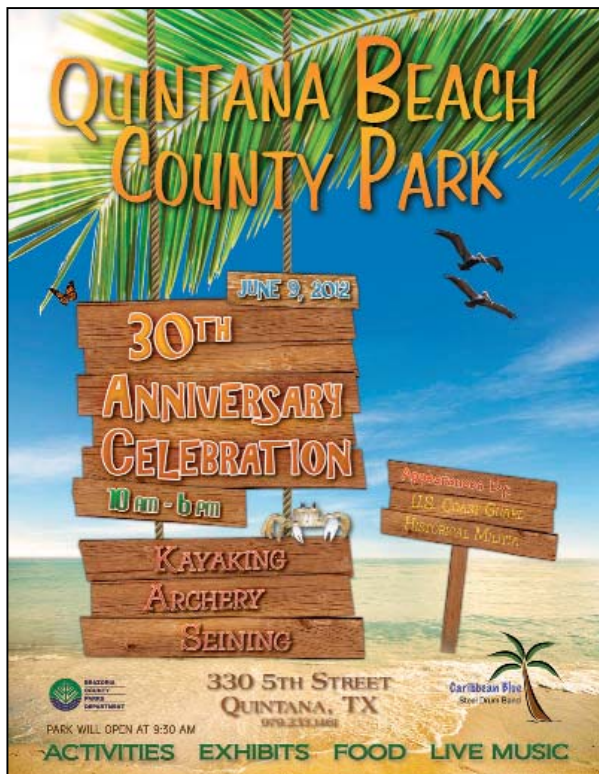
*Brazoria County Parks Department is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Quintana Beach County Park on June 9. TMN-COT will be hosting an information booth jointly with Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. Volunteers are needed to meet with members of the public to help "sell" the Master Naturalist Program to potential members. Volunteers are also needed to help with setup and takedown.*

**Date . . . . . June 9, 10:00am – 6:00pm**  
**Location . . Quintana Beach County Park**  
**GPS . . . . . 28.9342141, -95.3048623**  
**Map . . . . . <http://goo.gl/maps/iGzk>**

To volunteer, contact:

- Ed Barrios 979-297-1815 (h) or 979-415-4998 (c)  
[ed77566@comcast.net](mailto:ed77566@comcast.net) -or-
- Barbara Burkhardt 979 297-4386  
[bburkhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bburkhardt@sbcglobal.net)

**Timesheet code: "BCPD."**



### WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY EDITOR NEEDED

Submitted by Neal McLain  
TMN-COT Volunteer Coordinator

The Photo Gallery is a collection of photographs of local flora and fauna organized taxonomically. It appears under the "Archives" heading on the TMN-COT and the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR) websites.

The Photo Gallery was originally started several years ago and now includes over 200 images. However, the former Photo Gallery editors are no longer able to maintain it, so we need someone else to take over.

All photos are contributed by interested TMN-COT or FOBWR members. The editor is welcome to contribute photos, but is not required to do so.

Duties include adding new photographs to the gallery, species identification (common name, scientific name), and editorial maintenance of the gallery.

Applicants should have access to a computer with internet access and photo editing software, an eye for photographic composition, and knowledge of (or access to information about) the flora and fauna of Brazoria County.

This is a volunteer activity, approved for Volunteer Hours credit by the TMN-COT Chapter.

For further information, please contact Neal McLain, Volunteer Coordinator, TMN-COT Chapter, at 979-318-5043 (Brazosport), 832-736-5043 (Houston metro), or [nmclain@annsgarden.com](mailto:nmclain@annsgarden.com).

**Timesheet code: "OTHER"**



Screenshot of the Photo Gallery homepage  
<http://refugefriends.org/photos/>

## Attachments

### This issue of *Chapter News* has three attachments

- Minutes of the May General Meeting  
[http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/05/2012-06-Att-1\\_Minutes\\_May.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/05/2012-06-Att-1_Minutes_May.pdf)
- Summer Library Program Volunteer Schedule  
[http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/06/2012-06-Att-2\\_Library.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/06/2012-06-Att-2_Library.pdf)
- Camp Mohawk Nature Camp Volunteer Schedule  
[http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/06/2012-06-Att-3\\_Mohawk.pdf](http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/06/2012-06-Att-3_Mohawk.pdf)

### Reminders about the June Meeting

- The refreshment team for the meeting includes Ruby Lewis, Gerald Forrest, Marlies Greenwood, Rainbo Johnson
- The 9:00 meeting is approved for 1.00 hour of Volunteer Time.
- Training provided at this meeting is approved for Advanced Training hours. The number of approved hours will be announced at the meeting, and will be available after the meeting at <http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/>

<b>CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS</b>	
President	Barbara Burkhardt
Vice President/Program	Mary Holler
Secretary	Marty Cornell
Treasurer	Sandy Henderson
State Representative	Ed Barrios
Past President	Dave Brandes
Training Director	Ed Johnson
Membership Director	Jerry Eppner
Volunteer Service Chair	Neal McLain
Advanced Training Chair	Tom Morris
Outreach Chair	Ruby Lewis
Chapter Host	Jerry Krampota
Calendar Editor	Andy Smith
Webmaster	Neal McLain
Intern Representative	Pete Romfh
Chapter Advisors	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
Newsletter Editor-at large	Mary Helen Israel
Newsletter Columnists	Barbara Burkhardt, Jerry Eppner
Newsletter Production Editor	Neal McLain
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>
