



Chapter News

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

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The Texas Master Naturalist program is coordinated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

A MESSAGE FROM "the PREZ"



Thank you all for helping to make our summer library programs such a great success. Ruby and her "helpers" educated and entertained over 2000 children and adults with the reptile programs and "Wild in the City".



We also had the TMN-COT display board at the Fishin' Fiesta. The reptile program was also presented at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum on July 14th.

Thirty-two COT volunteers gave their time to help Ruby at

the different libraries throughout the county. Ruby will present the complete attendance numbers at the meeting on August 8th.

I would like to express my **personal opinion** about the background checks. This type of requirement does **not** "sit" well with me at all. However, I am reminded every day, that in this crazy world I live in, it is necessary for (1) my own protection, (2) for the protection of the organizations that sponsor TMN and (3) for the protection of the organizations I volunteer for/with.

The only restriction that is put on my volunteer status is that I can/can't work with children.

(I don't know about anyone else, but there have been a few situations over the years when I have wished I had this excuse!)

But, I filled out the application and turned it in to John. Whichever way you choose, please support John by supplying him with the information that is being required of him by AgriLIFE.

August will be an easy month without very many volunteer opportunities. Enjoy the rest because September begins with a bang: the Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza at GCBO, Nature Night at the Library, and DEEP. (Please see the calendar for our scheduled events.)

The information about the State Meeting at Camp Allen should be sent out around the 15th of August. If you are interested in going, please get your reservations in ASAP, because it fills up rapidly. Also, if you are interested in helping with logistics, please let Michelle Haggerty know.

Our 2013 training class will begin in February. Ed Johnson is the training chair, with Mike Mullins as his co-chair. We have found that "word of mouth" is our best recruitment tool. So encourage your friends to come join us in food, fun and fellowship.

Thanks again for your commitment to making TMN-COT the best chapter in the state.

—The Prez

Upcoming events

August 1 — November 15

Smith Point Raptor Migration Count
 Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area
 Chambers County
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>
Approved for Volunteer Time

Wednesday, August 8, 8:30 AM
General Meeting and Advanced Training
 Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton
 Topic - TBA
 Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited
Approved for 1.00 Hour Volunteer Time
Approved for Advanced Training
See Page 3 for details

Saturday, August 11, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Texas Bat Symposium
 Bat World Sanctuary,
 217 N. Oak Avenue, Mineral Wells, Texas
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>
Approved for Advanced Training

Saturday, August 18, 8:00 AM
Monthly Birdbanding at GCBO
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>

AUGUST 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	31	

Smith Point Raptor Migration Count



HawkWatch International and GCBO first teamed up in 1997 to begin full-season monitoring of the Gulf Coast fall raptor migration at Smith Point, which lies at the end of a peninsula that juts into Galveston Bay. Full-season counts have since ranged between 25,000-115,000 migrants of up to 24 species, with Broad-winged Hawks comprising 60-80% of the total. Other abundant species include Mississippi Kites, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, and American Kestrels.

The site is located in the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area administered by TPWD. Observers work from atop a 20-ft. tower situated at the southwestern tip of the Smith Point peninsula.

This year's count runs from August 1 to November 15.

Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, contact Susan Heath at GCBO.

- Email: sheath@gcbo.org
- Phone: 979-480-0999.

This event is approved for Volunteer Time if you participate as an observer. This event is not approved for AT or IT. Timesheet code "GCBO."

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/0UJs>

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, August 8, 2012
AgriLife Building, Angleton**

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Refreshment Team: Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Ed Barrios, Mike Mullins
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	General Meeting <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</i>
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Advanced Training: Topic: TBA Speaker: Gregory L. Green Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Regional Biologist - Texas Gulf Coast Richmond, TX 77469 <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 http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/.</i>



Greg Green



Greg Green oversees the delivery of Ducks Unlimited's conservation efforts in Texas on properties owned by public agencies, municipalities, and other NGOs. His responsibilities focus on identifying conservation partnerships centered on DU's mission, and securing funds and support for implementing these partnerships.

He has more than 13 years experience in the environmental field with an education background that includes a Master of Science in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation from Louisiana Tech University. His experience includes development, design, implementation and management of a variety of habitat improvement projects in coastal marshes, freshwater wetlands, riparian forests, and native grasslands.

Green has worked for DU since 2003 in Texas and California. Prior to his employment with Ducks Unlimited, he served as a Restoration Specialist for the Galveston Bay Foundation, where he was involved with coordinating and implementing several Community-Based Restoration projects for events such as Marsh Mania and Trash Bash.

Source: Greg Green

Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair

As of August 1, forty-two members have submitted time sheets. A total of 4407 VT hours have been reported so far this year. Excellent!

Members to be recognized at our August meeting will include Anne Bettinger, who has certified. Congratulations, Anne! Elaine Crews and Pam Peltier have recertified for 2012. Pam has reached the 250-hour VT milestone, and Carole Wenny has reached the 1000 hr VT milestone. Congratulations to all!

Migration Celebration featured in IMAGE magazine

IMAGE magazine, Volume 18, Issue 2, features a 2.5-page article about Migration Celebration written by Janice R. Edwards. IMAGE is an undated periodical published by BayStar agency of Angleton, and distributed throughout Brazoria County. It is mailed free to many residents of the county.

Janice R. Edwards is a freelance writer based in Rivers End. She volunteers with several local non-profit organizations including Friends of the River San Bernard, Freeport Fishin' Fiesta, and the Brazoria County Historical Commission.

A scan of the article is posted on the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges website at: <http://refugefriends.org/archive/News/IMAGE.pdf>

Feral Hog management videos available from AgriLife

By Aubin.Phillips, H-GAC

The Wildlife and Fisheries unit of Texas AgriLife Extension Service has released four new videos directed at landowners.

- History, Biology, and Population Dynamics - <http://youtu.be/GDDuYu0uiqM>
- Why do Landowners need to Control Populations? http://youtu.be/FwjS059_gjj
- Control Techniques and Regulations - <http://youtu.be/L9F2clhrOPY>
- Exclusion Fencing around Feeders - <http://youtu.be/1uKbZQ9IYA>

Brazoria County Extension Agent Corrie Bowen honored by AgriLife

By Robert Burns, Texas A&M AgriLife

HOUSTON – May 11, 2012. Texas Agrilife

Extension Service agricultural and natural resource agent for Brazoria County, Corrie Bowen, has been honored with one of the agency's highest levels of recognition, the Superior Service Award.



This award is presented to staff who demonstrate performance or who provide exceptional service through consultation and training.

AgriLife Extension is an educational outreach agency of the Texas A&M University System

Press release: <http://tinyurl.com/chpngxk>

Evan Hirsche steps down as President of National Wildlife Refuge Association

Evan Hirsche, President of National Wildlife Refuge Association, has announced his resignation from the position of President. Hirsche has served in this position since 2001.

Hirsche has served as president since 2001. He is responsible for strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, and conduct of the Association's conservation citizen engagement and advocacy programs.

Hirsche's letter to supporters is here:

<http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2012/08/Hirsche-Email.pdf>



Want to contribute an article?

See an interesting bird? Shoot a photo that you're particularly proud of? Got a question about a species identification? Just want to share some news about the environment?

Write it up! We're always on the lookout for interesting articles or photos for *Chapter News*. Send your contributions to: Mary Helen Israel, Editor, *Chapter News* mh-israel@sbcglobal.net

Texas Mid-Coast Nature Photo Gallery Site Updated

By Peggy Romfh

Editor's note: Peggy Romfh, a member of the Class of 2012, has volunteered to revise and update the Photo Gallery that appears on the TMN-COT website. The Photo Gallery is a collection of photos of flora and fauna taken by TMN-COT members and by members of several of our partner organizations including Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The new gallery is now available on the TMN-COT website at

<http://tmn-cot.org> → [Archives](#) → [Photo Gallery](#).

Peggy has accomplished a monumental task. On behalf of the TMN-COT Board, I extend my thanks to Peggy for her efforts!

—Neal McLain, Production Editor, Chapter News

The Texas Mid-Coast nature photo galleries have a new look and some additional functionality has been added. The photo gallery site is hosted on the Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuge website.

Peggy Romfh, the new Photo Gallery Editor, undertook the extensive revision of the photo gallery structure and updating the photo data elements. All existing photos were updated to add keywords and reloaded using Photo Gallery software. With the new software, galleries and sub-galleries are supported, but search terms can also be entered so the user can pull up photos for common name, genus, family or other taxonomic classification category, photographer, or location where the photo was taken.

In addition, the gallery structure was updated to standardize the galleries around key taxonomic groups. The structure is sufficiently robust that additional galleries can be added as photos of additional species are provided.

The old site supported just under 300 photos. There are almost 500 photos already added to the new site and about 100 more submitted photos are in progress.

Thanks go to Pete Romfh, Denis Mudderman, and Neal McLain, who provided additional technical support on software evaluation and activating the new site and to all photographers in the TMN-COT and Refuge groups that are providing photographs for the site.

Texas Mid-Coast Nature Gallery

A series of nature images from the Texas Mid-Coast including Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Jackson, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties.



Gallery - Arthropoda - Insecta (Insects)



Gallery - Arthropoda (Non-Insect)



Gallery - Chordata - Amphibia and Reptilia



Gallery - Chordata - Aves (Birds)



Gallery - Chordata - Mammalia



Gallery - Cnidaria (Jellyfish, Anemones)



Gallery - Fungi



Gallery - Mollusca



Plants - Monocotyledons



Plants - Dicotyledons

Matagorda Island Species List

By Martha McAlister

Editor's note: the following information was sent by Martha McAlister after our July general meeting and advanced training. TMN-COT members who attended that meeting will recall that our guest speaker, Dr. Wayne McAlister, described many of the species of flora and fauna found on Matagorda Island. Martha McAlister, Wayne's wife, served as illustrator for many of Wayne's books.

I am attaching a list of Common and Generic names of the creatures Wayne talked about in the program last Wednesday. They are arranged in the order they appeared in the talk.

COMMON	GENERIC	COMMON	GENERIC
Mole crab	<i>Emerita</i>	Pen shell	<i>Atrina</i>
Ghost shrimp	<i>Callianassa</i>	Brown anemone w/acontia	<i>Calliactis</i>
Coquina	<i>Donax</i>	Onion anemone	<i>Paranthus</i>
Speckled worm eel	<i>Myrophis</i>	Sea pansy	<i>Renilla</i>
Surf crab	<i>Lepidopa</i>	Channeled duck clam	<i>Raeta</i>
Sand diggers	<i>Hastorius</i>	Heart urchin	<i>Moira</i>
Beach flea	<i>Talorchestia</i>	Tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela</i>
Black beach beetles	<i>Psamathobledius</i>	Goose-necked barnacles	<i>Lepas</i>
Whipcoral	<i>Leptogorgia</i>	Giant barnacles	<i>Balanus</i>
Whipcoral snails	<i>Semnia</i>	Spinthrift	
Disc shell w/hole	<i>Dosinia</i>	Smooth cordgrass	<i>Spartina</i>
Moon snail	<i>Polinices</i>	Mud fiddler	<i>Uca</i>
Auger snails	<i>Hastula</i>	Sand fiddler	<i>Uca</i>
Sand dollars	<i>Mellita</i>	Sea roach	<i>Ligia</i>
Slender sea stars	<i>Luidia</i>	Marsh periwinkle	<i>Littorina</i>
Olives	<i>Oliva</i>	Virgin nerites	<i>Nerita</i>
Minute olive	<i>Olivella</i>	Purple marsh crab	<i>Sesarma</i>
Whelk	<i>Busycon</i>	Striped hermit crab	<i>Clibinarius</i>
Brittlestar	<i>Ophiophragmus</i>	Angelwing	<i>Barnea</i>
Sargassum	<i>Sargassum</i>	Stout razor clam	<i>Tagelus</i>
Portuguese man-o-war	<i>Physalia</i>	Jack knife clam	<i>Ensis</i>
Blue button	<i>Porpita</i>	Burrowing anemone	<i>Edwardsia</i>
By-the-wind-sailor	<i>Veleva</i>	Sea cucumber	<i>Sclerodactyla</i>
Purple storm snail	<i>Janthina</i>	Scallop	<i>Argopecten</i>
Sargassum nudibranch	<i>Scyllaea</i>	Ribbed mussels	<i>Geukensia</i>
Sargassum fish	<i>Histrio</i>	Hooked mussel	<i>Brachiodontes</i>
Aurelia	<i>Aurelia</i>	Brown shrimp	<i>Penaeus</i>
Cabbagehead	<i>Stomolophus</i>	Grass shrimp	<i>Palaemonetes</i>
Ghost crab	<i>Ocypode</i>	Roseate spoonbill	<i>Ajaja</i>
Megalops	<i>Ocypode</i>	Sheepshed minnows	<i>Cyprinodon</i>
Speckled crab	<i>Arenaeus</i>	Striped mullet	<i>Mugil</i>
Blue crab	<i>Callinectes</i>	Gulf Coast saltmarsh snake	<i>Nerodia</i>
Atlantic cockle	<i>Dinocardium</i>	Diamond-backed terrapin	<i>Malaclemys</i>
Scotch bonnet	<i>Phalium</i>	Sea nettle	<i>Chrysaora</i>

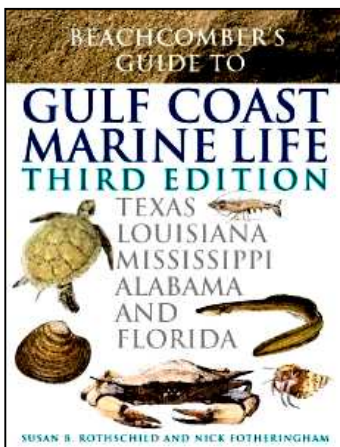
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Matagorda Island Species List - continued

COMMON	GENERIC	COMMON	GENERIC
Mosquitoe larvae	<i>Aedes</i>	Red land crab	<i>Gecarcinus</i>
Plumed worm tube	<i>Diopatra</i>	Giant blue land crab	<i>Cardisoma</i>
Parchment worm	<i>Chaetopterus</i>	Oysters	<i>Crassostrea</i>
Lugworm	<i>Arenicola</i>	Rock shell	<i>Thais</i>
Mudworm	<i>Marphysa</i>	Oyster flatworm	<i>Stylochus</i>
Thread worm	<i>Heteromastus</i>	Rough sea squirt	<i>Styela</i>
Clamworm	<i>Neanthes</i>	Boring sponge	<i>Cliona</i>
Bloodworm	<i>Glycera</i>	Hooked mussel	<i>Brachiodontes</i>
Spaghetti worm	<i>Amphitrite</i>	Acorn barnacles	<i>Balanus</i>
Medusa worm	<i>Loimia</i>	Mud crab	<i>Neopanope</i>
Scaleworm	<i>Lepidonotus</i>	Star coral	<i>Astrangia</i>
Capitellid worm	<i>Capitella</i>	Sea pen	<i>Virgularia</i>
Seawolf	<i>Polyodontes</i>	Sea nettle	<i>Chrysaora</i>
Burrowing peanut worm	<i>Sipunculus</i>	Sea walnut	<i>Beroe</i>
Landlord worm	<i>Thalassema</i>	Burrowing anemone	<i>Edwardsia</i>
Milky ribbonworm	<i>Cerebratulus</i>	Burrowing cucumber	<i>Leptosynapta</i>
Acorn worm	<i>Balanoglossus</i>	Stone crab	<i>Menippe</i>
Golden acorn worm	<i>Balanoglossus</i>	Marine water strider	<i>Halobates</i>
Speckled crab	<i>Arenaeus</i>	Goose-necked barnacles	<i>Lepas</i>
Stone crab	<i>Menippe</i>	White shrimp	<i>Penaeus</i>
Purse crab	<i>Persephona</i>	Sea hare	<i>Aplysia</i>
Spider crab	<i>Libinia</i>	Copepod	<i>Acartia</i>
Lady crab	<i>Ovalipes</i>	Amphioxus, Lancet	<i>Balanoglossus</i>
Calico crab	<i>Hepatus</i>	Grass shrimp	<i>Palaemonetes</i>
Box crab	<i>Callapa</i>	Snapping shrimp	<i>Alpheus</i>
Striped hermit crab	<i>Clibanarius</i>	Arrow shrimp	<i>Tozeuma</i>
Thumb-clawed hermit crab	<i>Pagurus</i>	Chiton	<i>Ischnochiton</i>
Porcelain crab	<i>Petrolisthes</i>	Larval blue crab	<i>Callinectes</i>
Gulfweed crab	<i>Planes</i>	Box terrapin	<i>Terrapene</i>
Pea crab	<i>Pinnixa</i>		

Here is a link to the Amazon webpage for the book Wayne recommends for learning more about these creatures: <http://tinyurl.com/co4epvj>



Beachcomber's Guide to Gulf Coast Marine Life: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida [Paperback]

By Susan B. Rothschild and Nick Fotheringham
Lanham, MD: Taylor Trade Publishing; 3rd Edition, 2004

Susan B. Rothschild, Ph.D., a resident of New Bedford, Massachusetts, has worked in the U.S. fisheries management, water quality assessment of Chesapeake Bay, and U.S. environment regulation at local levels.

Nick Fotheringham, Ph.D., has taught marine biology and invertebrate zoology at the University of Houston and the University of Texas. He is a resident of Thousand Oaks, California.

ISBN 978-1589790612 -2



Otter Slough Boardwalk

By Marty Cornell

On July 19th, the final screw was driven to complete the 364-foot boardwalk that spans Otter Slough. This structure is the key element of the Otter Slough Trail that is being developed near the offices of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge.

The boardwalk was built with funds from a \$25,000 Heritage Grant from the 2011 Dow Gives - Community Grants Program awarded to the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (Friends). This grant was augmented by \$9,000 from donations to Friends from Kathrine T. McGovern that are designated for use on capital projects at the BNWR.

While the understructure of the boardwalk was constructed by the refuge staff, the decking was installed by a crew of eleven volunteers, nine of whom are COT members, who collectively invested 107 hours in the effort. . These volunteers were Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, Gerald Forrest, Billy Heck, Jim Hillis, Jerry Krampota, Mike Mullins, Leo Novak, David Plunkett (Friends), Archie Pratt, and Tom Taroni (Friends).

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the supervisory role of "George", a four-foot alligator who kept watch during the construction process.



Otter Slough Boardwalk, July 19, 2012



Jerry Krampota, Mike Mullins, Billy Heck, David Plunkett, Tom Taroni.



George

Attention will now be directed to construct an information kiosk, photo blinds, and the path of the 1.5-mile loop trail. These items are part of a \$5,000 grant to Friends from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Completion of the trail is targeted for early fall, when it will be open to the public either Monday through Friday during normal business hours or by special arrangement at other times.

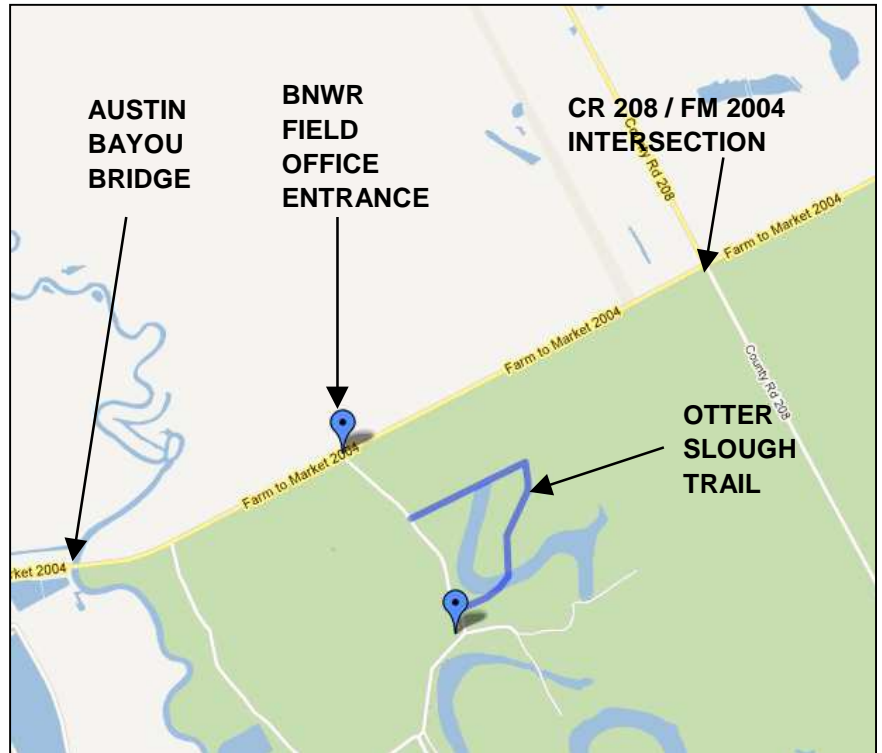
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Otter Slough Boardwalk - continued

The Otter Slough Trail meanders through the Otter Slough wetlands and is designed to provide the public with enhanced birding and other wildlife viewing opportunities. Its path contains the slough and areas of coastal prairie and scrub woodland, an ideal environment for both resident and migrating birds.

Trail parking is in front of the refuge office building, which is at the end of the gravel-surfaced refuge entrance road on FM 2004 located about halfway between FM523 and Chocolate Bayou (near the FM2004 crossing of Austin Bayou). Feel free to drive out and take a look.

24907 FM 2004
Angleton, TX 77515
GPS: 29.153784, -95.2991567
MAP: <http://goo.gl/maps/wkH9>



Attachments

There is one attachment to this issue of *Chapter News*:

Attachment 1 - Minutes of the General Meeting of July 11 General Meeting:
http://tmn-cot.org/files/2012/07/2012_July_General_Meeting.pdf

Reminders about the August Meeting:

- The refreshment team for the meeting includes Marty Cornell, Jerry Eppner, Ed Barrios, Mike Mullins
- 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/>

CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS	
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