



# Chapter News

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## A MESSAGE FROM "the PREZ"

Here we go!!! Even though we aren't starting a new school year ourselves, the COT activity calendar is filling up with many opportunities to work with the adults and children of Brazoria County.

First up: GCBO's XRX, Sat. 9/8 and 9/15. There is also a work day on Fri., 9/7. Ed Barrios, Carole Wenny, and I will be IDing and putting up new plant labels. There will be other jobs as well. Carol Jones still has a few openings and Ruby may need help with the COT information board on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Second: Nature Nights, Brazoria County Library System with three programs in September. I'll be telling folks about our winter migrants and encouraging folks to keep their feeders up and well maintained. Even though she won't be coming back, "Big Mama's" feeder went up the first week in August. Hopefully, we will get a "Little Mama" or another "Big Red" this year. Ruby will do the third program on reptiles.

Third: Discovery Environmental Education Program, DEEP: This program is for fourth and seventh graders from BISD. The classes are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuges' Education Station. Bryan Adams will join us at the September meeting to talk about the activities which begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>, with Jane Long Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Docent guides and other information are available on request.

The big event for October is the state meeting at Camp Allen. I hope you were wise and placed your reservations early. Ellis is heading up the Photo/Art contest again this year. If you have a photo or art you would like to enter and can't attend, please contact me and I will be happy to transport it for you. The other contests are for the chapter scrapbooks, newsletters, and this year the chapter flier. I would love to have a volunteer to put together a notebook with samples of our newsletters. If you're interested, the flyer could also be updated.

The committee responsible for revising Section E: Membership Requirements and Categories, of the COT Policies and Procedures (P&P) Handbook, has met and will present their suggestions for updates to the Board. Hopefully, I'll have the changes to submit to the General Meeting on 9/12 for approval.



Last, but certainly far from least: my tenure as the president of TMN-COT will end in December. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with all of you. The COT P&P require that I appoint a nominating committee at the September board meeting. This is an exceptional organization, well worth our time and effort because of its many contributions to Brazoria County. Please consider volunteering to be or saying "yes" if asked to serve as an officer of this great group.

**-The Prez**

*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)  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

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.

## Upcoming events

This page does not include:

- BCLS Library Program schedule. See calendar at <http://tmn-cot.com/calendar/>
- DEEP School Program schedule. See calendar at <http://tmn-cot.com/calendar/>
- INEOS School Program schedule. See <http://tmn-cot.com/files/2012/08/INEOS.pdf>

**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*

**Saturday, September 8, 8:00 am – 12:00pm**  
**Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**  
**Gulf Coast Bird Observatory**  
*Approved for Volunteer Time (if you assist)*

**Wednesday, September 12, 8:30 AM**  
**General Meeting and Advanced Training**  
 Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton  
 Topic - The Future of Wildlife  
 Speaker: Diana Foss, Urban Biologist, TPWD  
*Approved for 1.00 Hour Volunteer Time*  
*Approved for Advanced Training*  
**See Page 3 for details**

**Saturday, September 15, 8:00 am – 12:00pm**  
**Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**  
**(includes regular monthly bird banding)**  
**Gulf Coast Bird Observatory**  
*Approved for Volunteer Time (if you assist)*

**Saturday, September 15, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**  
**Project Wild/Aquatic Wild Workshop**  
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar  
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>  
*Tentatively approved for Advanced Training*

**Wednesday, October 3, 2:00 PM**  
**COT Board Meeting**  
 Sea Center Texas Conference Room  
 For details see TMN-COT Calendar  
<http://tmn-cot.org/calendar/>  
*Approved for Volunteer Time*

# Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Saturday  
 September 8 & 15, 2012  
 8am – 12pm  
 Gulf Coast Bird  
 Observatory  
 103 Hwy 332 West  
 Lake Jackson  
<http://www.gcbo.org>  
 979-480-0999

Hummingbird Banding  
 Adopt-A-Hummer  
 Nature Store  
 Hummingbird and  
 Butterfly Plant sale  
 Nature Trails  
 Surprise Guest Speakers  
 \$2 Admission fee Adults

Kids get in Free!

Map:  
<http://goo.gl/maps/65mUU>

September 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Wednesday, September 12, 2012  
AgriLife Building, Angleton**

<b>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship</b> Refreshment Team: Joan Simonsen, Joanna Harlan, Ed Johnson, Roy Morgan
<b>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</i>
<b>9:30 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Advanced Training:</b> <b>Topic:</b> <i>Future of Wildlife</i> <b>Speaker:</b> Diana Foss Urban Biologist, Houston area Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  <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 <a href="http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/">http://tmn-cot-calendar.blogspot.com/</a>.</i>

Diana Foss has worked as wildlife biologist for TPWD for 18 years. Prior to joining TPWD, she was Education Director for The Texas Zoo (native wildlife).

She currently coordinates the Houston Bat Team, a group of community volunteers dedicated to education about bats and monitoring bat populations in the greater Houston area; She also serves as a member of Texas White-nose Syndrome Task Force

Foss holds a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University, College Station.

She received the TPWD Employee Recognition Award for Community Education in 2002 and the Citizens' Environmental Coalition Synergy Award for Environmental Education in 2008.

As Texas becomes increasingly urban, the need for nature in our cities becomes more and more critical.

Over 86% of the Texas population lives in urban areas. The six largest metropolitan areas are Houston, San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, El Paso, and the lower Rio Grande Valley. This represents a combined total over 70% of the state's population.

TPWD's Urban Wildlife Program has Urban Biologists stationed in the top six areas to provide urban communities with professional planning guidance, management recommendations, research and public outreach associated with wildlife, habitat and natural resource management.

Diana Foss is the Urban Biologist for the Houston area.



A TPWD Urban Biologist meets with a landowner. More about TPWD Urban Biology program at [http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/TX\\_SDM/urban.pdf](http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/TX_SDM/urban.pdf)

## Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner, Membership Chair

As of September 1, forty six members have submitted time sheets. A total of 5569 VT hours have been reported so far this year. Excellent!

Members to be recognized at our September meeting will include Justina Dent, who has recertified.

Congratulations Justina!

## The Photo Gallery just keeps growing!

By Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery editor

I have posted the 600th photo on the Photo Gallery. There are a significant number of new species added to the 11 galleries and 32 sub-galleries. They are organized across the taxonomic groups of plants and animals. As we add other pictures, I anticipate that I will be adding some additional sub-galleries, especially in plants.

It's fun to look through them and see the wealth of species that exist along the Gulf Coast!

Check it out! <http://www.refugefriends.org/photos/>

## EE program schedules now available

Schedules for our chapter's three Environmental Education programs have been published.

PROGRAM	COORDINATOR	SCHEDULE	LOCATION
<b>BCLS</b> Brazoria County Library System.	<b>Ruby Lewis</b> 979-549-0940 <a href="mailto:rbylewis77515@ymail.com">rbylewis77515@ymail.com</a>	<b>See calendar</b> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-Calendar">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-Calendar</a>	<b>County Libraries.</b> See list of maps at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-BCLS">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-BCLS</a>
<b>DEEP:</b> Discovery Environmental Education Program	<b>Bryan Adams</b> Education Specialist 979-299-9213 <a href="mailto:bryan_adams@fws.gov">bryan_adams@fws.gov</a>	<b>See calendar</b> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-Calendar">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-Calendar</a>	<b>Discovery Center</b> at Brazoria NWR Map: <a href="http://goo.gl/maps/bVjni">http://goo.gl/maps/bVjni</a>
<b>INEOS:</b> INEOS Environmental Education Program	<b>Fred Lewis</b> Home: 281-585-8838 Office: 281-366-8060 Cell: 281-299-5279 <a href="mailto:fred.lewis@bp.com">fred.lewis@bp.com</a>	<b>See INEOS schedule</b> <a href="http://tmn-cot.com/files/2012/08/INEOS.pdf">http://tmn-cot.com/files/2012/08/INEOS.pdf</a> This schedule is also available on the calendar	<b>INEOS Chocolate Bayou Wildlife Conservation Center</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/maps/5Hhwo">http://goo.gl/maps/5Hhwo</a>

These schedules are likely to change throughout the year, so it's a good idea to check the calendar periodically. Note that the Phillips 66 (formerly ConocoPhillips) is not listed. Phillips 66 staff is now responsible for this program. Our chapter serves in an advisory role only.

## Red Tide Confirmed along Upper Texas Coast

By Steve Lightfoot, TPWD, Aug. 14, 2012

Media contact: [steve.lightfoot@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:steve.lightfoot@tpwd.state.tx.us)

AUSTIN –Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is working with other agencies to monitor a red tide event along the upper Texas coast.

The bloom was first confirmed on Sunday, August 12, 2012, by biologists with the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) who collected samples around the Galveston area to follow up on reports of dead fish washing ashore.

Subsequent analysis confirmed low to moderate concentrations of the microscopic algae *Karenia brevis*, commonly called red tide. The bloom is suspected to have caused fish kills along a number of locations along the upper coast, including Crystal Beach, Galveston, Surfside, Sargent's and Matagorda beaches

*Karenia brevis* is a naturally-occurring organism that produces a toxin affecting the central nervous system of fish which causes paralysis and the inability to breath. As a result, red tide blooms often result in dead fish washing up on Gulf beaches. When red tide algae reproduce in dense concentrations or "blooms," they are visible as discolored patches of water, often reddish in color.

Updated information on the current red tide situation in Texas, as well as background information on red tide and how it affects people and fish, is available on the TPWD website:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hab/redtide/>.



## New Hunting Regulations in National Wildlife Refuges

Tom Schneider, outdoor recreation specialist at the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, has advised us that new hunting regulations have been published. These regulations apply to designated areas within the Big Boggy, Brazoria, and San Bernard Refuges. Hunters should note:

- Hunting is permitted *only* in the designated hunting areas. It is not permitted anywhere else in any refuge or refuge unit.
- Hunting is not permitted in the Dow Woods and Hudson Woods Units of the San Bernard NWR.
- Hunting in the Sargent Permit Waterfowl Hunt Area of the San Bernard NWR requires a special permit. Permits are assigned by lottery. Lottery applications will be accepted during September 1-30. An application fee of \$45 are must be submitted with the application. See Waterfowl Lottery Application in the list below.

The new regulations have been published on the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges website. Copies can be downloaded by clicking on the following links:

Public Hunt Areas - Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/boydv4l">http://tinyurl.com/boydv4l</a>
Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/cwaguar">http://tinyurl.com/cwaguar</a>
Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/c252pah">http://tinyurl.com/c252pah</a>
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/cu6rac8">http://tinyurl.com/cu6rac8</a>
Sargent Permit Waterfowl Hunt Area (SBNWR)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/c4zegpg">http://tinyurl.com/c4zegpg</a>
Waterfowl Lottery Application for Sargent Waterfowl Hunt Area	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/d8cl8zp">http://tinyurl.com/d8cl8zp</a>

## Fall monarch migration reporting season continues through October

By Journey North

Journey North is a free citizen science project sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation of Indianapolis. All citizens are welcome to participate. Please report your observations as the monarchs migrate to Mexico and the California coast.

- **WHEN to Report?** When you see a monarch, we want to know about it! Report at least once a week, as long as monarchs are present.
- **WHERE to Report?** <http://www.learner.org/cgi-bin/jnorth/jn-sightings>
- **WHAT to Report?** Our fall maps are described at the link below. Please report:
  - Adult Monarchs
  - Monarch Eggs and Larvae
  - Fall Roosts
  - Peak Migration Events
  - Other Monarch Observations



**About Fall Maps:** <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/MapsFallAbout.html>

## Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP)

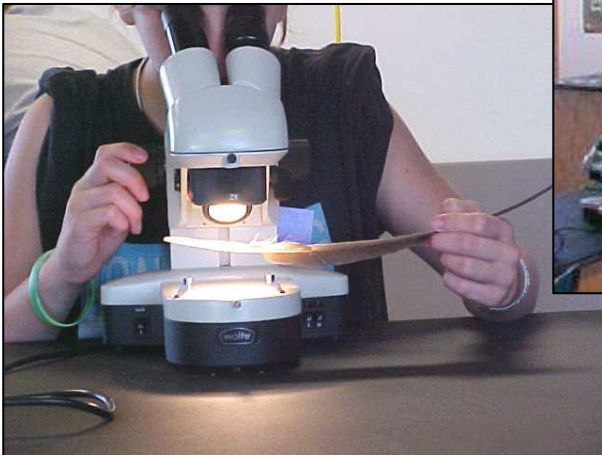
As noted elsewhere in this issue of *Chapter News*, the Discovery Environmental Education (DEEP) program for the 2012-13 academic year resumes this month. This program is sponsored by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and supported by the Cradle of Texas Chapter. The entire project is administered by Bryan Adams, the Environmental Education Ranger.

Field trips are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the academic year, and take place at the Discovery Center at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge.

By providing students with hands-on experience at the refuge, these field trips augment the schools' science curriculum in the area of natural ecological systems.



Ed Barrios sets up the classroom microscopes.



Microworld.



Seining led by TMN-COT Chapter member Carolyn May-Monie.



A bus ride through the refuge.



A shrimp caught in the seining net.



## INEOS Environmental Education Program

As noted elsewhere in this issue of *Chapter News*, the INEOS EE program for the 2012-13 academic year resumes this month. This program is sponsored by INEOS Olefins & Polymers USA and supported by the Cradle of Texas Chapter. Field trips are targeted at elementary-school students, primarily from Angleton ISD. Chapter members serve as instructors and assistants.



Field trips are scheduled on Fridays throughout the academic year, and take place at the Chocolate Bayou Wildlife Conservation Center at the INEOS Chocolate Bayou Chemicals Complex off FM2004 near Chocolate Bayou. TMN-COT member Fred Lewis serves as program coordinator.

Details: <http://tinyurl.com/INEOS-COT>



Fred Lewis, program coordinator



Chocolate Bayou Wildlife Conservation Center



Kathleen Murray, zoology teacher



Rich Tillman, arm in cast



Neeta Shingler welcomes the class



Bus driver, last on the bus at the end of the day,



Barbara Bruyere, seedball sous chef

More INEOS photos at <http://cbwcc.blogspot.com>



## Dow Skimmer Colony Open House

Each year, black skimmers return to a vacant parking lot at The Dow Chemical Company's Plant A in Freeport. According to Dow, 1500 or more adults return each year and hundreds of young are hatched. Every summer, Dow sponsors a Dow Skimmer Colony Open House, free and open to the public. This year's Open House was held on Saturday, June 23, 2012.



Welcome Tent



Four and twenty skimmers, facing toward the wind



Skimmers in Flight



Tom Morris, Ann McLain



Laughing gulls, ever on the alert for an unattended egg or chick.



The mascot.

Photos: David Plunkett and Neal McLain. Editorial assistance: Tom Morris



## Outreach: Fishin' Fiesta

Members of The Cradle of Texas Chapter joined forces with members of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges to present a joint exhibit at Freeport Fishin' Fiesta on July 7, 2012, at Freeport RiverPlace. In addition to static displays, the exhibit featured turtles, snakes, and a baby alligator. Fishin' Fiesta is an annual four-day event presented by the Freeport Host Lions Club.



**Above:** A bale of turtles. <sup>[1]</sup>

**Above left.** FOBWR member Krissy Plunkett holds a baby American Alligator.



**Left.** TMN-COT member George Bettinger shows off a Texas tortoise (protected species).



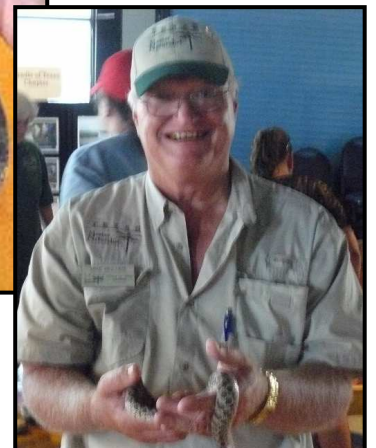
**Far left.** A young visitor meets a three-toed box turtle.



**Lower left.** A three-toed box turtle navigates Ruby's foot.



**Left and below:** Mike Mullins shows off a hognose snake.



[1] <http://tinyurl.com/2hl7g9>

## Attachments

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

Attachment 1 - Minutes of the General Meeting of August 6 General Meeting:  
[http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2012/09/2012\\_August\\_General\\_Meeting.pdf](http://txmn.org/cradle/files/2012/09/2012_August_General_Meeting.pdf)

### Reminders about the September Meeting:

- The refreshment team for the meeting includes Joan Simonsen, Joanna Harlan, Ed Johnson, and Roy Morgan
- 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 Burkhart
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	Mike Mullins
Intern Representative	Pete Romfh
Chapter Advisers	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>
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