

Tenth Anniversary Celebration A Photo Spread

By Barbara Burkhardt

The Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter, recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the founding of the chapter. Over sixty-five members and guests gathered at the Lake Jackson Civic Center to hear the Texas State Co-coordinator for Master Naturalist, Michelle Haggerty, of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, present the keynote address. The first TMN-COT president, Tom Collins, formerly of Lake Jackson, gave a brief history of how the chapter got its start.

In 2001, a group of twenty highly motivated individuals, interested in nature and the natural sciences, learned of a new program being sponsored by the AgriLIFE Extension Service, Texas A&M University, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Master Naturalist program, similar to the Master Gardeners program, educates the public in the natural resources of their county. The trained individuals then spread that knowledge through youth education and support of natural science organizations.

Over the past ten years, the TMN-COT Chapter has contributed over 100,600 hours in volunteer time to support our Brazoria County partners which include the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Brazoria County Parks Department, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Sea Center Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue



Photo: Ed Barrios

Group Photo: Chapter 10th Anniversary Celebration at Lake Jackson Civic Center

The TMN-COT Chapter works with the staff of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge to conduct DEEP, the Discovery Environmental Education Program. DEEP exposes fourth- and seventh-grade students from the Brazosport Independent School District to the functions of a wildlife refuge and to the waterfowl and other wildlife protected by the refuges.

The Chapter also contributes volunteer instructors to the educational programs at the INEOS' Chocolate Bayou facility and the ConocoPhillips Linnville site. COT members give summer educational programs for youth at the several branches of the Brazoria County Library system.

Members of the public may have enjoyed COT members' expertise at such events as Migration Celebration at San Bernard Wildlife Refuge and Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. TMN-COT also provides lecturers at the new "Nature Night at the Library" series and for many civic organizations.

The TMN-COT Chapter will begin its eleventh training session on February 1, 2012, at the Brazoria County AgriLIFE Extension service building, on County Road 171 in Angleton. If you are interested in becoming a member, please check out our website at <http://tmn-cot.org>, or contact one of our dedicated members.



Photo: Neal McLain

Tom Collins, Ellis Burkhardt, Barbara Burkhardt
Collins was the first President of the TMN-COT Chapter; Barbara Burkhardt is the current President.

Check the website for more photos:

- Luncheon Photos - <http://bit.ly/mQCRFV>
- Our ten-year history in photos - http://bit.ly/Tenth_Anniversary



Photo: Ed Barrios

Jane Eppner with the COT "Volunteer Tree" that she created.



Photo: Neal McLain

Billy Heck, Carole Wenny, Sandy Henderson, Ed Barrios



Photo: Neal McLain

Al Fedoruk, Elaine Crews, Rosharon; Barbara Bruyere



Photo: Neal McLain

Michelle Haggerty Rainbo Johnson
Haggerty is Co-coordinator, Texas Master Naturalist Program, TPED



Photo: Neal McLain

Janet Clemenson, Sherry Summers, Pam Peltier



Photo: Neal McLain

Tom Collins, Michelle Haggerty



Photo: Neal McLain

Ruby Lewis, Jerry Krampota,



Photo: Neal McLain

Gerald Forrest, Rich Tillman, Carol Jones



Photo: Neal McLain

John Marshall, Bryan Adams, Torry Tevdt