



OCTOBER 2011

# Chapter News

Editor: Mary Helen Israel

## OCT. CALENDAR

- Oct. 5: EXECUTIVE BOARD
- Oct. 12: Monthly Meeting and Advanced Training
- Oct. 15: Dow Woods Grand Opening Celebration 2pm
- October 21-23 TMN State Meeting

- Page 2 - Report - Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravagazna
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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>

## A MESSAGE FROM "the PREZ"

**Are you ready for a party?** That's the question I asked in the September newsletter. What a lovely answer I received on Sept. 15. This chapter not only knows how to work hard, but it knows how to have a good time. We had a wonderful turnout with 14 members from the 2001 class in attendance. Tom Collins, organizer and 2001-02 president, presented a brief history of how/why the COT got its start and credited Rich with giving us our name. Tom's comparison of the COT chapter to the Hill Country Chapter, where he now belongs, was educational. It made me realize just how lucky COT is to have all our great partnerships with outstanding organization.

Michelle Haggerty left her 9-month old son Grant (for the first time) to be with us for the occasion. She informed us about the start of the Texas Master Naturalist program and how she came to Texas from the far north (Wisconsin). She brought us up to date on the growth of the organization over the past 12 years. One of the important pieces of information shared was the large contributions of TMN to TPWD and AgriLIFE.

Marty Cornell put together a great slide show of our 10-year history. Unfortunately, because of the room lighting and visiting, most folks didn't get a good chance to view it. We'll show it again at the Hog Wild Party in December.



A very special display "The COT Volunteer Tree" was created by Jane Eppner. The tree is based on the Dow Woods Education tree, and gave credit to each class and the many volunteer hours preformed by COT members. The lovely tree is now on display in the auditorium at the AgriLIFE building.



Justina Dent's talented niece re-created the fantastic alligator cake for us. It was a HIT especially with the LJ Garden Club.

Be sure to check out the photos in Attachment 2. **My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who planned, set-up and participated in our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon.**

**Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza:** The COT was in full force at the XRX on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We had great weather, especially the rain on the 17<sup>th</sup>. It made the enjoyment even better. There were lots of hummers and lots of visitors. I think you can say it was a great success.



Mickey Dufilho, Ed Barrios, and Mary Helen Israel at the native plant booth. It was a sellout.



Miss Ruby with her usual crowd about the turtle box.



John Marshall and Pam West acted as greeters and information guides for the visitors. Approximately 725+ folks attended over the two weekends.

**The Pied Pipers:** Ed Johnson with the snakes and Ed Barrios and his friend, the Golden Orb Weaver, entertained the kids (and parents).



**DEEP:** Don't forget the DEEP program starts this month. Bryan Adams has sent out the 2011-2012 DEEP schedule, which is posted on the website under "Environmental Education." I hope everyone will come out and educate yourself about this program.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COT!!!!**

**"The Prez"**

## 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)

October is Texas Archaeology Month. See Page 8 for details about local events.

October 9-15 is National Wildlife Refuge Week. See page 6 for information about plans for the Grand Opening Celebration at Dow Woods Unit of San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

**Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 pm**

Brazosport Archaeological Society Meeting  
Brazosport Museum of Natural Sciences.

**Program: *USS Texas: Last Dreadnought***  
See page 8 for details

**Tuesday, October 11, 11:59 pm**

Registration Deadline for State TMN Meeting  
See page 7 for details

**Wednesday, October 12, 8:30 am**

TMN-COT  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Brazosport Planetarium

**Program: *The Fall Sky***  
Approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time  
Approved for Advanced Training  
See page 4 for details

**Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm**

Archaeology Month Program  
Brazoria County Historical Museum  
**Program: *San Jacinto Battleground***  
See page 8 for details

**Saturday, October 15, 8:00 am**

Monthly Bird Banding at GCBO  
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
<http://tinyurl.com/MBB-GCBO>

**Saturday, October 15, 2:00 pm**

Dow Woods Grand Opening Celebration  
Dow Woods Unit of San Bernard NWR  
Old Angleton Road 0.8 miles north of FM2004  
See page 6 for details

**Thursday, October 20, 6:30 pm**

Archaeology Month Program  
Brazoria County Historical Museum  
**Program: *Blockade Runner Archaeology***  
See page 8 for details

**Thursday, October 20, 6:30 pm**

Archaeology Month Program  
Brazoria County Historical Museum  
**Program: *Blockade Runner Archaeology***  
See page 8 for details

**October 22-23**

Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting  
Mo Ranch Conference Center, Hunt, Texas  
Approved for Volunteer Time  
Approved for Advanced Training  
See page 7 for details

**Wednesday, November 2, 3:00 pm**

TMN-COT Board Meeting  
Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton  
Approved for Volunteer Hours  
All TMN-COT members are invited to attend

**Friday, November 4, 2:30 pm**

Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges  
General Meeting  
Discovery Center at Brazoria NWR  
**Program: *Managing drought on Refuges***  
Approved for Volunteer Time  
<http://bit.ly/BNWR-Discovery>


**Saturday, November 5, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

Levi Jordan Plantation SHS Open House  
<http://tinyurl.com/LJ-Plantation-SHS>  
<http://www.visitlevijordanplantation.com/>

**Wednesday, November 9, 8:30 am**

TMN-COT  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Agrilife Extension Building, Angleton  
**Program: *Edible Plants* -Thomas Adams**  
Approved for 1.00 Volunteer Hour  
Approved for Advanced Training

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
October September 14, 2011  
Brazosport Planetarium and Nature Center  
at the Brazosport Center for Arts and Sciences  
400 College Drive, Clute, TX 77531**

<b>8:30 AM</b>	<p><b>Fun and Fellowship</b> Snacks will be provided by Joanna Harlan, Louis Peltier, Carolyn Schlein, and Joan Simonsen.</p>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<p><b>General Meeting</b> Approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</p>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<p><b>Advanced Training: "The Fall Sky"</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Judi James, Director, Brazosport Planetarium <b>Fee:</b> \$5.00</p> <p>Approved for Advanced Training credit. Approved credit hours will be announced at the meeting, and will be available after the meeting at <a href="http://bit.ly/AT_Opportunities">Http://bit.ly/AT_Opportunities</a></p> 

The Brazosport Planetarium is one of the gems of the Brazosport area. The planetarium includes a 30-foot diameter dome and a dual projector system along with displays, interactive, educational terminals, and a live feed from NASA. Audience seating under the dome accommodates 72 visitors. Incorporated as the Nature Center and Planetarium of Brazosport in 1976, the facility also includes wildlife displays and a nature trail along Oyster Creek.

At the center of the dome stands the Spitz Model 4A planetarium projector capable of projecting images of approximately 2000 stars and five naked-eye planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn). The projector is of excellent optical quality and shows the sky so well that NASA astronauts learn the night sky here as part of their training program. See page 5 for a description of the projector.

A full dome video projector was recently purchased to show high resolution digital video across the full diameter of the dome. NASA's model of the shuttle (used in wind tunnel tests) is on permanent display at the planetarium.

Weekly programs are presented on Tuesday nights at 7 pm with the program changing monthly. Judi James, planetarium director, also teaches astronomy classes for BISD.

There is an active astronomy club that presents periodic "star gaze" programs to the public at the planetarium and school events onsite for students and parents.



—Tom Morris

## The Spitz 4A Planetarium Projector

By Charles Miller, Director, Iowa Space Science Center Initiative, Iowa City, Iowa

*Editor's Note: this article is reprinted here with permission of the author. The original article is posted on the Iowa Space Science Center Initiative's website.<sup>[1]</sup> In this article, the author describes the technical details of the Spitz Model 4A planetarium projector. The projector at Brazosport Planetarium is a similar model.*

The Iowa Space Science Center possesses a Spitz Model A4 planetarium projector, the main projection system shown at right. The control panels and electronics, not shown, occupy a desk-sized area. The projector stands eight feet tall.

The projector's inventor, Armand Spitz, designed it to be a viable, but affordable, alternative to the German-made Zeiss projectors, which only large cities could afford.

The projector consists of an 18-inch "star ball" (top) which projects approximately 2000 stars of the night sky using a xenon arc lamp to render a realistic star color-temperature. Below the horizontal axis is the "planet cage" assembly responsible for projecting the five naked-eye planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn) as well as the sun and our moon. Each planet projector employs an individual analog computer that models the relative position of the sun, earth, and planet so that the projected planet motions, such as retrograde motion and changes in orbital inclination, are accurately portrayed. The relative positions and motions of the planets are also computed by this system. The moon's phase is also properly shown.

In addition to the independent planet motions, four major star-field motions are reproduced: (1) daily motion, (2) annual motion, (3) latitude, as determined by the desired observer's position on earth, and (4) precession of the polar axis. In addition, the A4 model provides for azimuthal rotation, allowing the field to be turned for the convenience of presenting a particular region of the sky to the audience.



Analog computer for tracking the position of Mars.

The A4 projector is designed to operate at the center of a 24-30 foot diameter hemispheric projection dome, typical of university-size planetariums.



[1] Charles Miller. "Spitz Model A4 planetarium projector." Iowa City: The Iowa Space Science Center, Inc., 22 September 2011. Accessed 01 October 2011. <<http://iowaspacescience.org/AboutUs-Subpage01.html>>

**Dow Woods Unit  
Grand Opening Celebration  
October 15, 2011 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**



**Location:** Dow Woods Unit of San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge  
Off County Road 288 (Old Angleton Road) 0.8 miles north of FM 2004

Please join us in recognizing the support and partnerships of organizations that have supported the construction of 2.5 miles of trails.

Join us for guided walks with Texas Master Naturalists at 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Light snacks and water will be provided at 2:00pm. Families are Welcome

The ceremonies begin at 2 p.m., with refreshments afterward. Also during the day, guided walks are available to the public at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

There are two trails at Dow Woods, the first, named after naturalists John and Gloria Tveten, is a 0.9-mile ADA-compliant, concrete path. The second is a 1.5-mile granite fine-surfaced circular route, called Bayou Loop Trail.

The celebration is hosted by Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, The Dow Chemical Company Texas Operations, and U.S. the. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 338-acre property was donated to the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex by The Dow Chemical Company in 2008 and it is an important example of the decreasing Columbia Bottomlands. . It is open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following tasks:

***PARKING ATTENDANT***

We need two people per 2-hour shift or you can volunteer for a 4-hour shift.

- 08:45 am - 10:45 am
- 10:45 am - 12:45 pm
- 12:45 pm - 02:45 pm

***FOOD SERVICE ATTENDANT***

Assist Sarah Heller with the punch/cookies/cake.

- 01:30 - 03:00 pm

***TRAIL GUIDE ASSISTANT***

Assist guides on the John Tveten (north) trail tour.

- 09:00 am
- 11:00 am
- 01:00 pm
- 03:00 pm

This event has been approved for Volunteer Hours if you participate as a volunteer in one of the activities listed above. You may claim:

- Actual hours spent volunteering.
- Travel time equal to your actual travel time or equal to VT hours claimed, whichever is less.

Please code your timesheet "USFWS."

This event has not been approved for VT if you simply participate as a spectator.

This event has not been approved for AT or IT.

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**

Contact Ed Barrios:

979-297-1815 Home

979-415-4998 Cell

[ed77566@comcast.net](mailto:ed77566@comcast.net)

### Membership Report

By Jerry Eppner

I have tallied 7972 VT hours in 2011 from 49 COT members, and that gets us to a chapter total of 102,010 hr since our inception. Amazing!

Members reaching milestones during this period include Andy Smith and Sandy Henderson, both of who have recertified. Congratulations to both of you.

HOWEVER (always one of those – correct?) In 2010, 67 COT members submitted 13,055 hrs of VT so there are at least 18 of you guys hiding in the weeds. So, as we approach the end of the year, now is a good time to get those time sheets up to date and submitted. Still a lot of unreported hours out there; so let's get them in.

### Reminder from Chapter Host

By Jerry Krampota



The following members signed up to bring refreshments for the October meeting:

- Joanna Harlan
- Louis Peltier
- Carolyn Schlein
- Joan Simonsen

If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at [jkrapota@hotmail.com](mailto:jkrapota@hotmail.com).

## Texas Master Naturalist 12th Annual Meeting & Advanced Training Mo-Ranch Conference Center, Hunt, Texas 78024-3037 October 21 - October 23, 2011

**Registration Deadline: Tuesday October 11, 2011**

**Location:** Mo-Ranch Conference Center  
2229 FM 1340  
Hunt, Texas 78024-3037  
800-460-4401

**Dates:** Friday, October 21, 2011 1:00 PM - Sunday, October 23, 2011 1:00 PM (Central Time)

*Welcome Texas Master Naturalists!*

We are pleased to extend an invitation to ALL Master Naturalist participants to attend our 12th Annual Texas Master Naturalist Meeting and Advanced Training. All Master Naturalist affiliates are invited to attend. This includes those Certified, in training, administrators and advisors of local chapters, and your local chapter partners, sponsors, or special guests.

- **Registration and schedule:** <http://bit.ly/AnnualMeetingRegistration>
- **Mo Ranch Website:** <http://www.moranch.com/>
- **Further information** <http://bit.ly/na5ou5> (click "show quoted text")
- **Carpool information:** Barbara Burkhardt, 979-297-4385 or [bburkhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bburkhardt@sbcglobal.net)

## October is Texas Archaeology Month

### Museum Exhibit

#### Items from the Civil War Blockade Runner *Acadia*

Brazoria County Historical Museum  
100 East Cedar Street  
Angleton, Texas 77515  
<http://bchm.org>  
Free



Photo: BCHM  
Salt-glazed stoneware  
recovered from the Acadia

The *Acadia* was a steamship built at Sorel, Quebec, in May and July of 1864. She was expressly constructed to be a blockade runner and was larger and faster than the norm. She was a 738-tonner, whereas the usual range of vessels in this occupation was from 400 to 600 tons. The *Acadia* was side-wheeler with one 900-horsepower engine.

Under the command of Capt. Thomas Leach, the *Acadia* was on her first voyage as a blockade runner when she was run aground and abandoned by her crew on February 6, 1865. As soon as the morning fog lifted she was spotted in fifteen feet of water ten miles northeast of the mouth of the Brazos, her intended destination, by the USS *Virginia*, the Union navy ship on patrol in the area.

The *Acadia* was destroyed by gunfire, although much of her cargo was salvaged by shore parties.

The wreck site was examined by Wendell E. Pierce during the late 1960s and early 1970s under permit from the Texas Antiquities Committee and under the supervision of Frank Hole, an archeologist at Rice University. Artifacts from the site were housed for a time at the Houston Museum of Natural Science; they are now held by the Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton. The wreck of the *Acadia* is a designated state archeological landmark protected under the Texas Antiquities Code.

Source: Barto Arnold III. "ACADIA." Handbook of Texas Online <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qta03>> Accessed October 02, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

### Programs

Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 pm

#### ***USS Texas: The Last Dreadnought***

Speaker: Steven Howell, the executive director of the Battleship Texas Foundation. Howell will discuss the history of the Battleship Texas, the last surviving battleship to have operated during both World Wars.

Brazosport Archaeological Society Meeting  
Brazosport Museum of Natural Sciences.  
400 College Drive, Clute, Texas

Thursday October 13, 6:30 pm

#### ***Making heads and Telling Tales of San Jacinto***

Speaker: Forensic Artist Amanda Danning. Danning will relate the story of six skulls of Mexican Soldiers killed on the San Jacinto battleground and collected by John J. Audubon in the late 1800s. The presentation will feature facial construction work by Danning on the skulls.

Brazoria County Historical Museum  
100 East Cedar Street, Angleton

Thursday October 20, 6:30 pm

#### ***Civil War Blockade Runners on the Texas Coast.***

Speaker: Andrew Hall, a member of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archaeological Stewardship Network

Brazoria County Historical Museum  
100 East Cedar Street, Angleton

## Attachments

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

Attachment 1 – Minutes of the General Meeting of September 14, 2011

[Attachment-1\\_Minutes-September-General-Meeting](#)

Attachment 2 – Tenth Anniversary Celebration - A Photo Spread

[Attachment-2\\_Photo-Spread](#)

### Reminder

The following members signed up to bring refreshments for the October meeting:

- Joanna Harlan
- Louis Peltier
- Carolyn Schlein
- Joan Simonsen

If for some reason you have a conflict, please call Jerry Krampota at 281-585-3249 or email at [jkrampota@hotmail.com](mailto:jkrampota@hotmail.com).

### 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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