

Our Mid-Coast Chapter 2010 Annual Report to State

We can be proud of our numbers Here are a few highlights:

Number of volunteers trained since Chapter inception:	146
Volunteer service hours in 2010:	12,301
Cumulative volunteer service hours since Chapter inception:	76,665
Cumulative hours of Advanced Training hours since Chapter inception:	8,689
Number of outreach/education events conducted by the chapter in 2010:	465
Direct outreach/education events in 2010:	117
Number of people attending these direct events:	1,648
Indirect outreach/education events in 2010:	348
Number of people attending these indirect events:	12,720
Total acreage affected through new chapter projects in 2010	2,858.16
Total miles of trails affected in new trail projects in 2010	6.2

Chapter Awards or Successes

Mid-Coast Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist volunteers are proud to collect data throughout our area for agencies and programs that affect indigenous wildlife. We are also proud to work with the National Park Service to participate in the endangered sea turtle restoration program and with Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN) in marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation.

In 2010, we performed **4,354** hours in **25** wildlife research or restoration projects, including:

- ◆ 2,212 hours of turtle patrols on Matagorda Island, Matagorda peninsula, and Padre Island National Seashore locating nests, gathering eggs for hatching under improved conditions, and documenting and marking Kemp's ridley sea turtles
- ◆ 19.5 hours assisting TMMSN to find, rescue, and release a baby dolphin entangled in monofilament line and hooks
- ◆ 304 hours in 24 separate dove-banding events for TPWD & Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
- ◆ 281 hours in 7 Christmas bird counts throughout our 8-county area
- ◆ 8 hours in 11 separate cactus moth monitoring events for TPWD
- ◆ 31.5 hours identifying plants for the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve on the Fennessey Ranch, part of the NERR.
- ◆ 479 hours in phytoplankton monitoring events for NOAA
- ◆ 61 hours for TPWD Cowbird-trapping project at several locations on two ranches to reduce songbird predation
- ◆ 144 hours in 11 miscellaneous events for TPWD – gill-net and bag-seine sampling, fisherman surveys, bird-banding, & horned lizard surveys
- ◆ 129 hours in 21 separate events monitoring exotic insects for the U.S. Forest Service at 3 locations
- ◆ 59 hours for USFW, surveying & documenting a rare plant found in our area
- ◆ 456 hours in 50 wildlife survey events—general bird censuses at 11 locations as well as surveys of specific birds, butterflies, and benthic invertebrates
- ◆ 170 hours in 13 Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) events at Welder Wildlife Foundation

Chapter Member Designated 2010 Volunteer of the Year



Mike Mauldin joined the Mid-Coast Chapter in 2006 and has found a second home volunteering for Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi. He started out volunteering in the animal husbandry department and soon began working with raptor rehabilitation at TSA.

Mike works in training raptors for educational purposes and assists in preparations for the "Wildflight" educational show at the aquarium. He does photographic documentation of TSA raptors and works in other projects related to raptor exhibits and training.

Chapter Meeting August 14, 2010

The third-quarter meeting of the Mid-Coast Chapter was held at the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College in Victoria. After the meeting, Sue Prudhomme, Director of the museum, gave us a private tour of the native peoples section of the museum, and discussed volunteer opportunities and training available to us there, including design of a native plant garden and training and volunteering in archaeology.

August Awards: Drew Jacobs, Karen Lee Rystad, Dianne Pletcher, Paul Meredith, and Mary Meredith received their 2010 year pins from membership chair TJ Fox. Clark Williams received his bronze dragonfly pin for 250 hours of service. Barb Threatt and Linda Lanoue received their gold dragonfly pins for 1000 hours of service. Paul Meredith received his platinum dragonfly pin for 2,500 hours of service.

Class of 2010 Graduation

Congratulations to the class of 2010! Seventeen of 18 class members completed the required training and were presented with name badges and certificates. In addition to completing initial training, four members of the class have already completed requirement for full Certification as Texas Master Naturalists. Those members are Judy Goodner, Karen Lee Rystad, Mary Ann Porcher, and Bill Porcher.

Chapter Meeting May 8, 2010

The Chapter met at Formosa-Tejano Wetlands, an outstanding educational facility in Jackson County off FM 172. After the business meeting, Norm Hirsch, a member of the board of Formosa-Tejano Wetlands, introduced Debra Sonsel, the full-time, onsite teacher. The facility has been active for two years and Debra brings 28 years of science-teaching experience to the program. She explained the program, which is TEKS-based to meet the needs of classroom teachers, and invited volunteer help. She can be reached at sonseld@calcoisd.org or 361-652-7606. A dream of hers is to initiate a Christmas Bird Count at Tejano Wetlands, since there currently is not one in Jackson County where the wetlands is located. The wetlands are open to the public from dawn to dusk and Debra invited TMN members to visit.

Chapter Meeting February 20, 2010

The first-quarter Mid-Coast Chapter meeting was held Saturday, February 20 at Welder Wildlife foundation. In addition to the business meeting, members:

- ◆ heard Ron Outen speak on The Aransas Project
- ◆ received advanced training on Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship for a project at Welder
- ◆ prepared native plant beds at the CONE-Welder site
- ◆ or assisted in River Walk trail maintenance.

