

The Midden

Wood ducks by Diane Humes

Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists

February 2024

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President's Corner by Gene Fisseler

Late last year I watched our Beach Heroes team at Galveston's Oppe Elementary. There were a half dozen Texas Master Naturalists in the gym surrounded by a hundred first graders. Along with lots of energy, excitement, and laughter.

Author Keith Robertson published a book in 1958 entitled *Henry Reed, Inc.* which I read in grade school. In Chapter 1, Henry says, "I'm going to be a naturalist when I grow up." That word, naturalist, stuck with me.

In 1970, I signed up for a field trip with my junior high classmates to commemorate the very first Earth Day. My primary aim was the seat on the bus next to Charlotte Miller, upon whom I had a serious crush. Instead, I was introduced to the concept of recycling waste metal and glass.

A few years later, only to make my high school class schedule work, I opted for an Ecology class taught by Clark Flentge. A remarkable teacher, Mr. Flentge was also my inspirational student council sponsor.

When I was in college, Prof. Jones pointed out that my grades in Structural Steel made me the "ideal candidate" for any field not requiring command of either topic. So, I enrolled in the Environmental Option offered by the civil engineering department.

My first encounter with Emmeline Dodd was on the occasion of her recognition by Armand Bayou Nature Center. A force of nature, Emmeline introduced me to the TXMN program and interested me in joining your ranks. A few years ago, in Big Bend National Park I bumped into a lady wearing master naturalist garb. Carolyn Miles reinforced my commitment to pursue membership in the program.

So, what do the Beach Heroes have to do with any of this? Only that the Oppe Elementary experience highlights that we have daily opportunities to positively affect others. If just one of those first graders remembers a single fact about sea turtles, then the Beach Heroes presentation was a success.

We never know who takes notice of what we say. There's no bright light or clap of thunder when someone is influenced by something we do. It just happens. Each of our journeys is a series of random turns that occur while we're making other plans. I am composing this President's Message today because of the words and actions of a fictional character, Charlotte and Mr. Flentge, Prof. Jones, and Emmeline and Carolyn. And, yes, the Beach Heroes. None of them had any idea. But they all did what they did. And we all do what we do.

Thank you all for all you do!

Next Chapter Meeting

February 1

Beyond the Choir - Getting
Your Conservation
Message across to the
General Public

By

Nancy Angell
Sabine-Neches Chapter,
Texas Master Naturalist

At Extension Office*
and via Zoom

Women in Nature: Maria Sibylla Merian by Meade LeBlanc

Greek philosopher and naturalist Aristotle promoted the doctrine of spontaneous generation, a theory that living creatures could arise from non-living matter, and that it was a common and regular occurrence in nature. This was widely believed for centuries; fleas were thought to form from dust and maggots from rotting flesh. By the 17th and 18th centuries, some biologists were conducting experiments that called it into question. Others contributed to its dismissal by studying live insects and their life cycles. Maria Sibylla Merian was one of the first naturalists to do so

Merian was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1647, and learned illustration from her stepfather, who was a painter of still life. Insects caught her interest early in her life, and by the age of 13, she started keeping a study journal of her observations, as well as painting the insects that she captured. About her early life, she wrote, "I spent my time investigating insects. At the beginning, I started with silkworms in my home town of Frankfurt. I realized that other caterpillars produced beautiful butterflies or moths, and that silkworms did the same. This led me to collect all the caterpillars I could find in order to see how they changed."

She began raising silkworms at home, and traveled to the countryside to collect caterpillar larvae, recording their food plants and behaviors. She observed the life cycles of insects over decades, making detailed drawings based on live insects in their natural environment, at a time when many people regarded insects as "beasts of the devil." Her drawings and engraved plates depict moths laying eggs, or caterpillars feeding on leaves. By drawing live insects Merian could accurately depict colors, which were lost from preserved specimens, which were commonly used by her contemporary artist-naturalists. She also depicted the reproductive cycle of flowers, from bud through fruit.



Image is public domain

In 1679, Merian published the first volume of a two-volume series on caterpillars, and the second volume was published in 1683. Each volume contained 50 plates

engraved and etched by Merian, and included a description of the insects, moths, butterflies, and their larvae she had observed. *Der Raupen wunderbare Verwandlung und sonderbare Blumennahrung - The Caterpillars' Marvelous Transformation and Strange Floral Food*, was largely ignored by scientists of the time.

The title page of her 1679 *Caterpillars* proclaimed in German: "wherein by means of an entirely new invention the origin, food and development of caterpillars, worms, butterflies, moths, flies and other such little animals, including times, places and characteristics, for naturalists, artists, and gardeners, are diligently examined, briefly described, painted from nature, engraved in copper and published independently."

Johannes Goedart, a famous Dutch naturalist and artist, had already published a book depicting the life cycle of butterflies and moths, but he did not include eggs because he thought that caterpillars were generated from water. Merian was the first to include this stage. She was also the first to document the relationship between the insects and their host plants. She noted "caterpillars which fed on one flowering plant only, would feed on that one alone, and soon died if I did not provide it for them." Merian made other unique observations, such as how larvae "shed their skins completely three or four times" and she described the ways in which larvae formed their cocoons.

She studied plants as well as insects. In 1680, she published a book of plates depicting flowers. Such books were often used to make patterns for embroidery, an essential skill for privileged young women in Europe at the time. Merian also sold a limited number of hand-colored editions, in which she painted on vellum with watercolors and gouache. (Because of the guild system, women were not allowed to paint with oils.)

Sales of her plant paintings allowed her to finance a trip to Suriname, where she spent two years studying the plants and insects there. This trip raised eyebrows, because it was so unusual for a woman to travel for scientific study, and to make such a trip without the benefit of sponsors or patrons. She studied the plants and insects, and also noted their habitat, habits and uses to indigenous people. Her classification of butterflies and moths is still relevant today. One engraving, created from sketches drawn in Suriname, shows a large spider who had just captured a bird. She was initially ridiculed for suggesting that a spider could capture a bird but was later found to be accurate. In the same engraving and accompanying text Merian was the first European to describe both army ants and leaf cutter ants as well as their effect on other organisms.



Image is public domain

money in advance for a hand-painted deluxe edition of the *Metamorphosis*. A less expensive printed edition in black and white was also published, and reprinted in 1719, 1726 and 1730, finding a larger audience. It was published in German, Dutch, Latin and French. This book brought her some renown among the scientific community. Even the famous father of zoological classification, Carl Linnaeus, cited her work multiple times.

Shortly before Merian's death, her work was seen in Amsterdam by Peter the Great. After her death in 1717, he acquired a significant number of her paintings, which are kept in academic collections in Saint Petersburg.

Long after her death, her work has been more widely recognized. Merian is considered by David Attenborough to be among the more significant contributors to the field of entomology. Numerous schools have been named for her, a modern research vessel named RV *Maria S. Merian* was launched at Warnemünde, Germany, her portrait was printed on the 500 DM note, and her books have been republished. Three butterflies have been named after her, as well as a Cuban sphinx moth, a genus of mantises, an orchid bee, a lizard, a toad, a snail and others. She might have been most proud, however, to find out that a bird-eating spider *Avicularia merianae* was named in her honor, referencing her research on spiders.

After returning from her expedition, she published her sketches and notes in *Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium*. The book was published at her own expense, and she used an early form of crowdfunding to accomplish that, by advertising for subscribers, who paid

2024 Board of Directors

Elected	
President	Gene Fisseler
Vice President	Mary Dobberstine
Treasurer	Meade LeBlanc
Secretary	Lisa Hardcastle
Past President	Pam House

Training Class Representatives	
Spring 2023 Class	Corlis Simmons
	Lynn Porfirio

More information can be found at <http://txmn.org/gbmn/board-of-directors/>.

Appointed	
Advanced Training (AT) Director	Mike Petitt
Class Director	Diane Humes
Communications Director	Mary Dobberstine
Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director	Mohammed Nasrullah
Membership Director	Tracy Walpole
State Chapter Rep.	Gene Fisseler
Volunteer Service (VS) Projects Director	Sharon Tirpak
Sponsor	To be determined

Appointed positions are tentative until the Board Meeting on January 21.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Treasures of the Bay Recipients 2023

Each year our chapter recognizes outstanding service and contributions to natural resource restoration and education efforts with the "Treasures of the Bay Awards."

The 2023 recipients are:

Dick Benoit Leadership Award

Julie Massey

Sammy Ray Researcher Award

Leda Parker

Mary Dobberstine

Alyssa Goforth

Sara Snell Education Award

Chris Anastas

Eowyn Johnson

Beth Cooper Service Award

Mary Dobberstine

Chapter Service Awards

Pam House

Making a Difference Awards

Marlynn Miller

Chuck Snyder

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake - 2024 Re-cert Pin by Diane Humes

In the spirit of friendly competition, some chapter members strive to earn each year's re-certification pin by the February chapter meeting. This friendly competition entails strategic consideration of how to earn 40 hours volunteer service AND 8 hours advanced training in a short time, which in 2024 is 31 days; this will not be easy! The 2024 pin represents the western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*), also called the Texas rattlesnake or Texas rattler. See if you can be the first to earn this pin.

The western diamondback rattlesnake, a venomous pit viper and the second largest rattlesnake in North America and Mexico, resides in all habitats, except the wettest areas, throughout Texas and the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico - even on the dunes in Galveston. Usually reaching 4 feet in length, males are larger than females. Its even larger "cousin" is the eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), ranging from Louisiana east to Florida and North Carolina.



Photo courtesy of TPWD

A heavy-bodied animal usually weighing 3-6 pounds, some western diamondback rattlesnakes have weighed as much as 15 pounds. Identify this species by its triangular shaped head, two diagonal lines on each side of the face, dark diamond-shaped patterns along the back, and black and white bands just above the rattles.

Snakes in this species are (usually) solitary predators, most active at night and early morning, from late March until early October. They seek shelter from the hot sun and move into burrows or caves in winter, often with other snake species. They are poor climbers and hunt or ambush prey from the ground. Prey consist of small animals - mainly mammals, lizards, ground birds. Probably not too many Texas horned lizards (2011 re-cert pin); a young diamondback was found dead from unsuccessfully trying to swallow one!

Diamondback rattlesnakes are eaten by coyotes, foxes, hawks and owls, roadrunners and king snakes. Other animals - cows, horses, antelope, deer - view snakes as a threat and will trample or stomp them with their hooves. When threatened, a diamondback will coil his body and shake his tail rattles - up to 60 times per second - in warning. If that strategy fails, the snake will strike and its venom is powerful, although not usually fatal to humans.

Probably best, however, not to find out.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has this to say: To coexist peacefully with these animals, citizens are encouraged to stay on designated trails and remain alert. When hiking, wear boots and long loose-fitting pants to provide ankle protection. Citizens are discouraged from climbing on rock outcroppings and/or cliffs.

Western diamondback rattlesnakes are viviparous - females bear live young after a gestation period of six or

seven months. Mating occurs in the fall and females give birth to a dozen or more young, up to 12 inches long. The young remain with the mother for only a few hours before leaving to seek cover and hunt. Young are fully capable of delivering a venomous bite from the moment of birth.

Western diamondbacks may live up to 20 years and are a species of Least Concern.

Congratulations - wear your new pin with pride.

Trivia Quiz: Cold-stunned Turtles by Sheron Evans and Theresa Morris

1. Which species of sea turtle is found cold-stunned most often in Texas?

Green Sea Turtle, although all sea turtles can be affected. The Green Sea Turtles are feeding in the bay where the water temperature will show a more drastic change during an abnormally cold weather event.

2. How many cold stunned turtles were found in "the big freeze" Feb 2021?

Over 13,000 turtles were rescued along the Texas coast, from Sea Rim to South Padre. Over 300 were rescued or recovered on the upper Gulf Coast, which extends from the Louisiana/Texas border to Matagorda Bay.

3. Where is the farthest away a cold-stunned turtle was sent from to be released in Galveston?

Wales! Tully was rehabbed in Wales, then brought back to Texas and was released into the Gulf of Mexico.

4. What test must a turtle pass when its body temperature has warmed?

A swim test to show that it can swim enough to get to the surface of the water to breathe. Their natural buoyancy in the water will help with their breathing and heart rate.

5. What is the longest time a turtle stayed with us in rehab after cold-stunning?

12/26/22 - 12/1/23 Merida had several complications due to the cold-stunning and it took close to a year to get her in shape to return to the Gulf.

6. What groups work together during a cold-stun event to help the turtles on the upper Texas coast?

Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research, TX Parks & Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA, Padre Island National Seashore, Houston Zoo, and

Galveston Bay Area Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists.

7. What temperature is the bay water when we start looking for cold-stunned turtles?

Sea turtles are cold-blooded, so the water around them determines their body temperature. When the water temperature drops below 50° F the turtle's heart rate will decrease, circulation slows and the turtle will become extremely lethargic, almost in a coma-like condition.

8. What does a cold-stunned turtle look like?

Cold-stunned turtles are lethargic, not swimming, usually floating on the surface or not moving on shore.



Photo courtesy of Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research

9. Where do we look for cold-stunned turtles?

In the bay, in lagoons, and along the shorelines. There are various "hot-spots" we cover each time the water temperature drops into unsafe temperatures because turtles will typically get stuck in the same spots.

10. What should you do if you find a cold-stunned turtle?

Call the Turtle Hotline 866-TURTLE-5 and report the location.

Beach Heroes Launch Garden Stake Program in Local Schools by Kathleen McClean

Inspiring the local elementary school children to combat plastic pollution and preserve Galveston beaches as safe havens for sea turtles has been the primary focus of the GBAC-sponsored Beach Hero Program since 2018. Led by Maureen Wilde, the engaging presentations featuring fellow Master Naturalists dressed in capes and animal hats educate the students on the dangers plastic pollution poses to the sea turtles' survival. The children are invited to become Beach Heroes by teaching their friends and families to appropriately dispose of plastic trash such as monofilament, water bottles, and balloons.

The Beach Heroes Program expanded its outreach in 2023 by joining forces with the Young Gardener's Program, a hands-on after school initiative sponsored by Galveston's Own Farmer's Market (GOFM) and directed by Honi Alexander. The program benefits elementary, middle, and high school students by promoting nutrition and practical life skills. The Junior Gardeners meet once a week on Wednesdays, when they tend to garden beds flourishing with fresh produce which they ultimately share with their families. What's more, under the guidance of Galveston Bay Master Naturalists, the students are appreciating their power to make a difference in the world by growing cucumbers and romaine lettuce expressly for the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research. The produce will be heartily enjoyed by the injured and rescued turtles being rehabilitated at the center.



GBAC provided each of the nine schools participating in the Junior Gardening Program with supplies to decorate signs marking the turtle food beds. Constructed by Master Naturalists Carlos Rios and Robert Mason, the markers consist of turtle silhouettes affixed to sturdy stakes engineered to withstand the winds blowing off

the Gulf. The students were encouraged to paint and decorate the motifs as they pleased.

The Young Gardeners will begin sowing their seeds in January for their spring crop of bounty. If you are interested in volunteering with them or the Beach Heroes, the specific locations and dates are posted on the GBAC calendar.

Hawk Watch - One Thing Leads to Another by Diane Humes

About 1,800 bird species in the Americas migrate north seasonally, usually to breed. Many species are the "pretty birds", but at Hawk Watch we look for raptors - the 30+ species of birds of prey who come in shades of black, brown, gray, or white, with occasional rufous. Raptors fly over land in daylight and, if conditions are right, are identified and counted in great numbers heading north at our Sylvan Beach Hawk Watch between March 1 and April 30. The most numerous species that we see are turkey vultures, broad-winged hawks, Mississippi kites, Swainson's hawks; the most beautiful is the swallow-tailed kite.

After nesting and breeding, adults and young make the journey in reverse to southern locations. As in spring, fall hawk watchers station themselves throughout North, Central and South America to view and count the birds. The Sylvan Beach Hawk Watch location is not as well-sited for watching southbound fall migrants. Our nearest best location to see the southbound migration is Smith Point hawk watch tower. Smith Point, on the east side of Galveston Bay, is a natural collecting site, especially for raptors reluctant to cross open water. Birds arrive at

Smith Point and (usually) turn north toward Baytown, rather than flying straight to Galveston.

Manned daily by Bob Baez and volunteer helpers from August 1 - November 30 for the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, the Smith Point tower can be an exciting place - especially when conditions are perfect, meaning sunshine and north to northwest winds. This year, after enduring seemingly endless stifling hot days, a perfect day rolled in on October 14 - also the annular eclipse! - with strong north winds for 4 hours, switching to northwest for the rest of the day. Smith Point hawk watchers observed the eclipse and noted that, "most bird activity came to a halt as the eclipse increased and picked up as it decreased."

As north winds continued for the following days of October 15 and 16, broad-winged hawks streamed over the tower - close to 100,000 birds in three days! By the end of the 2023 season, Bob Baez reported counting 157,641 broad-winged hawks, 316 Swainson's hawks, as well as 6,875 Mississippi kites and other smaller raptors.

Watchers in Mexico and Central America monitored south-bound migration of "our" hawks; watchers in Veracruz - a magnificent location to observe the awe-inspiring spectacle of millions of birds as they are funneled between mountains and the sea - counted over 4.6 million southbound birds this season, which included 344,808 Mississippi Kites, 487,462 Swainson's hawks, and 1,734,158 broad-winged hawks.

The numbers of birds transiting the globe can seem incredible; flight data, collected over time, is useful to indicate population trends of many species.

However, there are other raptor species and raptor migration routes around the world; species of hawks and eagles which breed in northern Asia and Siberia winter in Malaysia. Flying south through Thailand, birds are funneled past Chumphon through a wide wetland plain between mountains and the Gulf of Thailand. Husband Allan and I decided to check out Thailand's hawk migration this past October.

An excellent hawk watch site in the Thai national park at Khao Dinsor boasts a visitor center displaying photos of common raptors; from the visitor center you climb to a series of five viewing platforms overlooking the surrounding valley and Gulf of Thailand. The trail is built into the hillside and quite steep - not for the faint of heart on either the ascent or descent. We climbed it four times in four days; on the last climb I counted the 2134 steps to the top viewing platform. The view is, of course, amazing and the birds sometimes flew low overhead thrilling us all with fantastic looks.

As with our Sylvan Beach hawk watch, the birds are in a hurry, flying very high and traveling fast. When they do that, it is impossible to see streaks and bars, or colors. In that case, you make identifications by shape, size, and flight appearance. Also, the species list for Thailand includes 1101 birds, among them 50 unfamiliar raptors, and the only familiar birds were peregrine falcons and osprey. Thankfully, we had an incredibly knowledgeable and patient guide to help us and tried to learn quickly.

The five most common raptors seen at Khao Dinsor are Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*), Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*), Chinese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloensis*), Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*), and Grey-Faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*). We also saw and counted streams of Asian openbills (like storks), blue-tailed bee-eaters, ashy drongos and needletails. I mostly wanted to see Black Bazas, the most sought-after species at Khao Dinsor.

The Black Bazas - strikingly beautiful birds and related to our swallow-tailed kites - fly in flocks, sometimes including other birds, often in large numbers. The day before our arrival, observers counted over 20,000 Black Bazas at Khao Dinsor. The next day, we were excited to

count over 4,000; by the end of the week we had seen another 2200. Not bad for tourists!



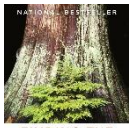
Black Bazas are forest birds, medium-sized, handsomely patterned with dark crests and perch high in the canopy on bare branches. They feed primarily on grasshoppers and grab lizards, tree frogs and occasional small mammals, bats or birds while in flight. Surprisingly, they also eat palm fruits, especially on migration; the countryside around Khao Dinsor abounds with palm nut plantations. Apparently frugivory is common in raptors, especially during migration when birds need energy. They prefer lipid-rich fruits; swallow-tailed kites also augment their diets with palm fruits and avocados!

Our trip to Thailand focused on raptors, but we visited mountain, lake, coastal, and more urban habitats and found 200+ other species, common and incredibly endangered - all new to us. I found that I was far better at counting the birds than identifying.

Fortunately, both skills are important and spring hawk watch is almost upon us. So, dust off your hawk watch chair, clean those binoculars and sign up for the annual Diurnal Raptors refresher and AT, to be held on February 20, 2024, 6PM. Lynn and John Wright will help us to ID and count the raptors that will be flying overhead soon. You don't want to miss it!

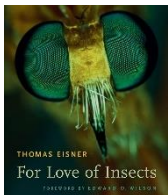
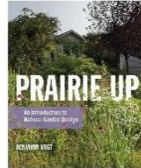


Heritage Book Study by Cheryl Barajas



Hello and Happy New Year to my fellow book lovers! We started out the year 2024 by finishing our discussion on *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard.

February's book is *Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design* by Benjamin Vogt. This book is different from our usual choices in that it talks about native landscaping. The author shares his expertise with prairie plants to help us make our ideas and designs achievable. If you want a beautiful and functional landscape, this is a great reference! Plant Native! I can't wait to hear how everyone has used these ideas in their yards.



In March, we will be switching to a completely different topic - insects. *For Love of Insects* by Thomas Eisner will be our March and April discussion.

Please check the website <https://txmn.org/gbmn/heritage-book-study-group/> or the 2024 bookmark to see this year's book choices. Or if you happen to be at the extension office, there are bookmarks available in the library.

If anyone is interested in joining the book study this year, please email me at cherylbarajas9@gmail.com. Even if you don't think you have an interest in the book choice, I have found that there is always something new to be learned.

Happy reading!

The Midden

Published bimonthly by the Galveston Bay Area Chapter - Texas Master Naturalists. The purpose of *The Midden* is to inform, communicate and educate chapter members and the community. If you have an article that contributes this purpose or want to join the team, please contact Diane Humes, treimanhumes@gmail.com.

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The Midden is posted on the GBAC-TMN chapter website: <https://txmn.org/gbmn/> two weeks prior to chapter meetings. Archived issues also on chapter website. If you prefer to receive *The Midden* in hard copy and are not currently receiving it, please contact Nichole Montrose, nichole.montrose@ag.tamu.edu

Midden Team

Diane Humes, Editor	Madeleine K. Barnes
Verva Densmore	Sheron Evans
Rebekah Gano	Meade LeBlanc
Carolyn Miles	Chuck Snyder

Thank you, Julie!!! by Jason Miles

Happy New Year everyone. Welcome to 2024, a brand-new year of being a member of the Galveston Bay Chapter. Another year of volunteering, going to chapter meeting (and eating too much), and worrying about how I am going to get my AT hours for the year. And then it dawned on me - Julie retired last year. She won't be our chapter advisor. That responsibility is for the next advisor and honestly, it will be exciting to see how he or she will make their own mark on our chapter. But it did make me think of Julie's actual value to the organization.

In the first *The Midden* in 2001, Julie congratulated the chapter on logging 200 hours of work. One evening Carolyn and I wondered: How many hours did the chapter accumulate in Julie's tenure? We looked at each other and said, "we know people who could answer that", so Carolyn sent off an email to Patty and Tracy and asked the question - and the answer blew us away: 70,000 AT hours and 656,000 volunteer hours in round numbers. That, my friends, is a lot of hours.

Then the accountant in Carolyn kicked in. She pondered if each hour of volunteering is \$31.80 in value (as of

2023), how much value has Julie encouraged our group to earn? Well, it's not a small number: \$20,860,800. That's right, over 20 million dollars.

Julie has been the guiding hand for the chapter since 2002 and has kept us on the straight-and-narrow since the beginning. She has been a mentor and friend to each and every one of us. And for all her hard work and effort over the years - I would like to say:



Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists Get Wet!

By Julie Massey

“Getting wet” is cool — especially in January! I am totally wowed by all the activities that Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists (GBAMN) have been involved in since the end of class!

The Board of Directors has been working hard all of January to draft by-laws and policy — with over 200 person-hours logged so far — so that we can establish non-profit status before the price goes up.

I know many of you have participated in the wetland plant management efforts at the Reliant Cedar Bayou Plant. Talk about a great opportunity to get that mud bath and sling a few plants at unsuspecting friends — you know who you are!

Many volunteers worked at the Sea Grant exhibit at the Houston Boat Show. My co-workers, bosses and I really appreciated all the help and look forward to working with GBAMN in the future!

I know Armand Bayou is also benefiting from your volunteer efforts. I understand

that one or two of you really enjoy burning things — or, rather, the prairie.

Many of you learned more about seafood than you probably wanted to know at our “Something Fishy is for Dinner” workshop — and the gyotaku (fish printing) results were great!

I know I am missing many of the volunteer and advanced training opportunities that GBAMN members have participated in recently but I want to thank each of you for your dedication and enthusiasm in restoring our area’s natural resources. I really can’t begin to tell you how much I thoroughly enjoy working with you and getting to know you better. See you soon on the Bay! Take care!

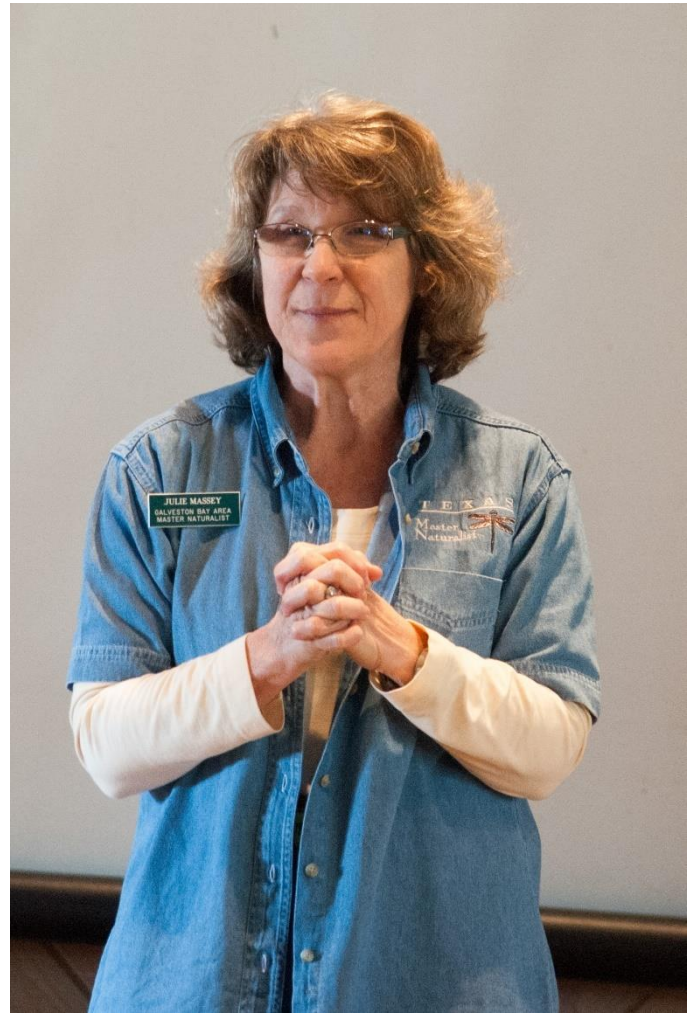
Julie



An example of gyotaku

Adventures with Julie by Chapter members





Food, Fun and Friendship - Always!!!!



February and March Activities

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter Meeting - February 1; Beyond the Choir - Getting Your Conservation Message across to the General Public

Presenter: Nancy Angell
6pm Social, 6:30pm Meeting, 7pm Speaker
At Extension Office* and via Zoom; 1 hour AT

Ghost Wolves

Wednesday, January 31 at 6pm via Zoom, 1 hr. AT
Presenters: Bridgett Von Holt and Kristin Brezeski

Diurnal Raptors of The Galveston Bay Area

Tuesday, February 20 at 6pm via Zoom, 1.75 hrs. AT
Presenter: Lynn and John Wright

Insect Restoration

Friday, March 5 at 6pm via Zoom, 1hr. AT
Presenter: Matthew Strausser

Is Taxonomy Really That Taxing?

Friday, March 22 at 1:30pm at Ext. Office*, 3 hrs. AT
Presenter: Emmeline Dodd and Cindy Howard

Ongoing

Heritage Book Study Group

First Monday of every month via Zoom
2 hours AT
Contact: Cheryl Barajas cherylbarajas9@gmail.com
See Pg. 8 for books.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For a complete list of stewardship activities, see our chapter website, <https://txmn.org/gbmn/what-we-do/>.

EDUCATION - OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

For a complete list of education - outreach activities see our chapter website, <https://txmn.org/gbmn/what-we-do/>.

Partner and Associate Programs - Many organizations sponsor guided walks and education programs or need volunteers to staff their nature center. Go to <http://txmn.org/gbmn/partners/> for the list, then click on the link to the organization's website.

CHAPTER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Calendar - <https://txmn.org/gbmn/events/month/> Includes meetings, AT and volunteer activities

Board - <https://txmn.org/gbmn/board-of-directors/>
Contact information for the Board of Directors. **Board Meetings** - usually first Tuesday of each month (via Zoom), verify on the calendar

Committees - <https://txmn.org/gbmn/board-of-directors/>
Contact information for the Committee Chairs

Volunteer Service - <https://txmn.org/gbmn/volunteer-service/> Volunteer Opportunities

Advanced Training - <https://txmn.org/gbmn/advanced-training/>

Midden Archives - <https://txmn.org/gbmn/> Go to The Midden on the top menu.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/gbactmn>

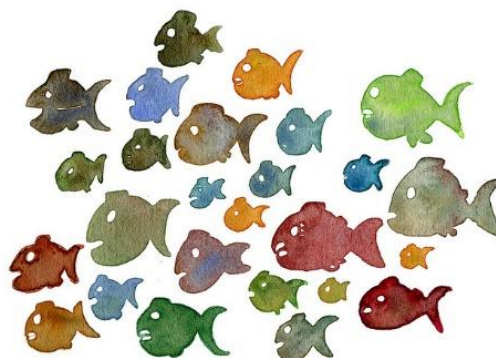
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The Midden Deadline
for the next issue

February 26



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12/11/14

*Extension Office = Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Galveston County Office (Carbide Park)

