



JANUARY 2022

Chapter News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

~ Bill Vaughan

Happy New Year!

January is already proving to be a roller coaster ride, at least in the weather department! I am excited to start the new year and am looking forward to a wonderfully productive year for our Chapter. I am honored to be your President for the coming year and look to each of you to help me be an effective and successful leader. (*Translation: Please help pick me up if and when I fall flat on my face!*)

Are you ready to move past 2021, and 2020, for that matter? I know I am!!! However tiresome 2021 was, I am very thankful for many things, especially the opportunity to work alongside YOU, our awesome and inspiring Master Naturalist Chapter Members. It was gratifying to resume working with one another and to interact with the public. While we had many obstacles thrown our way, we were able to serve in various capacities and improve our local environs. We had several fall festivals and happenings to take part in. We resumed in-person meetings in the summer, and we culminated the year with a wonderful 20th Anniversary Celebration in December. Over 90 members and their guests were able to attend! It was great to see so many of you!

We have two wonderful women among those to thank for the success of 2021. **Mickey Dufilho** did a fantastic job as Presi-

dent and guiding the Chapter through the ups and downs of COVID and all the restrictions on where, when, and how we could actively volunteer.

Even when things were looking bleak, Mickey was there to raise our spirits and cheer us on, many times while dealing with her own adversities and scooting around with a mike or bull horn in her hand!

We also thank **Lisa Myers** for serving as Chapter Secretary for the past five years! Lisa's excellent notes during Board and Chapter meetings were instrumental in guiding our Chapter, and we have all benefited from her wisdom and guidance. While she is stepping down as secretary, Lisa has graciously agreed to continue editing our monthly newsletter. Thank you Mickey and Lisa for your service!!!

Please plan to join our January 12 evening meeting. We will have a light and reflectors to better mark the entrance to the parking lot, as well as volunteers to assist members walking to and from the building. We will also have an online option for those not able to meet in person. Social time will start at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. Our featured speaker is **Debbie Moran**, who has advocated for the responsible use of lighting for many years and was the 2017 recipient of the International Dark-Sky

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Kathy Pittman is the president of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. She can be reached at pittman@tmn-cot.org.



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The Texas Master Naturalist program is coordinated by Texas A&M AgriLIFE Ext. Svce. & Texas Parks and Wildlife TMN programs serve all people without regard to socio-economic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Masthead photo by Charles Jesse Miller Jr at BNWR.

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
Chapter News – January 2022**

NOTICES

The January 22 Bonus AT Day has been POSTPONED due to COVID concerns; new date TBD.

Texas Master Naturalist Program—Cradle of Texas Chapter General Meeting and Advanced Training

Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 6:30 PM

at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX, and via email invite to
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

6:30 – 7:00 PM	Social Time
7:00 – 7:15 PM	Welcome, Meeting Participation Notes, and Volunteer Report
7:15 PM – 7:30 PM	Nature Notes Speaker: Melanie Hollenshead Topic: “Update on Brazoria County Spider Survey”
7:40 PM – 8:30 PM	Advanced Training Speaker: Debbie Moran, Topic: “Light Right to Bring Back the Night” <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
8:30 PM – 9:00 PM	General Membership Meeting <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>



Debbie Moran

Deborah Moran has had a lifelong interest in astronomy since her childhood in Midland, Texas, where all the scenery is in the sky. She has been a longtime member of the Houston Astronomical Society and has served in several capacities there, currently as Novice Chair in charge of programs for new members. She also participates in outreach programs and as a volunteer telescope operator at the George Observatory in Brazos Bend State Park.

She is the 2017 recipient of the International Dark-Sky Association’s Hoag-Robinson Award for education of government officials about outdoor lighting issues. In 2010, her Woodside neighborhood became the first within Houston city limits allowed to install low-glare fully-shielded decorative streetlights. In 2015, she began presenting concerns about the choice of high-glare white LED streetlights in Houston to city officials and hopes that the Houston

area will someday join other communities in moving to warm or soft white to amber LEDs, which are recommended by the American Medical Association for their reduced glare and reduced disruption of day/night circadian function.

Deborah has also lobbied for a lighting ordinance or education program to reduce security-light glare and created the web site www.softlighthouston.com to educate citizens on lighting issues. The site prompted the Houston Police Department to recommend soft-shielded lighting.

She retired from the Houston Symphony after 27 years in the violin section.



MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

Congratulations to those achieving recertification and milestones as of December 31, 2021¹.

2021 Initial Certifications

Pat Jeffries Lisa Martinez

2021 Recertifications

Patty Brinkmeyer Pam Peltier
Cindy Goodrum Larry Ruhr
Mike Hampy Bob Salzer
Carol Jones Ken Sluis
Ruby Lewis Linda Sluis

250 Hours Milestone

Angela Griffin Mike Mullenweg

5000 Hours Milestone

Oron Atkins

Hours Totals YTD—31 December 2021

12,202 Hours VT 1,805 Hours AT

* December only: 1,217 VT and 46 AT Hours

Impact Data YTD—31 December 2021

4,096 Adults 5,785 Youth 9,881 Total

¹ Data for December and 2021 is preliminary due to 45 days allowed to enter time.



HOW TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES

By Don Sabathier, COT Treasurer

There are several ways for you to pay your dues for 2022:

A payment link thru Square is on the homepage <https://txmn.org/tmncot/>. There is a \$1.00 processing charge for online payment. You can use a credit or debit card.

OR... You can pay by check (made out to TMN-COT) and mail to:

Don Sabathier, Treasurer, TMN-COT
3405 Medina Court
Pearland, TX 77584

OR... If you have an account at **TDECU**, you can pay through the inter-account transfer feature. Just enter **BUS** as the account name; our checking account number **20103305** and the **\$25.00** amount and it will be automatically transferred into the TMN-COT account. Please put your name in the remarks section of the transfer request; otherwise, I will not know who transferred the money.

For interns who just completed the course, your 2021 dues were included in your application fee. However, you will be required to pay dues in 2022 to continue your membership in the Chapter.

OR... I can accept your payment at a General Meeting or any other in-person meeting.

OR... You also have the option of paying **\$400.00** for a **lifetime** Chapter membership and you can ignore these annoying notices.

If you have any questions about the dues or the payment methods, you can contact me at 832-781-8891 or dhsabathier@att.net.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Association's Hoag-Robinson Award for education of government officials about outdoor lighting issues. Debbie has also lobbied for a lighting ordinance or education program to reduce security-light glare and created the web site www.softlighthouston.com to educate citizens on lighting issues. Her presentation will be "**Light Right to Bring Back the Night.**" We will also have a review of 2021 highlights and other news to share. Masks are optional but certainly encouraged. I hope to see you there!

We have several **Information Nights for prospective members** scheduled over the next two weeks (*see below for times and locations*). We've also posted the information to the website and Facebook page. Please share with your friends and neighbors and come join us if you are able.

The Board has agreed to **postpone the January AT Day**, originally scheduled for Saturday, January 22. These AT days have had high attendance in the past, and we felt it would be better to get past the current COVID surge before hosting another AT Day. We plan to reschedule very shortly.

In November we lost two members of our community, Kirby Rapstein (2001) and Kerry Magee

(2004). Kirby was a founding member of COT and President of the Chapter in 2003. Kerry volunteered at Sea Center for many years. We also have several members dealing with health issues and other members who have not been able to participate in our activities. If there is someone you haven't seen in some time, please consider reaching out with a call or an email. It only takes a few minutes and will certainly brighten their day.

What will you carry with you into 2022? I will carry memories of perseverance, of making new friends and reconnecting with friends from days past, of new adventures in Nature, of promoting our natural spaces. I look forward to creating new memories with my fellow Master Naturalists. I hope you are also looking forward to all the possibilities that come with the new year.

See you outside!

Kathy Pittman

*"Then sing, young hearts that are full of cheer,
With never a thought of sorrow;
The old goes out, but the glad young year
Comes merrily in tomorrow." ~ Emily Miller*

MEET-AND-GREET INFO FOR PROSPECTIVE COT MEMBERS

By Mickey Dufilho, COT Immediate Past President

Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist.

Also, please try to attend one or more sessions from 7p to 9p to share your experiences and enthusiasm!

- **Thursday January 6, Alvin Library, 105 S. Gordon 281-388-4300**
- **Tuesday January 11, Angleton Library, 401 Cedar 979-864-1519**
- **Thursday January 13, Pearland Library, 3522 Liberty 281-652-1677**
- **Tuesday January 18, Lake Jackson Library, 250 Circle Way 979-415-2590**

**MEET
and
GREET**

MEET YOUR COT 2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

At COT's 20th Anniversary Celebration held on January 8, members elected officers for 2022. Newly-elected president Kathy Pittman later named other board members.

ADVISORS



John O'Connell
Advisor, AgriLIFE
Ext. Svce.



Paul Cason
Advisor, Sea Center
Texas

PAST PRESIDENT



Mickey Dufilho
Immediate Past
President



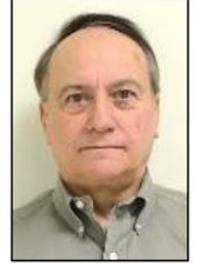
ELECTED MEMBERS of the BOARD



Kathy Pittman
President



Kristine Rivers
Vice President



Don Sabathier
Treasurer

UNFILLED*
Secretary

* Secretary-elect Kathy Pittman resigned after the election was held; the president will appoint a replacement.

APPOINTED MEMBERS of the BOARD



John Boettiger
Membership
Director



Mary Schwartz
New Class
Director



Larry Peterson
Communications
Director



Ruby Lewis
Outreach
Director



Bob Whitmarsh
Advanced
Training Dir.



Oron Atkins
Volunteer Svce.
Director



Rose Wagner
Chapter
Host



Connie Stolte
State
Representative



Roxanne Walkowiak
Class of 2021
Representative

2021 FALL INTERN CLASS GRADUATION

December 11 marked the official graduation day of the 2021 COT new member class. The eight graduates (Sherri Matheson was ill and could not attend) presented their project, a Case Study on Resoft County Park in Alvin and were presented their COT shirts and certificates.



Clockwise from left: Training Director Mary Schwartz explains some of the challenges of holding virtual training; Fall Class of 2021, from left: Roxanne Walkowiak, Lisa Martinez, Hugo Martinez, Gina Summers, Pat Jeffreys, Hailey Bentley, and Matt Forster; not pictured: Sherri Matheson; a cake, of course, to celebrate the graduates.

Below: Some of the COT members and friends and family of graduates who attended the graduation. Photos by Angela Griffin.



SAN BERNARD NWR IN THE NEWS

Federal wildlife officials acquire nearly 5,000 acres of forest lands along Texas Gulf Coast for migratory birds

Reprinted from KERA | BY SASCHA CORDNER | THE TEXAS NEWSROOM Published 4 January 2022

According to the federal wildlife agency, this newly acquired land is a major stopover area for migratory birds. It will now be added to a nearly 70,000-acre wildlife refuge.

In late December, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired 4,628 acres of coastal bottomlands forest along the Texas Gulf Coast.

According to the federal wildlife agency, this newly acquired land is the largest contiguous “old-growth” forest tract remaining in the Columbia Bottomlands habitat that had not yet been conserved. “Old-growth” refers to ecosystems that tend to have older trees that have largely been undisturbed. It’s also the first refuge tract in Wharton County.

Columbia Bottomlands supports reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, including swamp rabbits, white-tailed deer, and red-eared slider turtles. It’s also a major stopover habitat for migratory birds.

“The Columbia Bottomlands ecosystem is a critically important area for millions of migratory birds that use it as a staging area between their wintering habitat in the Caribbean and South America,” said Heather Snow, the reaty chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Southwest region.

Snow said that’s what attracted federal wildlife officials to acquire the land mainly through grants. “What makes this unique is the Fish and Wildlife Service was able to fund this acquisition with about \$11.5 million of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which is put toward acquisition for migratory birds along with just over \$2 million of private funds provided by the Knobloch Family Foundation, The Brown Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Bezos Earth Fund,” added Snow.

The land will now be a part of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, which is located in Brazoria and Matagorda counties. The nearly 70,000-acre refuge includes forested wetlands and was established in 1968 as a wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory bird species.

“The newly acquired land is named the McNeill-Peach Creek Unit, and it contains an extensive amount of frontage on the San Bernard River to the north and east, as well as Peach Creek, which roughly bounds the southern extent of the property,” said Snow, “But Bottomland hardwood trees dominate the property, in addition to being a major migratory bird stopover area.”

The Columbia Bottomlands once covered over a thousand square miles of floodplain forest along the Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado Rivers. Today, just 150 square miles remain that haven’t been impacted by agriculture or development.

Editor’s note: This tract was acquired with help from Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (FOBWR), who assisted by funding some of the due diligence efforts required for such an acquisition. Leading those efforts was Mike Lange, COT and FOBWR member.



BIRDER ALERT: NEW BENCH ON WOLFWEED POND OBSERVATION DECK

By Oron Atkins

On December 13, Chip Sweet and I constructed and installed a custom fit, 10-foot-long bench on the southeast corner of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge's Wolfweed Pond observation deck. Using purchased, composite bench-seat supports as a pattern, Chip duplicated the seat-rest curvature and made six (the number of leg supports used for a 10-foot bench) such seat supports using 2"x6" treated wood. He also made the separate, angled-back supports that attach to the seat supports. GREAT JOB CHIP! We cut 18 additional 4"x6" pieces needed to complete the six leg supports, and they were tied into the platform's top rail, mid-rail and deck. Lastly, we installed 2"x4" composite for the seating and back rest. Very comfy.

Not in our original plan, but we intend to install another composite 2"x4" at the very top of the bench backrest, more for aesthetics than structural need.

Note: This was a project of the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. Chip and Oron are also TMN-COT members.



Chip Sweet enjoying the fruits of his and Oron Atkins' labor on the new bench on Wolfweed Pond observation deck. Photo by Oron Atkins.

REMEMBERING KIRBY RAPSTEIN

Continued from page 13

Master Naturalists Cradle of Texas Chapter and the Brazoria County Master Gardeners, where he served as president of each.

Kirby was very proud to be part of the team, helping to build many nature boardwalks and facilities in and around the Columbia Bottomlands including Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Brazos Bend State Park, Hudson Woods, Dow Woods, and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson. He was a facilitator of Project Wild and Project Learning Tree, leading many nature tours for schoolchildren and adults of all ages.

In accordance with Kirby's wishes, there will be no services, and his ashes will be interred at the Houston National Cemetery.

If you would like to donate in Kirby's honor, please consider one or more of the following: St. Mary's Episcopal Church of West Columbia; The Boy Scouts of America, Bay Area Council; Houston Audubon Society; Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Lake Jackson; Texas Nature Conservancy; Brazoria County Master Gardeners; Texas Master Naturalists Cradle of Texas Chapter.

REMEMBERING KERRY MAGEE

Continued from page 13

Jackson Lodge and was also a Shriner.

With Jim Gentil, he created a Toastmasters Club in Lake Jackson in 1984 where he received the DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster) Award in 1990.

In his adventurous life, he was a Life Scout in BSA, then became most active in the Music Theater and the Little Theater of Brazosport.

As a Texas Master Naturalist, Kerry volunteered at Sea Center Texas for seventeen years. He was also a tour guide at INEOS Company's Wild Life Reserve at Chocolate Bayou, and tour guide on the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi.

Memorial donations can be made to American Legion Post 306, P.O. Box 6994, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566.

REFUGE SATURDAYS OPEN HOUSE AT BOBCAT WOODS TRAIL

By Lisa Myers



The Saturday, November 13, Refuge Saturday event held at San Bernard NWR's Bobcat Woods Trail was the last this fall of three one-day open houses held at various area refuge locations and hosted by the refuges and Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges.

Several COT members volunteered as docents to facilitate bird watching, a native-plant garden tour, a reptile encounter, and a scavenger hunt. A Birds of Prey Program was also presented to attendees.



Clockwise from top left: Tom Morris shares information on birds seen along the trail; Herb Myers shows visitors a hognose snake; Christina Hartman holds an alligator; Patty Brinkmeyer with a king snake. Photos by Marty Cornell and Regina Tippett.

VISITORS FROM FAR AND NEAR AT FOBWR OPEN HOUSE, BNWR DISCOVERY CENTER

By Lisa Myers

With most of the activities for the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges' annual open house at the Discovery Center moved outside, the event could resume for the first time in two years. Final numbers have not been tallied, but approximately 85 visitors per day from Brazoria County, metro Houston, and states and countries beyond took in the beautiful weather between December 26 and January 2. This year's focus was on birds, but butterflies, reptiles, owl pellets and other activities engaged old and young alike.



See COT's Facebook page for more images by Dick Schaffhausen.



FOBWR MONTHLY REFUGE WALK

By Lisa Myers



Photos by Dick Schaffhausen.

On December 3, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges members, many of whom are also COT members, met to walk the Spears Tract located in Holiday Lakes and is a newly-acquired property that is now part of the Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. As the tract is not open to the public, this was a rare opportunity to see this lovely area.

The COT members in attendance included Ed Barrios, Marty Cornell, Ruby Lewis, Jerry Eppner, Phil Huxford, and Lisa Myers. Sadly, this will be the last refuge walk led by Refuge Complex Manager Jennifer Sanchez, who retires on December 30. Got to the following link for a short video that includes background information on the Spears Tract: <https://www.facebook.com/FOBWR/videos/4437247216372777>.

A FOND FAREWELL TO MID-COAST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX MANAGER

By Lisa Myers

At the end of October, Mid-coast NWR Complex Manager Jennifer Sanchez announced her retirement effective December 30. She has overseen the management of the Brazoria and San Bernard refuges and their associated units and tracts under the umbrella of the Complex and before that was refuge manager for the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

On December 2, members of the refuge staff (along with past complex manager Ron Bisbee) and members of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges bade Jennifer a reluctant farewell at a lunch in her honor held at the Brazoria NWR.

Everyone who visits the refuges has benefited from her exemplary stewardship. Jennifer will certainly be missed.



From left: Friends of BWR board members and COT members Regina Tippett and Mickey Dufilho set up for the luncheon. Friends president and COT member Lisa Myers offers words of thanks to Jennifer (seated above left and across from retired complex manager Ron Bisbee and his wife). Photos by Dick Schaffhausen.

FINAL 2021 REPORTS—HUDSON WOODS APPLE SNAILING

By David Heinicke

November 17, 2021— This morning I paddled Scobie Lake in a search and destroy mission for apple snail eggs. At noon I was joined by Georgia Monnerat and ACE intern Ethan Davis to cover Smith Lake. No one had been on either lake in about two weeks; we had hoped that the season was over and we could call it quits until spring. To make a short story long, that was NOT the case. I found and destroyed about 50 egg masses on Scobie Lake. That's about the same I found last time I was there on November 1. When we hit Smith Lake today, we found fewer egg masses than we had been finding but still a fair number. Together, we spent three hours looking for snails and scraping and smashing eggs. The snails didn't seem to be hanging out near the eggs as much as they usually do, but they could be found in the submerged vegetation.

Using the "Ethan Technique" of sweeping the water with your hands or the paddle produced a good number of snails. We ended the day with 234 adult snails. The takeaway for the day: Snail reproduction has decreased greatly but not stopped completely, and even with cool water temps (mid 6's F) snails can still be found in submerged vegetation and clinging to submerged logs and limbs. We had a great day on the water!

So far in 2021 we have spent approximately 778 hours collecting 14,083 adult snails at Hudson Woods.

This includes snailing by USFWS staff, interns and volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped!

December 10, 2021— Tropical species like apple snails go dormant in winter, right? Even though it doesn't feel much like winter, I had hoped that apple-snail activity and breeding had stopped for the season. I was hoping we would paddle out there, find no eggs, find no snails and pack the operation up for the winter. Well, that wasn't the case. It seems we have job security for a little while anyway...

Georgia Monnerat, Oron Atkins and I paddled Smith Lake today. We did find fewer eggs than normal, but we still found quite a few and a good number of egg masses that appeared to have been laid in the last couple of days. Obviously, breeding and egg laying has not stopped. Water temps ranged from 65 to 70, depending on depth. That's actually a little warmer than a couple of weeks ago. In three hours, we collected 106 adult snails and smashed a good number of eggs. Most of the snails were found floating/feeding in the Coontail (submerged grass). After lunch, I paddled Scobie Lake and was equally disappointed by what I found. I snagged and destroyed 30 egg masses. That's about what we were finding during the summer months.

Based on today's results, I think we will continue to go snail busting throughout the winter whenever we can get a warmish day. I'll keep an eye on the weather reports and let you know when I plan a trip out there. A big thanks goes out to Ethan, Will and Dylan (aka The Interns) for cleaning up the boats, the cabin and emptying and cleaning the freezer!

December 29, 2021— Dick Schaffhausen, Kathy Pittman and I went out to Hudson Woods one last time this year to see what we would find. No one had been there since December 10, and we really didn't know what to expect. Apple Snails typically go dormant in the winter, but it hasn't felt much like winter here. We're not seeing any snail activity at Brazos Bend, and I'm getting the same reports from Resoft Park in Alvin and George Bush Park in Houston. Well, Hudson Woods apple snails are still going strong!

The water temp on Smith Lake was about four degrees warmer (74F) than it was three weeks ago, and the air temp was near 80F today. The number of egg cases was about the same as we found three weeks ago, but the snails were much more active. We found a good number of "doubles" (breeding snails) and even three snails in the process of laying eggs this morning.



That's unusual even in the hot summer months. Many of the eggs we're finding were very fresh—probably laid in the last day or two. There were more "fresh" eggs this time than the last time we went out, perhaps because of warm nighttime temps in December.

Our three hours of work yielded 130 adult snails. After lunch I paddled Scobie Lake and found no adults but did locate and destroy 51 egg cases. That's up from three weeks ago.

With MUCH cooler temps coming in over the weekend, maybe that will finally shut things down for the winter. At this time, I don't have any more snailing trips planned. If we get some sunny days in the upper 70s in January, we might try again. I'll keep you posted.

Perhaps of interest to you naturalist types, we did have two cool sightings today. This morning we saw an immature Bald Eagle over Smith Lake. It was perched on the north end of the lake, chased a few coots around

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FINAL 2021 REPORTS—HUDSON WOODS APPLE SNAILING

Continued

and headed south across the lake. This afternoon I found what I believe is a Texas Cooter turtle on Scobie Lake (see image right). They are uncommon, and I've never seen one in this area before. Exciting!

Since this trip concluded the Hudson Woods 2021 Apple Snail season, here are a few stats for the year 2021. These numbers represent the dedicated work of USFWS staff, interns and our great volunteers.

**Total number of adult apple snails removed:
14,319**

Total number of workforce hours: 810

Great work everyone!

Thanks for all your dedication and hard work. I'll see you on the water when it warms up again!

Snail Buster Coordinator,
David Heinicke



Possibly a Texas Cooter turtle spotted on Scobie Lake.



From left: Kathy Pittman on her last snail hunt of 2021; Dick Schaffhausen zeros in on an egg casing (lower left).
Photos by David Heinicke

See you in
the spring!



FONDLY REMEMBERING KIRBY RAPSTEIN AND KERRY MAGEE



Kirby Rapstein

Kirby Thomas Rapstein passed away on November 18, 2021, at the age of 90, in Bay City, Texas. He was raised in West Columbia and spent almost his entire life in Brazoria County.

As a youth, Kirby lived near Bell Creek. He said he was almost always in the woods and that his father was quite a hunter and fisherman, and so Kirby's own journey as a naturalist began.

Following high school, Kirby attended college in Kingsville, Texas, at what was then Texas A&I College, where he majored in chemistry and minored in physics and math earning his Bachelor of Science in 1952.

After graduating Texas A&I, he volunteered for the U.S. Army and participated in the Korean War. Afterwards, he worked for Dow Chemical in Freeport, Texas, where he filled many roles as both a research chemist and team project manager. Kirby became an avid nature spokesman and advocate for Dow after participating in the black skimmer colony protection program on Dow property.

While attending Scout meetings with his son, Kirby took on leadership roles with the Boy Scouts of America. He also volunteered at his church, numerous veterans' associations, the Public Library System and Habitat for Humanity.

In his retirement, Kirby volunteered countless hours to various local nature organizations including the

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Kerry Magee

Kerry Magee passed away on November 25, 2021. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1935, and graduated from Georgia Technological Institute, where he received B.S. Degrees in Industrial Management and Industrial Engineering plus an M.S. Degree in Management from Florida State.

He followed in his CPO father's footsteps and spent 26 years in the US Navy Reserve, and he served on active duty for three years.

Kirby was affiliated with the VFW and the American Legion, serving both as Commander, and other military-related organizations.

In his civil life, he worked as an industrial engineer with the Panama Canal Company, then started a career in 1965 with Dow Chemical in Florida assigned to NASA's Engineering Department. This was followed by a move in 1970 to the Dow Freeport Plant, where he worked as the Electrical Commodities Purchasing Agent. He retired after 29 years in 1994.

He became an Adjunct Professor in Economics at both Brazosport and Galveston Colleges at different times for 27 years. He also taught Purchasing Management to BBA Seniors. He had also been a Precinct Chairman and Election Judge in Brazoria County for 29 years.

While in the Panama Canal Zone, he became a Freemason, joined the Scottish Rite Bodies there and later the Valley of Galveston. He later joined the Lake

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Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

President	Kathy Pittman, Rosharon
Vice President/Programs	Kristine Rivers, Manvel
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Donald Sabathier, Pearland
State Representative	Connie Stolte, Palacios
Immediate Past President	Mickey Dufilho, Brazoria
New Class Director	Mary Schwartz, Clute
Membership Director	John Boettiger, Lake Jackson
Advanced Training Director	Bill Ahlstrom (Interim), Angleton
Volunteer Service Director	Oron Atkins, Lake Jackson
Outreach Director	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
Chapter Host	Rose Wagner, Sweeny
Communications Director	Larry Peterson, Manvel
Class of 2021 Representative	Roxanne Walkowiak, Pearland

Non-voting positions:

Chapter Librarian	Debbie Nance
Speakers Bureau Coordinator	Kristine Rivers
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Coordinator	Kristine Rivers
Data Manager	Dave Brandes

Chapter Advisors	John O’Connell, AgriLIFE Extension Service Paul Cason, Sea Center Texas
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Newsletter Editor	Lisa Myers, Lake Jackson
Newsletter Contributors	Dave Brandes, David Heinicke, Mickey Dufilho, Angela Griffin, Kathy Pittman, Oron Atkins, Don Sabathier, Dick Schaffhausen

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TMN-COT Chapter list

- Instructions <https://txmn.org/tmncot/organization/email-lists/>
- Send messages to TMN-COT@googlegroups.com
- Message Archive <http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail>
- All messages are sent immediately.

State Master Naturalist list

- Instructions <http://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmn-listserv/>
- Subscribe listserv@listserv.tamu.edu
- All messages are held for moderation by the TMN State Coordinator.

Chapter News is published monthly on Monday before the General Meeting by the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome; submission deadline is 5:00 PM on Thursday before the General Meeting. Send submissions by email to *Chapter News* Editor at news@tmn-cot.org. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.