



# Chapter News—in brief

## UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

The February 9 meeting will be a hybrid. You can attend in person at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX, or via email invite.

8:30 – 9:00 AM	<b>Social Time and Refreshments</b> (in person)
9:00 – 9:10 AM	<b>Welcome and Meeting Participation Notes</b>
9:10 – 10:30 AM	<p><b>Advanced Training Speaker:</b> Jeff Bayer, Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Hatchery Biologist, Sea Center Texas</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> “Management and Stock Enhancement of Southern Flounder in Texas”</p> <p><b>Nature Note:</b> Brenda Stitt, COT Member</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> “Erosion at San Luis Pass”</p> <p><i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	<p><b>General Membership Meeting</b></p> <p><i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i></p>

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<https://facebook.com/TMN.COT>

Website <https://txmn.org/tmncot/>



**Jeff Bayer**

Growing up fishing the waters of the Louisiana coast led Jeff Bayer to his lifetime passion. He received a bachelor's degree in biology in 1994 from the University of Southern Mississippi. With a long-held interest in aquaculture and in particular the culture of juvenile fin fish, Jeff soon found a career within the hybrid striped-bass industry. The next 13 years were spent as the biologist and eventually manager of Small Fry Fish Farm, then the nation's second largest producer of hybrid striped-bass fingerlings. In 2008, Jeff purchased the company and renamed it Bayou Self Bass.

With success comes a desire for new challenges, goals and rewards. For Jeff, thinking back on what sparked his interest in aquaculture to begin with brought clarity. As he had grown up near the Gulf Coast and witnessed the growing conservation movement and the blight of the red drum, Jeff was deeply impacted. This period marked the beginnings of Texas' saltwater stock enhancement efforts on the coast. With a sense of purpose, plans were made.

In the Fall of 2011, Jeff joined TP&WD and began work at Sea Center Texas, where he continues to work with red drum along with spotted seatrout and southern flounder, the species that sparked his extremely rewarding career.

Chapter News is published by Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Contact us at:

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The Texas Master Naturalist program is coordinated by Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

TMN programs serve all people without regard to socio-economic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Masthead photo Marilyn Kircus, RV Volunteer, BNWR

## COT NEEDS YOU!!

Please consider filling the vacancy for chapter secretary.  
Contact Kathy Pittman at [pittman@tmn-cot.org](mailto:pittman@tmn-cot.org)

Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
Chapter News – February 2022



## MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

### 250 Hours Milestone Award

Lisa Martinez

### 1000 Hours Milestone Award

Larry Peterson

### Texas Waters Specialist

Melanie Hollenshead

### Hours Totals YTD—31 January 2022

755 Hours VT 126 Hours AT

\* February 14 is the deadline to enter 2021 hours per the 45-day rule.

### Impact Data YTD—31 January 2022

26 Adults 39 Youth 65 Total

## DON'T MISS "ANIMALIA: BEYOND THE JUNGLE"

By Kristine Rivers

If you are intrigued by the correlation between art and science, check out the "Animalia: Beyond the Jungle" art exhibition at The Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences, running February 18 through March 19, 2022. The show will feature over 100 pieces of animal art created by wildlife artist and author Doug Hiser and sculptor James Phillips. If you'd like to meet both artists, join them for an opening night reception at the Center from 6:30-8 p.m. on Friday, February 18.

We are honored to welcome Doug Hiser as our guest speaker at the upcoming March COT General Meeting. Doug's presentation will focus on his contributions to wildlife conservation through art and give insight into his creative process. You might have seen some of his work already without realizing it – it's featured in many locations throughout our area, including the beautiful new mural inside the Discovery Center at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge (see image below). Haven't seen it yet? There's still time before the meeting on March 9!



## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SEE THE COT CALENDAR FOR DETAILS

- **Exploration Green Workday** – every Wed/Thur, 8 AM to 11 AM – contact Christie Taylor
- **GCBO Nursery Garden Workday** – every Thursday, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
- **Beach Sweep** – 3/7, 8 AM Quintana Jetties – contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **USF&W Refuge Trail Maintenance** – 2/14, 8AM to 12PM Cedar Lake Plantation Trail, 3/14 TBA, – contact Lisa Myers
- **BCPD Trail Workday Hanson Park** – 2/17, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Pearland Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Workday** – first Thursday of every month (for February only, 2/7), locations TBA, 8 AM to 11 AM
- **TP&WD Fishing Gear Maintenance** – 2/19, 10 AM to 2 PM – contact Greg Akins
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol** – Jace Turnell – self-directed
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey** – Melanie Hollinshead - self directed
- **Adopt a Loop for TMN** – contact Debbie Nance - self directed
- **Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2022** (training/testing required) – self directed.

Outreach—Contact Ruby Lewis, [rubylewis77515@ymail.com](mailto:rubylewis77515@ymail.com)

### PLEASE PICK UP YOUR RECOGNITIONS

By John Boettiger



I still have 2021 and 2020 recognitions for the following members:

Patty Brinkmeyer, Cindy Goodrum, Angela Griffin, Mike Hampy, Christina Hartman, Dennis James, Carol Jones, Vicki Kirby, Chris Kneupper, Karen Leder, Carolyn May-Monie, Mike Mullenweg, Mike Mullins, Deb Nance, Jim Nance, Pam Peltier, Larry Ruhr, Bob Salazar, Ken Sluis, Linda Sluis, Andy Smith, Kathleen Purvis, Kyle Purvis.

#### NOTE:

Your recognitions will be available at our in-person Chapter Meetings or contact John Boettiger directly to make other arrangements.

### Migration Celebration 2022

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

*Adult and Youth Categories*

✓ **April 1, 5p—Entry deadline**

### RULES AND REGISTRATION FORMS

<http://www.refugefriends.org/photocontest.html>



"Supper Time" by Dick Schaffhausen, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Plants and Fungi of Texas, 2021.

A USFWS event from the Texas Mid-coast  
National Wildlife Refuge Complex and underwritten  
by Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

## 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	Bob Whitmarsh, Lake Jackson
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, Alvin
Speakers Bureau Coordinator	Kristine Rivers, Manvel
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Coordinator	Kristine Rivers, Manvel
Data Manager	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson

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, Oron Atkins, Kristine Rivers, John Boettiger

Website	<a href="https://txmn.org/tmncot/">https://txmn.org/tmncot/</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://facebook.com/TMN-COT">http://facebook.com/TMN-COT</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/tmncot">https://twitter.com/tmncot</a>
E-mail Listserv	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail</a>



## Master Naturalist Email Lists

### **TMN-COT Chapter list**

- Instructions <https://txmn.org/tmncot/organization/email-lists/>
- Send messages to [TMN-COT@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:news@tmn-cot.org). Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.