

# Chapter News—in brief

## UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

The April 13 meeting will be in-person only. The Advanced Training presentation does not lend itself to a virtual environment. You may attend in person at **Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX.**

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	<b>Advanced Training Speaker:</b> Kristine Rivers, VP COT <b>Topic:</b> “ <b>Mammal Detectives</b> ” An interactive workshop addressing unique characteristics of mammals; mammals common in our area; how feeding behaviors impact skull shapes and features; including a group, skull-identification activity <b>Nature Note:</b> None, to provide more time for main presentation <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>

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

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



**Kristine Rivers**

Kristine Rivers loves sharing her passion for nature and wildlife with others. In 2015, she founded Birding for Fun, which provides guided tours and workshops that embrace her philosophy that birding should be accessible to everyone. Kristine has also provided nature-based education for all ages for the Cities of Pearland, Meadows Place, Missouri City and League City, as well as UTMB’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in both Galveston and Angleton.

She became a certified Texas Master Naturalist in 2016, was president of the Cradle of Texas Chapter 2017-2019, and is currently serving as vice president.



*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 Charles Jesse Miller Jr. at BNWR

## SAVE THE DATE

*TMN Annual State Meeting, October 20-23*

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



## MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

### 2022 Recertifications

John Boettiger	Lisa Myers
Marty Cornell	Kathy Pittman
Angela Griffin	Kim Richardson
Melanie Hollenshead	Dick Schaffhausen
Janet Jackson-Ellis	Mary Schwartz
Larry Kirby	Regina Tippet
Vicki Kirby	Janet Townsend
	Barbera Yoder

### 1000 Hours Milestone Award

Melanie Hollenshead

### Hours Totals YTD—31 March 2022

2642 Hours VT 730 Hours AT

\* March only: 751 VT; 319 AT

### Impact Data YTD—31 March 2022

896 Adults 530 Youth 1426 Total

### FINAL DATA FOR 2021:

Volunteers Reporting	102
VT Hours	17,954
AT Hours	1,724
Adult Impact	14,226
Youth Impact	36,566

## PINING FOR PINS

By John Boettiger, Membership Director

Below are some of the milestone pins, recent recertification pins, and the 2022 recertification pin, the lightning whelk.



First Year Certification Pin



250 Hour Pin (Bronze)



500 Hour Pin (Pewter)



1000 Hour Pin (Gold)



2500 Hour Pin (Polished Silver)



2019 Recertification Pin (Golden Cheeked Warbler)



2020 Recertification Pin (Bumblebee)



2021 Recertification Pin (Sideoats Grama)



Friends of MN Pin (Copper)



## 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, 9 AM to 12 PM – contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** – self directed
- **Beach Sweep** – 5/2, 8 AM Quintana Jetties – contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **USF&W Refuge Dow Woods Trail Maintenance** – 4/11, 8 AM to 12 PM – Contact Lisa Myers
- **USF&W Refuge Cedar Lake Plantation Trail Maintenance** – 5/9, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Lisa Myers
- **BCPD Trail Workday Hanson Park** – 4/21, 8 AM to 12 PM – contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Pearland Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Workday** – 4/11, 8 AM to 11 AM, Delores Fenwick Nature Center (see calendar)
- **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

<https://tinyurl.com/citizensciencepollinator>

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

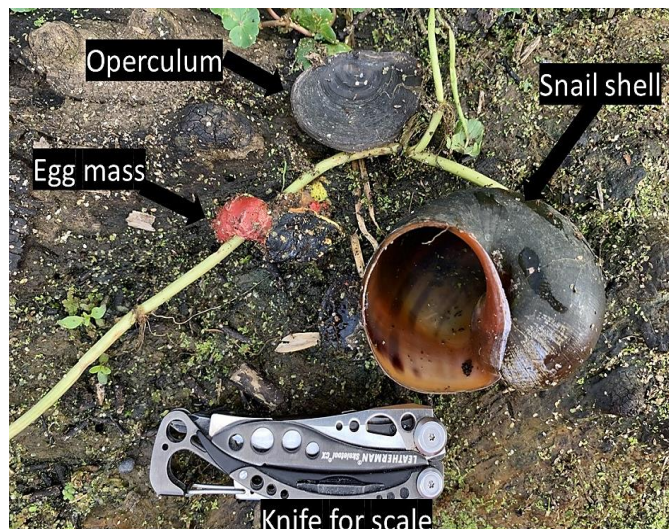
- **Refuge Saturday at Dow Woods Trail** – 4/23, 11 AM to 4 PM – contact Lisa Myers
- **GCBO Spring Fling @ Quintana** – daily 4/9 thru 5/8, 9 AM to 4 PM – contact Celeste Silling
- **Brazoria Library Summer Program** – June; contact Ruby Lewis



## 2022 APPLE SNAIL SEASON STARTS—HELP WANTED

By David Heinicke

That's right, fans! Apple snail season 2022 is under way. For the inaugural trip (and to make sure we left a few snails for this year) Richard Schaffhausen and I did a reconnaissance trip on Sunday, March 6th. We found pretty much what we had suspected: A good number of old egg cases that were likely deposited during warm snaps over the winter. Most of these appeared not to have developed. We also found a few dozen (at least) fresh egg cases that appeared to have been laid in the last few days. I even found one adult snail in the process of laying eggs. She won't make that mistake again... We paddled all the west part of Smith Lake and could find only nine adult snails. Unfortunately, I'm sure there are many, many more that just haven't become active yet. After lunch, I paddled Scobie Lake and found 20 egg masses; all but three appeared old and no adult snails.



I did have a couple interesting observations. As you may know, apple snail eggs have a mild neurotoxin in them. When Limpkins eat apple snails, they have learned to pull the snail out of the shell, discard the toxic eggs, and eat the snail, yum! It appears that this piece of knowledge has been passed to some of our local predator—raccoons I assume. I took this picture on a small island in Smith Lake. It shows where something, maybe a raccoon, maybe an otter (?) caught a snail, pulled the operculum (door) off the snail, ate the snail but left the pink, toxic eggs behind. I found the same scene once more on top of a log at the water's edge. Maybe we snail hunters have some helpers out there!



Images by David Heinicke

### HELP REMOVE APPLE SNAILS AT HUDSON WOODS

As many of you know, exotic apple snails infest several bodies of water here in Brazoria County. These snails out compete our native snails, damage aquatic vegetation as well as cultivated crops and can transport a parasite that can infect humans. Their rapid growth and reproduction along with their hardy appetite can upset the balance of aquatic ecosystems. The USFWS started an apple snail eradication program at Hudson Woods Unit of the San Bernard NWR several years ago. For the past three plus years, USFWS staff and volunteers have worked to remove apple snails and destroy their eggs. Last year, thanks in large part to Master Naturalists Richard Schaffhausen, Oron Atkins, Georgia Monnerat, Kathy Pittman, and a handfull of interns, we removed over 14,000 snails and too many egg clusters to count.

We will start the 2022 season in the next few weeks and will go until the fall. Typically, we go out once per week for three hours with an option to go back out after a lunch break. All work is done from small kayaks furnished by USFWS. The work can be strenuous, buggy and very hot. You will get wet, and you will get muddy. For the second year in a row, David Heinicke is spearheading the operation.

**If you would like to assist or find out more about the project, please contact David at [Heinicke07@gmail.com](mailto:Heinicke07@gmail.com). Some paddling experience is preferred.**

## 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
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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:

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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, David Heinicke

Website	<a href="https://txmn.org/tmncot/">https://txmn.org/tmncot/</a>
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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.