



MARCH 2022

Chapter News

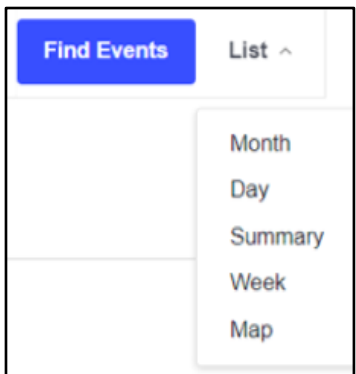
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Spring is the time of the year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade" ~ Charles Dickens

I hope you are enjoying "Almost Spring" here in Brazoria County!

After so much dreary weather and pandemic shutdowns, it's time to get out of the house, volunteer, work in the garden, fish, and just enjoy the outdoors in whatever manner suits you. I've been working in my vegetable garden and orchard, ever so impatiently waiting for blooms and fruit to start setting. I've only had a few days that synced with opportunities for volunteering, but like spring wildflowers, those opportunities are starting to sprout; many are with partner organizations. I ENCOURAGE you to go to our events calendar on the Chapter website and look at all the opportunities listed for March and April. The link is <https://txmn.org/tmncot/events/>

The Events calendar will come up as a **list** of events, but if you're old-school like me, you'd rather see it in a "monthly calendar" format. To reset your view, simply click on the work "list" on the right side of the screen and select "Month" from the list (see image). I don't know why it took me



so long to figure this out.

There are **all sorts of opportunities** and some **very urgent needs** for volunteers, especially at **DEEP** (the Friends and FWS Discovery Environmental Education Program at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge). There are also several outreach events in March and April that need YOUR help, so please log on to the Chapter website and see where you might be able to contribute.

And on the subject of URGENT NEEDS... Please, PLEASE consider filling our vacant Secretary Board position. Current Board members are taking turns covering the position on top of their own board duties and volunteering. **YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!!**

Also, plan to join our chapter's March 9th General Meeting, an 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 pm and the meeting at 7 pm. Our featured speaker is **Doug Hiser**, a signature member of **Artists for Conservation**, a group of the top wildlife artists across 30 countries. His presentation is "Artist for Conservation"

Continued on page 4

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



CONTENTS

Vol. 22 No. 3

- Page 1
President's Message
- Page 2
Upcoming General Meeting
- Page 3
Membership Data Report;
Important Notes for Members
- Page 4
President's Message—contd;
How to Pay Your 2022 Dues
- Page 5-6
A Year of Butterflying
- Page 7
A Year of Butterflying—contd.
Texas Hill Country in Winter
- Page 8
Remembering Justina Dent



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

Chapter News is published by Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Contact us at: Texas A&M AgriLIFE, Brazoria County 21017 County Road 171 Angleton, TX 77515-8903 979-864-1558 (Angleton) 979-864-1566 (Angleton Fax) 979-388-1558 (Brazosport) 281-756-1558 (Alvin) <https://txmn.org/tmncot/news@tmn-cot.org>

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 Jesse Henslee at BNWR.

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

REMINDER

Register now for COT's 2022 Bonus AT Day on March 19.

tinyurl.com/BonusAT2022

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

Wednesday, March 9, 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
	Nature Notes No Nature Notes to allow extra time for the speaker
7:15 PM – 8:30 PM	Advanced Training Speaker: Doug Hiser, artist and writer Topic: “Artist for Conservation” <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>



Doug Hiser

Doug Hiser is a signature member of Artists for Conservation, the top Wildlife Artists from 30 countries, is an author of 25 books, including Amazon bestsellers, *The Honey Bee Girl* and *Montana Mist*, and *Ten Secrets of Love* and the 2020 novel *Midnight Jungle*.

He travels the globe, from Africa to Australia, in search of the wild beasts that he paints. A high school arts teacher, Doug has, after years of research, developed an art history program he shared in the Amazon book, *Teaching Art History in the HS Classroom*.

Judging art shows, participating in art demos and painting murals and public art are also in his repertoire. Some of the notable pieces he has created include the Santa Fe Indians’ Ten Feathers mural at City Hall that commemorates the people who lost their lives in the tragic school shooting; the Silent Skies mural of endangered birds; Houston Audubon’s fifty-foot bird mural; the Houston Rodeo Boot; “Rodeo Bulls” displayed at NRG stadium; Galveston’s three Turtle Sculptures; Brazoria Nature Center murals; Mermaid sculptures in San Marcos; Wimberley Boot Public Art; and the Herons of Dickinson Bayou Sculptures.

Doug is married to Gayln Blinka-Hiser, a talented athlete and wildlife photographer. He once claimed fame on the American Gladiators TV Show and is most proud of his University of Houston Distinguished Alumni Award.



MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

Congratulations to those achieving recertification and milestones as of February 28, 2021.

2022 Recertifications

Oron Atkins	Deb Nance
Dave Brandes	Jim Nance
Amanda Gabehart	Larry Peterson

500 Hours Milestone

Janet Jackson-Ellis	Luanne Salinas
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2500 Hours Milestone

Mickey Dufilho

Hours Totals YTD—28 February 2022

1,660 Hours VT 376 Hours AT

* February only: 643 VT and 218 AT Hours

Impact Data YTD—28 February 2022

70 Adults 46 Youth 116 Total



(From far left) At the February General Meeting, President Kathy Pittman and Membership Director John Boettiger recognized Chris Kneupper (who achieved the President's Call to Service Award of 4,000 hours), Rainbo Johnson, and Larry Peterson for milestones achieved in January. Other award recipients were not physically present at the meeting. **Near left**, 2021 COT President Mickey Dufilho received a gift as thanks for her service. Photos by Dick Schaffhausen.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR MEMBERS

- The Spring 2022 **New Member Training Class** was cancelled as there were only three registrants. **Members:** Spread the word about the TMN program and refer interested persons to our webpage for further information. Better yet: Invite them to a meeting!
- **Bonus AT Day** registration is now open for the VIRTUAL, Saturday, **March 19** event. The theme is "Animal Behavior," and the event is FREE to COT members and \$5 plus on-line convenience fee for others. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fifth-annual-advance-training-day-tickets-276118195957> or tinyurl.com/BonusAT2022.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

and will focus on his local wildlife conservation activities with the Audubon Society and the USFWS. Doug is the artist who recently painted the mural in the Discovery Center at Brazoria NWR. Please come and enjoy the presentation and visit with your fellow Chapter Members. And plan on adding your name to one of Ruby's clipboards!!

Registration is open for our **Virtual AT Day** on Saturday, March 19th. There is a wonderful slate of speakers, and the committee has worked very hard to get the day organized for you. If you didn't get an email with a link to register, please contact **Bob Whitmarsh** at whitmarsh@tmn-cot.org.

In January, we lost long-time member **Justina Dent**. "Tina" was a member of our first class of

2001. She was also a Master Gardener and was very active in our Chapter for many years. Tina also volunteered at DEEP and at Sea Center Texas. Tina attended the 20th Anniversary Celebration in December, and many members were glad they were able to spend time with her on that day.

Looking forward, April is **National Volunteer month!** This month is dedicated to honoring all the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month. Please consider how YOU can best spend your time during the month!

See you outside!

Kathy Pittman

"Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons; it's a rebirth of the spirit." ~ Toni Sorenson

HOW TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES—MARCH DEADLINE

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.

A YEAR OF BUTTERFLYING

By Deb Nance

My husband and I have been participated in butterfly monitoring for almost a year now at Camp Mohawk. To help us identify the butterflies we see, I take a photo and upload it to iNaturalist. Here are the butterflies (and a couple of moths) we've seen over the last year.



Gray Hairstreak



Pearl Crescent



Black Swallowtail



Red Admiral



Whirlabout



Phaon Crescent



American Snout



Funereal Duskywing



White M Hairstreak



Little Wood Satyr



Monarch



Question Mark



Checkered White



Oak Hairstreak



American Lady



Little Yellow

Continued next page

A YEAR OF BUTTERFLYING

Continued



Red-banded Hairstreak



Orange Sulphur



Southern Skipperling



Cloudless Sulphur



White-Checkered Skipper



Painted Lady



Ocola Skipper



Common Sootywing



Gemmed Satyr



Dainty Sulphur



Wild Indigo Duskywing



White-tipped Black



Northern Pearly-Eye



Carolina Satyr



Variegated Fritillary



Little Lined Underwing

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A YEAR OF BUTTERFLYING

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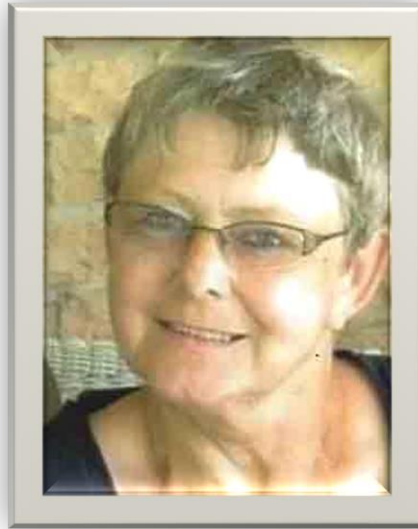


TEXAS HILL COUNTRY IN WINTER

By John Boettiger



REMEMBERING JUSTINA DENT



Justina “Tina” Bonan Dent, 70, of Clute, passed away Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

She had a passion for all animals, trees, plants, and flowers and belonged to the Brazoria County Master Gardeners, the Texas Master Naturalists Cradle of Texas Chapter, and volunteered at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson, local libraries during summer programs, and the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, where she enjoyed teaching school children visiting during field trips. She also

loved and participated in the annual GCBO Hummingbird Extravaganza.

Justina made sure to plant flowers and shrubs around her house to attract butterflies and birds.

She leaves behind her husband of 45 years, W. H. “Harvey” Dent, a sister, four nieces and numerous great nieces and great nephews.

Her fellow COT members will remember Justina as a quiet but constant presence at volunteer events.



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, TPWD, Sea Center Texas
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Newsletter Editor	Lisa Myers, Lake Jackson
Newsletter Contributors	Dave Brandes, Deb Nance, John Boettiger, Kathy Pittman, Don Sabathier, Dick Schaffhausen

Website	https://txmn.org/tmncot/
Facebook	http://facebook.com/TMN-COT
Twitter	https://twitter.com/tmncot
E-mail Listserv	http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail



Master Naturalist Email Lists

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.