

# Chapter News—in brief

## UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

The April 12 meeting will be a hybrid: Attend in person or virtually 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 – 9:15 AM	<b>Welcome, Awards, Outreach</b>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Advanced Training Speaker: Jordan Kieffer</b> , Program Specialist at Sea Center Texas, TPWD <b>Topic: “What is Interpretation?”</b> When they first think of interpretation, most people think of interpreting languages. In environmental education, interpretation is taking facts and giving them meaning and life. This presentation will overview what interpretation is and how you can make your presentations more effective. <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
10:15 – 11:00 AM	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>



Jordan Kieffer

**Jordan Kieffer** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Education from Western Washington University. Jordan has worked for government agencies and non-profits that focus on nature education and encouraging people of all ages to get outside.



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

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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 image by Charles Jesse Miller Jr in Brazoria County.

**Texas Master Naturalist Program**  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
Chapter News – April 2023

## REMINDERS

- **Migration Celebration Fundraiser Lunch**, April 22; get tickets at [refugefriends.org](http://refugefriends.org) or at the April COT General Meeting.
- **Bonus AT Day** May 20





## MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

### 2023 Recertifications in March

Oron Atkins	Larry Kirby
David Brandes	Debbie Nance
James Calvert	Kim Richardson
Rainbo Johnson	Dick Schaffhausen
Barbara Yoder	

### 1000 Hours Milestone Award

John O'Connell	George Valadez
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### Hours Totals YTD—as of 31 March 2023

4,196 Hours VT 622 Hours AT

### Impact Data YTD—as of 31 March 2023

759 Adults 1,039 Youth 1,798 Total

\*March only: VT 1,605; AT 205

Presented at the March 8 General Membership Meeting: Deb Nance (second from left) was recognized by Kathy Pittman for achieving 1,000 volunteer hours; Karen Mosis attained 250 hours (not pictured). Also recognized were Melanie Hollenshead, Regina Tippet, Lisa Myers, and Kathy Pittman for recertifying for 2023. Photos by Dick Schaffhausen.



## FOBWR MARCH REFUGE WALK

During Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges' monthly walk, Mike Lange provided background on the acquisition of the land on which the San Bernard Oak Trail in the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge is located. Oron Atkins and crew recently completed boardwalk on a rerouted trail that bypasses some low, wet areas. Photos by Ed Barrios.





## INTERNS AT WORK IN THE FIELD

Submitted by Melanie Hollenshead, New Member Training Director



(Above) Interns practiced evaluating water samples with John O'Connell at the boat dock at Resoft County Park near Alvin. Pictured: John O'Connell, Anne Loonam, Marlon Nation, Brian Hanson, Kim Calhoun, Barbara Whaley, Stephanie Kaup, Chad Davenport, Donna Gregurek, Juli Martin, Cris Tobola and Pam Lewis.



(Above) Entomology training for interns led by Ed Barrios at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge's Big Slough. Also pictured are: Barbara Whaley, Brian Hanson, Cris Tobola, Julie Martin, Marlon Nation, Pam Lewis and Pam Penn.



Intern field trip to Nash Prairie led by Susan Conaty.



## INTERNS AT WORK IN THE FIELD

Continued



A journal sketch by Amanda Gabehart during the intern field trip to Nash Prairie.



Melanie Hollenshead sketches a bristle thistle at Nash Prairie.



Black-tailed red sheet weaver at Brazos Bend State Park. Photos by Amanda Gabehart..

## ORON'S LATEST UNDERTAKING



Upon completion of the San Bernard Oak Trail boardwalk, Oron Atkins and his FOBWR construction stalwarts built an extension to the SBNWR Bobcat Woods Trail that linked it with the adjacent native-plant garden. At right, the crew that consisted of Oron, George Valadez, Tom Taroni, Chip Sweet, and David Heinicke. Photos by Oron Atkins





## SOME UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SEE THE COT CALENDAR AT <https://txmn.org/tmncot/events/> FOR ALL OPPORTUNITIES AND DETAILS

- **Exploration Green Workday**—Every Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 AM; contact Christie Taylor
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—Self directed
- **Beach Sweep**—(see Calendar), 8 AM to 10 AM at Quintana Fishing Pier – contacts Jimmy/Luanne Salinas
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—Self directed; contact Jace Turnell
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—Self directed and as announced; contact Melanie Hollenshead
- **Adopt a Loop for TMN**—self directed; contact Debbie Nance
- **Adopt a beach Cleanup**—4/22, 9 AM to 12 PM; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **Boardwalk Maintenance & Construction**; contact Oron Atkins

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**—Ruby Lewis [rubylewis77515@ymail.com](mailto:rubylewis77515@ymail.com)

- **DEEP at BNWR Discovery Center**—5/9, 5/11, 5/16, 5/18, 8:30 AM to 2 PM; contact Ed Barrios [ed77566@comcast.net](mailto:ed77566@comcast.net)
- **Migration Celebration**—April 29 & 30, 11AM to 4PM at SBNWR; contact Lisa Myers [lisalmyers@gmail.com](mailto:lisalmyers@gmail.com)

Butterflies were the focus of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges' **2023 Spring Break Open House** at the BNWR Discovery Center from March 11 through March 19. Over 600 visitors and many COT volunteers participated. Photo by Dick Schaffhausen.



Get your tickets now!!


## PROJECTS AND MORE TO CONSIDER!



**FUNDRAISER LUNCH**  
**\$20**

Saturday, April 22  
MacLean Park,  
Lake Jackson

Drive through or  
stay and eat  
11a to 2p



Friends of Brazoria  
Wildlife Refuges

For more information, visit  
[refugefriends.org](http://refugefriends.org)

**The Menu**

Sage-rubbed Smoked Pork  
Shoulder

Cornbread, Sausage, and  
Pecan Dressing

Boracho Beans en jus

Peach Cobbler

\*\*\*\*\*

Proceeds support the

**2023  
Migration  
Celebration**

**April 29 & 30  
at San Bernard  
National Wildlife  
Refuge**

[refugefriends.org](http://refugefriends.org)



**26th  
Annual  
MIGRATION  
CELEBRATION**

**FREE Fun for  
Everyone**

**San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge**  
6801 County Road 306, Brazoria TX

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
11:00a to 4:00p**




- ✓ Birds of Prey
- ✓ Butterfly Encounter
- ✓ Raptor Experience
- ✓ Marsh Buggy Tour
- ✓ Archery & Rifle  
Shooting
- ✓ Van Tours
- ✓ Kayaking
- ✓ Trail Tours
- ✓ Nature Activities
- ✓ Exhibitors
- ✓ Food Trucks

*...and so much more!*

**Kickoff Lunch Fundraiser on April 22 @ MacLean Park**  
A USFWS event from Texas Mid-coast National Wildlife Complex underwritten by  
Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges; [www.refugefriends.org](http://www.refugefriends.org)  
[www.MigrationCelebration.org](http://www.MigrationCelebration.org)



**2023  
City Nature  
Challenge**

White-tailed Kite

**APRIL 28-MAY 1, 2023**  
JOIN THE NATIONAL CHAMPION HOUSTON-GALVESTON TEAM!

**FREE! PARTICIPATE AT HOME, SCHOOL, LOCAL PARK, OR BEACH**  
GREAT FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES - 400+ GLOBAL CITIES PARTICIPATE



Smallmouth salamander

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

The Nature Conservancy  
Texas

THE HOUSTON  
MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL  
SCIENCE

STATE & INTERNATIONAL COORDINATORS

NATURE  
TRACKERS

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY

CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES

NATURAL  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

SEARCH 'TEXAS CITY NATURE CHALLENGE'

**Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's  
Spring Fling**



Volunteers for the Quintana Neotropic  
Bird Sanctuary host station in Quintana  
are needed from April 9 to May 8. Bird  
expertise not required. Info at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/GCBO-SpringFling2023>



## BOOK REVIEW—*NATURE UNDERFOOT: LIVING WITH BEETLES, CRABGRASS, FRUIT FLIES, AN OTHER TINY LIFE AROUND US*

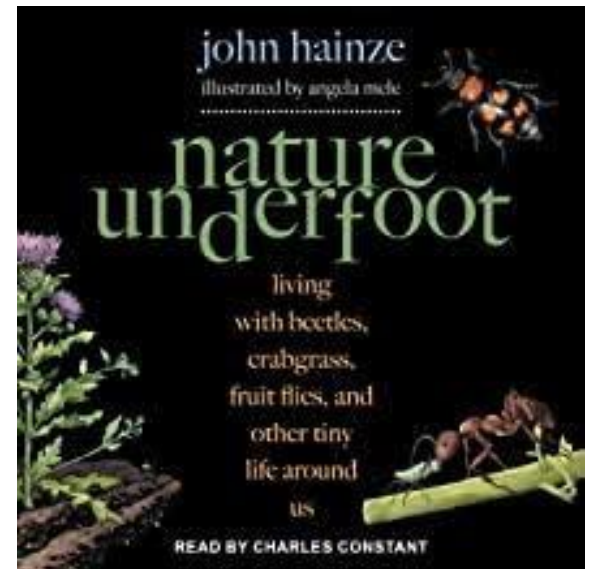
Printed with permission of the reviewer, Madeleine K. Barnes of TMN Galveston Bay Area Chapter for its Heritage Book Study group

*Nature Underfoot* focuses on the smaller creatures and the unappreciated plants or weeds under our feet. Why do we perceive these particular creepy crawlies or nuisance plant species fair game for eradication at the expense of other species?

Author John Hainze has a very different background from other scientific authors that we have read previously. He has a Ph.D. in entomology and an M.A. in religion, with a concentration in ethics. Hainze is also a film producer, completing a series of educational videos on Christianity and cosmology, evolution, and the environment. In addition, he worked as a scientist and manager at SC Johnson and Johnson, working on pesticide development and insect repellent products for household application. So Hainze shares scientific aspects of invertebrates and plants and ecological benefits from very different perspectives.

As master naturalists, we study the diversity of life forms, large and small. Until we learn about them, we may have an aversion to some based on many factors such as proximity to us physically (not in my house or yard!) and how appealing or revolting their appearance is to us. Hainze asserts, "My aim is to raise awareness of these smaller living things in our built environment and beyond, and to develop a more widespread appreciation for them." Even dandelions are beneficial to pollinators and can have an amazing 15-foot taproot—think erosion control and water infiltration in our compact clay soils. Hainze points out that these species are survivalists, given their abilities to proliferate, some relying on unique reproductive strategies or habitat requirements. They have succeeded since before the current Anthropocene epoch because of adaptability.

Hainze describes various examples that we either ignore, like hover flies and pill bugs, or wage war upon, like ants and aphids. This depends on our understanding of them and how they function in the environment. Some species have adapted to humans, living both with us and on us, literally. One, the bedbug, (*Cimex*) has reappeared after a long absence. An ectoparasite that typically feeds on the blood of birds and mammals in order to reproduce, bedbugs originally lived in caves, feeding on bats; subsequently, humans became their alternative hosts. They moved in with us until the development of the pesticide DDT. After DDT was banned, bedbug



populations rebounded worldwide; in the 1990's, they developed pesticide resistance and were spread by more of us traveling globally. Before chemical warfare, some biocontrol may have worked (See "Masked Hunter Bugs", p. 2); perhaps nature has methods we could consider?

According to Hainze, "Appreciating the nature that surrounds us leads to an interest in conserving the diversity of life." That certainly fits with the Master Naturalist goals of educating others. Written for homeowners and apartment dwellers and in an easily-understood style, this book reveals connections with the natural world and persuades us to reconsider our preconceptions and attitudes about the rest of life, large and small, "underfoot" on Earth.

## Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

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### Non-voting positions:

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Data Manager	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson
Social Committee Coordinator	Mickey Dufilho

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