



JUNE 2023

Chapter News—in brief

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

The June 14 meeting will be a hybrid: Attend in person or virtually at **Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton, TX, or via email registration***.

**See page 2 for change in virtual meeting access.*

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Social Time and Refreshments (in person)
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome, Awards, Outreach
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Advanced Training Speaker: Lance Wood , Science and Operations Officer, National Weather Service Topic: “The 2023 Hurricane Season: What You Need to Know” This presentation will cover the forecast for activity, chances for landfall, hazard and preparedness information as well as how to interpret risk when faced with a tropical cyclone threat. <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
10:15 – 11:00 AM	General Membership Meeting <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>

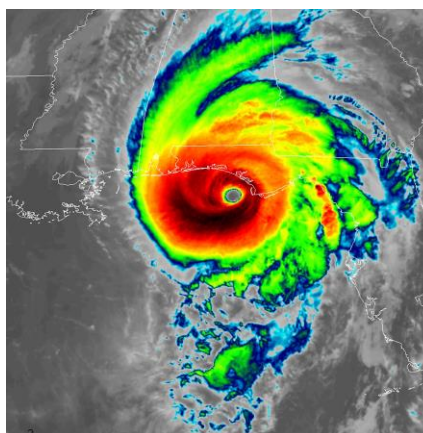


Lance Wood



Lance Wood is the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service (NWS) office in League City, Texas. He began his career with the NWS in El Paso in 1994. Lance then became a forecaster at the NWS in the Lake Charles, Louisiana, office in 1995, then came to the Houston/Galveston area in 1998.

Lance also has experience as a trade floor meteorologist with Duke Energy and is a graduate of Texas A&M University where he received both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Meteorology.



CONTENTS

Vol. 23 No. 6

Page 1	Upcoming General Meeting
Page 2	Membership Data Report
Page 3	Some Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities
Page 4	BCPD Camp Mohawk Nature Camp 2023
Page 5	A Late-May Trip to BNWR and Follets Island
Page 6	Projects and More to Consider
Page 7	Book Review— <i>A Thirsty Land</i> ; A Very Fond Farewell



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

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

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

Texas A&M AgriLIFE
 Brazoria County Office
 21017 County Road 171
 Angleton, TX 77515-8903
 979-864-1558 (Angleton)
 979-388-1558 (Brazosport)
 281-756-1558 (Alvin)
 979-388-1566 (Fax)

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 Oyster Creek.

Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
Chapter News – June 2023

REMINDERS

- Call to review/comment on revised Chapter Operating Handbook; vote to accept at JULY General Meeting; see Connie Stolte's 5/24 & 6/5 emails.
- Not on Facebook? It's worth it to see all the great posts on the "Texas Master Naturalists Cradle of Texas Chapter" page.



MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

2023 Recertifications as of May 31

Marty Cornell	Herb Myers
Micky Dufilho	Jim Nance
Angela Griffin	Don Sabathier
Kate Harris	Jimmy Salinas
Jackie Hicks	Luanne Salinas
Chris Kneupper	Ken Sluis
Brenda Martin	Linda Sluis
Georgia Monnerat	Andy Smith
Roy Morgan	Janet Townsend
George Valadez	

250 Hours Milestone Award

Kathleen Purvis

Hours Totals YTD—as of 31 May 2023

7704 Hours VT 1097 Hours AT

Impact Data YTD—as of 31 May 2023

3746 Adults 13,704 Youth 17,450 Total

*May only: VT 1002 AT 273

Presented at the May 10 General Membership Meeting: Membership Director John Boettiger (photo at right on left) and President Kathy Pittman (second from right) recognized Dennis Charleton and Pam Lewis for recertifying and Rose Wagner for achieving 500 volunteer hours; Mel McKey and Kristine Rivers also recertified (not pictured). Also recognized and celebrated with a cake for achieving 5,000 hours was Chris Kneupper. Photos right and below right by Lisa Myers; photo below by Kathy Pittman.



REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR VIRTUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE! (Continued from p.2)

Per John O'Connell's June 8 email, you must *register* (versus simply clicking the link) before entering the General Meeting virtually. John recommends doing this *prior* to just before the meeting time so that problems can be resolved. The registration link is:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/dfb8e2d2-7bab-4600-a5c0-c48a2d13e3a3@9fd7580a-6472-4d9c-a142-d131d3a7a116>

Feel free to share with friends who may be interested in this month's presentation or in joining COT.

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**—(7/3; see Calendar), 8 AM to 10 AM at Quintana Jetties— 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
- **Boardwalk Maintenance & Construction**; contact Oron Atkins

PUBLIC OUTREACH—Ruby Lewis rubylewis77515@ymail.com

- **Brazoria County Libraries Summer Reading Club**—6/15, 20, 21, 27, 29, 7/11, 13, 18, 19, 26; contact Ruby Lewis
- **GCBO Summer Bird Camp**—6/12 through 15; contact Celeste Silling
- **Sea Center Texas Shark Celebration**—7/15, 11 AM to 3 PM; contact Ruby Lewis



May Beach Sweep at Quintana Beach Jetty coordinated by Luanne (photo right on left) and Jimmy Salinas brought out sweep regular Barb Yoder (right center) and assistance from a Brazoria County Parks helper. Photos by Jimmy Salinas.

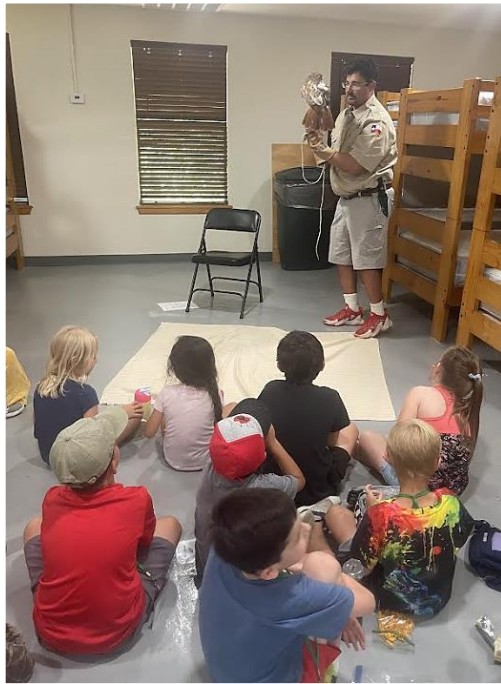


BRAZORIA COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT'S CAMP MOHAWK NATURE CAMP 2023

by Lisa Myers

Brazoria County Parks Department's Mike Mullenweg and Roxanne Walkowiak (COT members) coordinated this year's Nature Camp from June 5-8 with assistance from BCPD employee Tina, and COT volunteers Ruby Lewis, Herb Myers, Jo Myers, Pam Peltier, Lisa Myers, Dick Schaffhausen, and Janet Townsend. The stormy weather predicted for Monday and Tuesday held off until after camp, and the weather was a bit less hot than in past years.

The park has constructed four new decks, which make fishing and viewing the lake more enjoyable. New this year was a session on archeology led by Michael Bailey, who provided authentic artifacts for the campers to "discover" and keep! As always, counselors had at least as much fun as the campers.



Herb Myers (left) helps campers fish. Above left, Parks Director Bryan Frazier discusses raptors and wildlife rehabilitation via a red-tailed hawk. Other sessions pictured include owl pellets and kayaking. Campers also participated in archery, bug sweeping, a nature walk, journalling, reptiles, and nature crafts. Photos by Mike Mullenweg and Lisa Myers.



A LATE-MAY TRIP TO BNWR AND FOLLETS ISLAND

by Dick Schaffhausen from his TMN-COT Facebook Post

Took a trip to Brazoria NWR and to Follets Island Tuesday, May 23. Lots of wildflowers and mosquitoes... Saw more gators than birds. Tried my luck identifying wildflowers on Follets Island where Susan Conaty took several Master Naturalists last year. Took photos and tried to ID from those. Need to bring my chair and book and do it there. Not many birds but lots of other things, so take some time and go on your own nature safari. Bring mosquito spray. All photos by Richard Schaffhausen.



Plains coreopsis



Ruddy turnstone



Indian blanket and Schinia moth caterpillar



Scarlet pea



Seaside dragonlet on Gregg's amaranth



Showy yellow evening primrose



Tricolored heron



PROJECTS AND MORE TO CONSIDER!



2023 Results
City Nature Challenge

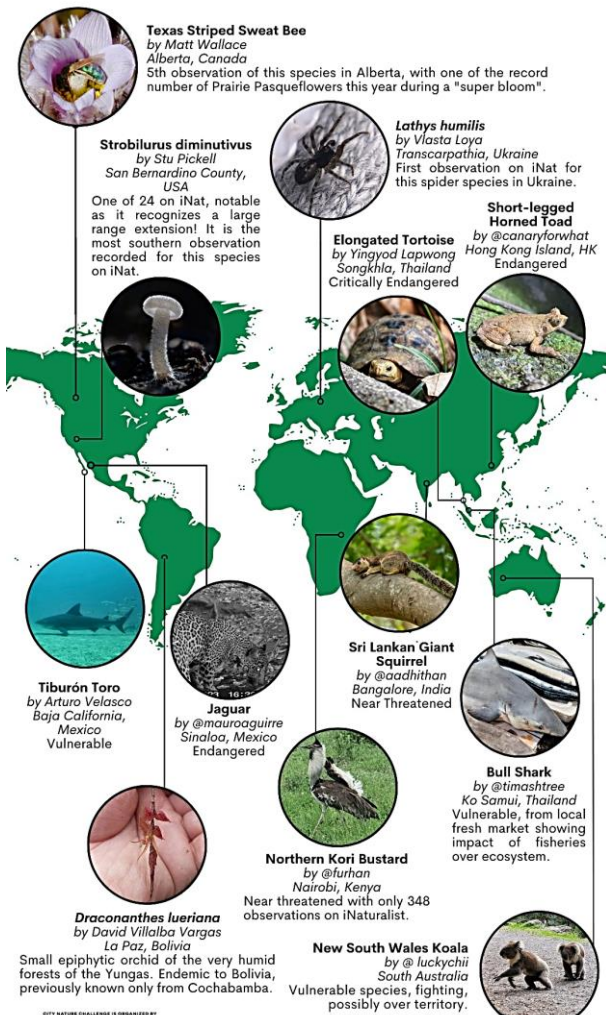
66,394 Participants
57,227 Species
1,870,763 Observations

Including more than 2,570 rare, endangered, or threatened species

GLOBAL RESULTS THROUGH THE YEARS						
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cities	68	159	244	419	445	482
Countries	17	28	40	44	47	46
Observations	441K	963K	815K	1.2M	1.7M	1.9M
Species	18K	31K	32.6K	45.3K	50.1K	57.2K
Observers	17K	32K	41K	51K	67.2K	66.4K

K = Thousand, M = Million

Interesting Finds from Around the World



Texas Striped Sweat Bee
by Matt Wallace
Alberta, Canada
5th observation of this species in Alberta, with one of the record number of Prairie Pasqueflowers this year during a "super bloom".

Strobilurus diminutivus
by Stu Pickell
San Bernardino County, USA
One of 24 on iNat, notable as it recognizes a large range extension! It is the most southern observation recorded for this species on iNat.

Lathys humilis
by Vlasta Laya
Transcarpathia, Ukraine
First observation on iNat for this spider species in Ukraine.

Short-legged Horned Toad
by @canaryforwhat
Hong Kong Island, HK
Endangered

Elongated Tortoise
by Yingyod Lapwong
Songkhla, Thailand
Critically Endangered

Tiburón Toro
by Arturo Velasco
Baja California, Mexico
Vulnerable

Jaguar
by @mauroaguire
Sinaloa, Mexico
Endangered

Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel
by @aadithan
Bangalore, India
Near Threatened

Bull Shark
by @timashtree
Ko Samui, Thailand
Vulnerable, from local fresh market showing impact of fisheries over ecosystem.

Northern Kori Bustard
by @furban
Nairobi, Kenya
Near threatened with only 348 observations on iNaturalist.

Draconanthus lueriana
by David Villalba Vargasa
La Paz, Bolivia
Small epiphytic orchid of the very humid forests of the Yungas. Endemic to Bolivia, previously known only from Cochabamba.

New South Wales Koala
by @luckyhii
South Australia
Vulnerable species, fighting, possibly over territory.

Pollinator Week Bioblitz

SIGN UP today and join our community science project!

June 19-25, 2023



<https://tinyurl.com/pollinatorbioblitz> **NAPPC**



UNCOVERING THE PAST UNTOLD STORIES OF LAKE JACKSON HISTORY



Mt. Zion Cemetery, a historic African American cemetery near Brazos Mall in Lake Jackson, TX, 2014.

Uncovering the Past is a unique new exhibit that will showcase lesser-known histories from the Lake Jackson Plantation era to the time when the Dow Chemical Company developed the area into a town during World War II. The stories of those who owned and lived on the land before its development by Dow are often overlooked, but they provide an important context for understanding the area's past and the forces that shaped it into the vibrant community it is today.

On view at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum
May 23 - August 19, 2023
Free Admission

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY MAY 25TH
249 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, TX 77566
6-7 pm - Members Only Reception
7-8:30 pm - Open To The Public

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, BEER, AND WINE



CityNatureChallenge.org

BOOK REVIEW—*A THIRSTY LAND: THE FIGHT FOR WATER IN TEXAS*, BY SEAMUS MCGRAW

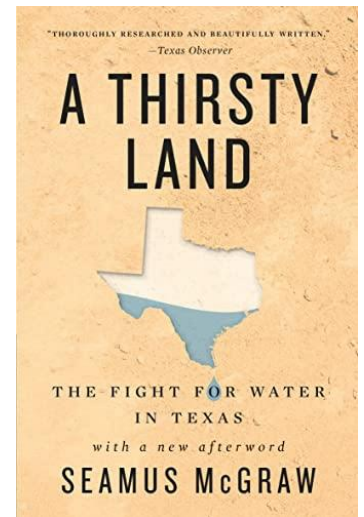
Printed with permission of the reviewer, Madeleine K. Barnes of
TMN Galveston Bay Area Chapter for its Heritage Book Study group

Seamus McGraw has authored several books including: *The End of Country: Dispatches from the Frack Zone* and *Betting the Farm on a Drought: Stories from the Front Line of Climate Change*. His current book, *A Thirsty Land*, delves into the history of Texas and its water rights and regulations.

Have you ever thought about where your water comes from? Will there always be enough for all our needs?

McGraw indicates that Texas sits at the same latitude as the Sahara and has much of that desert region's aridity—so much so that in any given year, "It is more likely that a significant drought will occur somewhere than it is that the average amount of rain will fall."

This book is a must read for anyone who wants to learn more about water rights and regulations and the laws governing them.



Join the Book Study; we have lively discussions about what we have learned after reading our chosen books! We welcome your participation each month for two hours of AT on the first Monday of the month at 1 P.M. Please note that we welcome anyone to participate. If you want to join us, contact Cheryl Barajas atcherylbarajas9@gmail.com to be added to the list for additional information and to receive the Zoom meeting link and password.

A VERY FOND FAREWELL

By Lisa Myers



This issue ends my tenure as editor of the *Chapter News*. I would not have made it through my first issue in April 2017 without the mentoring of Neal McLain, who patiently taught me what all the acronyms stood for, faith-

fully proofread every issue for several years, and contributed content. Thanks to his diligence, COT has many archived files of past projects and activities. I have tried to follow in his footsteps by capturing as much of our member news as I could in each issue.

Peggy Romfh also made my job easier by contributing nature-related pages, studiously researched and with accompanying photos by her and husband Pete.

While "the COVID era" was challenging, many members sent ideas and images that kept us all connected, and Facebook supplied funny (to me) nature-related memes.

I leave the editorship in the very capable hands of Kathy Purvis. Please support her by supplying content and ideas and images from your time in nature.

My not-quite-nine years in Texas is almost wholly imprinted by my participation with TMN-COT and the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. I truly found a home here and will miss this landscape and my friends and colleagues when I move to Athens, Georgia, on June 20. Since husband Heardy will continue to work at BASF and commute to Texas about one week in every five, I will certainly hitch a ride and attend meetings and activities as I can.

Rest assured, I will be keeping up with your adventures!

Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

President	Kathy Pittman, Rosharon
Vice President/Programs	Jimmy Salinas, Freeport
Secretary	Kathy Purvis, Richwood
Treasurer	Donald Sabathier, Pearland
State Representative	Connie Stolte, Palacios
Immediate Past President	Mickey Dufilho, Brazoria
New Class Director	Melanie Hollenshead, Brazoria
Membership Director	John Boettiger, Lake Jackson
Advanced Training Director	Kristine Rivers, Manvel
Volunteer Service Director	Oron Atkins, Lake Jackson
Outreach Director	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
Chapter Host	Rose Wagner, Sweeny
Communications Director	Larry Peterson, Manvel
Class of 2022 Representative	Kate Harris, Alvin

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
Social Committee Coordinator	Mickey Dufilho

Chapter Advisors	John O'Connell, AgriLIFE Extension Service Jordan Kieffer, TPWD Sea Center Texas
------------------	---

Newsletter Editor	Lisa Myers, Lake Jackson
Newsletter Contributors	Dave Brandes, Oron Atkins, Debbie Nance, Dick Schaffhausen, Kathy Pitman, Charles Jesse Miller Jr, Mike Mullenweg

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.