

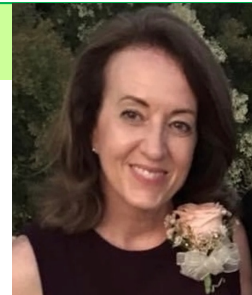


SEPTEMBER 2023

# Chapter News

## President's Message

***Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. - Clarissa Pinkola Estes***



Gosh, I was beginning to think it would NEVER RAIN AGAIN, and yet, we only got a small taste of what we need here in south Texas! August and the end of summer typically bring us “showers” of back-to-school activities and last-minute vacations, and a “deluge” of Outreach opportunities for our Chapter! This year is sticking to the typical “long range forecast” thanks to Ruby Lewis and YOUR willingness to staff the requests our Chapter receives to participate in different events. There is an event almost every weekend through September and into October. Please check our website Events calendar and volunteer as often as you can. Participating in these events gives us the opportunity to educate the public on the biodiversity of our area, and hopefully plants a seed for them to actually CARE about preserving what we have. Maybe we’ll meet others interested enough to join us!

One of the best ways to foster greater biodiversity is to increase the number of native plants in our landscapes, which in turn will encourage a greater diversity of insects, then birds, and so on. I added more natives to my property this year, and I’m seeing a greater variety of butterflies, dragonflies, native bees, hover flies, spiders, lizards, and yes, even snakes (NOT my husband’s favorites, to be sure!). I also left many plants in place to provide a habitat for insects to overwinter. I saw my first lightning bugs this year, as well as several milkweed beetles and a Bee Assassin (ok, I wasn’t so happy about finding this one, dues to my beehives, but I’m sure it has a purpose).

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

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

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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 – September 2023

## REMINDERS

- Beach Sweep at the Quintana Jetties will be held on Sept. 8, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- The Annual Meeting will be held Oct. 12-15 at the McAllen Convention Center. Hotel and meeting registrations are open. Anyone interested in sharing a ride should contact Kathy Pittman.
- TMN is hosting a storytelling project about its members and volunteer efforts in celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

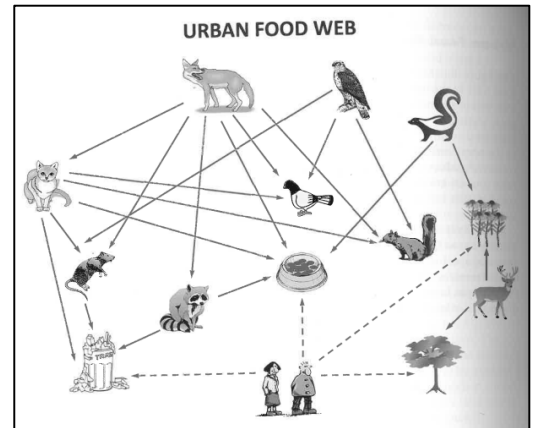
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Building, 21017 CR 171, Angleton TX 77515-8903 and via e-mail invite. Visitors and guests are welcome.

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Social Time and Refreshments (in person)
6:00 – 6:15 p.m.	Welcome, Awards and Outreach
6:15 – 7:15 p.m.	<b>Advanced Training</b> <b>Speaker: Crystal Tobola</b> , Assistant Professor in the Science Dept., Brazosport College <b>Topic: Urban Ecology</b> <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
7:30 – 8:00 p.m.	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>

Cris Tobola is an Associate Professor of Biology at Brazosport College. After earning a Master's Degree in Biology, her passion for nature and life led her into teaching science in 2017. She moved to our area from Northern California in June 2022. Cris started attending meetings and volunteering with Master Naturalists almost immediately and became a certified member in June 2023. Balancing work, family and outreach events keeps this nature loving individual busy. Community involvement and education are her passions along with enjoying what nature has to offer.

“I care to live only to entice people to look at Nature’s loveliness.”

-John Muir



Need a ride to the meeting? Send an e-mail to the Chapter, [tmn-cot@googlegroups.com](mailto:tmn-cot@googlegroups.com)





## MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

### July Recertifications

Paula Hanson  
Denis James  
Sherry Summers

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

### Hours Totals YTD—as of July 31, 2023

10,081 Hours VT    1,425 Hours AT

**\*July only: VT 703; AT 64**

### Impact Data YTD—as of July 31, 2023

3,883 Adults    14,640 Youth



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ...**

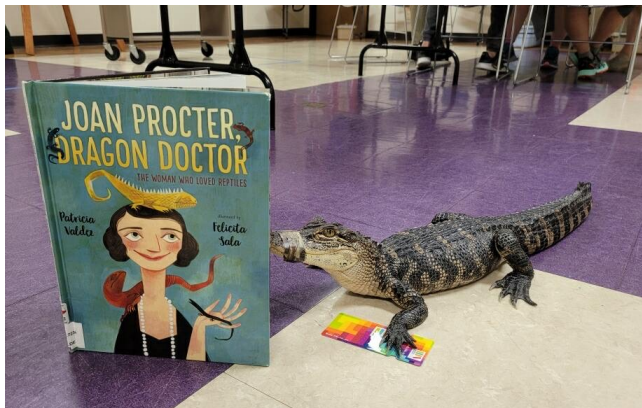
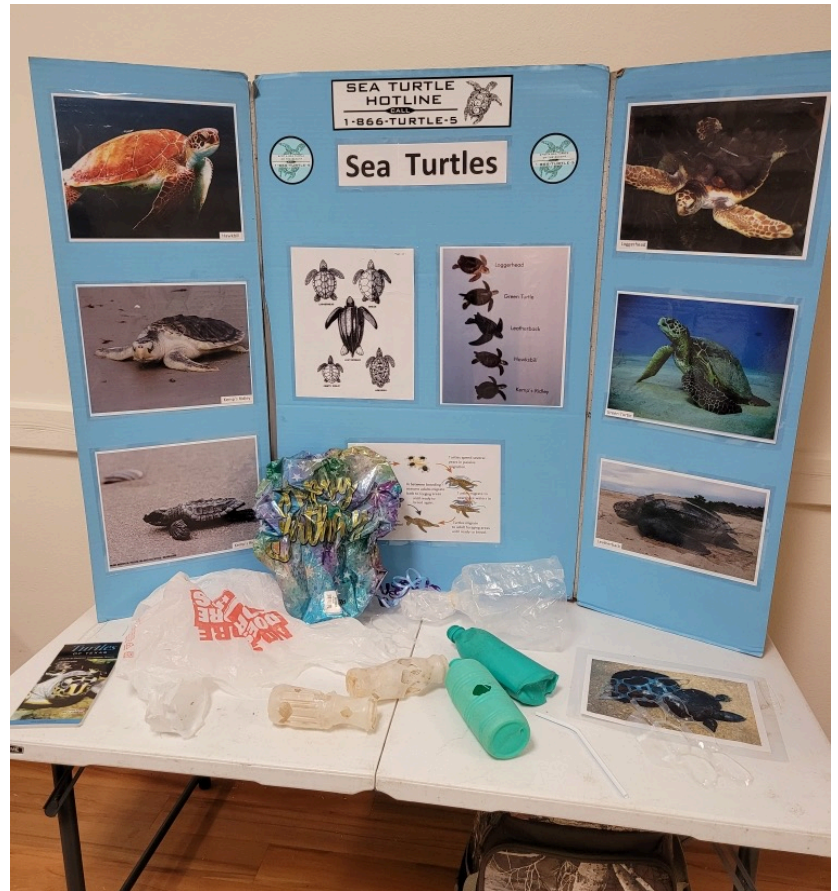
**AMANDA GABEHART**

**4,000 HOURS!**

Our August breakfast meeting was great!  
Thank you to our board members and  
others who brought food and fed us so  
well!!



Even the 'gator got in on the act during the BCLS Summer Reading Series!



Photos courtesy of Pam Lewis



**President's Message (continued from Page 1)**

historically native to an area). I don't remember the exact statistics, but, if individuals would start planting even a portion of their property with natives, the "homegrown national park" could be collectively larger than many of our large national parks combined. It's an interesting concept! Not only could we increase biodiversity, but we could use LESS RESOURCES to sustain our landscapes! Natives typically can cope with little to no fertilizers, pesticides or fungicides, or extra watering. Many native plants are hosts for various insects and birds. Plant them and hopefully the diversity follows!!!! If you'd like to view the presentation, please go to this link <https://youtu.be/kCXL5PU9R0Y>

You can also find out more information at <https://www.homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Please plan to attend our next Chapter meeting on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Our speaker will be Cris Tobola, recent Intern graduate. Her presentation will be on "Urban Ecology." I hope you will join us in person and BRING A FRIEND!!! Reminder - if you need a ride or can give a ride, send a note to the Chapter members at <https://www.tmn-cot@googlegroups.com>.

Thank you for all you do for our area, and see you soon, OUTSIDE!!!!

Kathy Pittman

***There can be no purpose more inspiring than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us.*** -E. O. Wilson

This bee assassin was hanging out on my basil which is usually swarmed by bees and other flying insects.



And this little Gulf Coast Ribbon Snake was hanging out (literally) about three (3) ft. up in a ginger plant. It was a great "I Spy" photo with the grandkids.

This 4-inch yellow garden spider hangs out over my milkweed and salvias. She catches a lot of flies, assassin bugs and bees.



*Photos shared by Kathy Pittman*



*Not feeling well? A new variant of CoVid (EG.5) is making the rounds.... If you aren't feeling well, please stay home. When volunteering at events or attending meetings, please take care.*

## Outreach Opportunities!

- The Lake Jackson First Responders at Brazos Mall – Saturday, September 9, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza at GCBO – Saturday, September 16 & 23, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; for more information, [www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org).
- Bull Red Run-A-Palooza at Sea Center - September 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; for more information, <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/sea-center/bull-red-run-a-palooza>
- Brookside Village Farmers Market, Pearland - October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Spiders in the Park at Bates Park, Angleton - October 13, time to be announced; contact Melanie Hollenshead or Harbria Gardner.
- KBR Kids' Day at Tony Marron Park, Houston – Saturday, October 21, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Spooktacular, Sea Center Texas, October 21, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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

**Now is the time to consider holding an office in 2024 to help keep our Chapter moving forward! Please contact Mickey Dufilho if you are interested.**



Don't let this heat get to you while outdoors. Be sure to take frequent rest breaks & drink plenty of water!

Photo by Deana Wheeler, Lake Jackson

### SOME UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

- **Exploration Green Workday** - Every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project** - Self-directed
- **Beach Sweep** - (See Calendar for dates), 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Quintana Jetties; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol** – Self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey** - Self-directed and as announced; contact Melanie Hollinshead
- **Adopt a Loop for TMN** – Self-directed; contact Debbie Nance
- **Boardwalk Maintenance & Construction** – Bobcat Trail; contact Oron Atkins
- **Collect Butterflies for Science** (Citizen Science FR) – Now through November 1, self-directed





# Beach Sweep

Thank you for cleaning up with **Clean Swell!**

Here's a summary of your recent cleanup:

Date	2023-08-08
Duration	1 hours 56 minutes
Number of People	3
Weight of Trash Picked Up	257.8 lbs
Group Name	Team Q
Distance Covered	0 Miles



Photos submitted by  
Jimmy Salinas



The group just loves brunch at Sweet T's Diner afterward! Shown: Jimmy Salinas, Mickey Dufilho and Susan Conaty





## 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
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Newsletter Editor	Kathy Purvis, Richwood
Newsletter Contributors	Dave Brandes, Oron Atkins, Dick Schaffhausen, Charles Jesse Miller Jr, Jimmy Salinas, Pam Lewis

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