

City Nature Challenge Recognition

Congratulations to **Angela Griffin**, who placed 9th in the number of observations and 8th in the number of species identified during the Houston/Galveston City Nature Challenge! Angela was one of more than 1,400 observers in our area this year and recorded 715 observations with 365 species identified on iNaturalist over the three-day challenge.

Featured Speakers – Carla J Dove and Kristine Rivers “Bird Detectives”



Carla J. Dove



Kristine Rivers



BREAK - Thank you to our members who brought refreshments today!

2023 Advanced Training Day, Saturday, May 20, 2023 - Kristine Rivers

Theme: “A Look Back at Texas History”

- “The Forts Velasco” – Chris Kneupper, Texas Master Naturalist – Cradle of Texas Chapter
- “Commemorating El Camino Real de los Tejas” – Tom Byrd, Past President of El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association
- “Vernon & Florence Merriam Bailey” – David J. Schmidly, Biologist and Professor, Past President of Texas Tech University and Oklahoma State University
- “Regenerative Ranching in the Native Prairies of Texas” – Casey Wade, President and CEO, Dixon Water Foundation
- “Black Indians: The Lost Culture” – Dr. Lisa Uhler, Professor of Government, Tarrant County College

This year’s event also includes a display contest, with prizes awarded by an anonymous panel of judges based on relevance to theme, presentation of content and creativity, and a People’s Choice Award determined by attendees. If you would like to create a display, contact Advanced Training Director, Kristine Rivers, at kristine@birdingforfun.com.

In-person attendance is limited to 100 persons. Virtual attendance is unlimited.

Registration fees: in-person \$25 COT members, \$30 non-members; virtual \$10 COT-members, \$15 non-members.

Registration deadline: May 13, 2023

Register now via <https://tinyurl.com/2023COT-ATday>.

Discussion briefly arose about the registration fee structure, with questions about rising costs, etc. J. Eppner asked that specific bank balance data be made available to members. K. Pittman stated she would follow up with D. Sabathier.

- Educational series – the focus is to educate, inform and increase awareness of all things water. FREE!!!
- The third Wednesday of each month, May thru August, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; register through EventBrite. An e-mail with the links to access the registration will be sent again.

• Topics:

- May 17 - Water wells (presentation by Dr. Joel Pigg, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist and Coordinator of the Texas Well Owner Network)
- June - Weather
- July - Water Safety
- August - Aquatic Invasives

Financial Report - Don Sabathier

<u>COT TREASURER REPORT - April 2023</u>	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 11,837.74
Revenue Summary	\$ 108.29
Expense Summary	\$ 132.31
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 11,813.72

Unpaid annual membership dues of \$25.00 are now past due. Don reminded members to pay their dues if they have not yet done so.

Outreach Opportunities - Ruby Lewis

- DEEP at BNWR Discovery Center – Remaining sessions have been cancelled.
- Camp Mohawk - June 5 - 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg at mikem@brazoria-county.com
- Summer Reading Club, BCLS - June 1, 9,15, 20, 21, 27 and 29; contact Ruby Lewis via e-mail at rubylewis77515@ymail.com
- GCBO Summer Bird Camp - June 6 - 12, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; contact Celeste Silling at csilling@gcbo.org
- 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 – June 8, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Quintana Jetties; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas
- Nurdle Beach Patrol – self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead
- Adopt a Loop for TMN – self-directed; contact Debbie Nance
- Boardwalk Maintenance and Construction - on hold, waiting for materials; contact Oron Atkins

All VT and AT opportunities can be found on the website calendar.

Spring Intern Class Update - Melanie Hollenshead

Melanie reported that classes are on hiatus due to the recent CoVid outbreak. There are seven (7) interns who are working on their projects and are close to graduation.

Intern Mentor Program - Kate Harris

A mentorship program is being developed and implemented for our Chapter. The mission is to help new interns by providing contact with current members who can guide them through the start of their experiences as a volunteer. We have about 11 mentors thus far. Please contact Kate Harris via e-mail, harriskd11@hotmail.com, or call 281.460.5485 if you can assist in this important mission.

Chapter Operating Handbook Update - Connie Stolte

The Committee has completed updates to our Chapter Operating Handbook (COH), bringing it in line with the framework sent to us from the State Office. The Board has reviewed the updates and is in the process of voting on approval of the final draft.

Connie will email the proposed COH document to the general membership for their review not later than May 24. Members with comments, suggestions or concerns are invited to attend the June 7 Board meeting or to submit comments via e-mail. We will take a vote on whether to ratify the document at the General Meeting on July 12, which follows the comment period.

Final Items - Kathy Pittman

- The Annual Meeting – McAllen Convention Center, Oct 12 - 15: Registration will open in August. Hotel registration is open, with several hotels within walking/short drive distance to the Convention Center. See details on the State website.
- Story-telling Project – members are encouraged to participate; <https://txmn.tamu.edu/25th-anniversary-storytelling-project/#storytelling>
- State Endowment fund, <https://masternaturalistendowment.org>.
- Send pictures and news items for our newsletter to Lisa Myers/Kathy Purvis at news@tmn-cot.org. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday before the General Meeting. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.
- The June General Meeting will be a morning meeting, held at 9:00 a.m. on June 14. Social time will be at 8:30 a.m. Lance Wood, Science and Operations Officer with the National Weather Service in Houston, will present "The 2023 Hurricane Season: What You Need to Know"

Meeting AT and VT hours - Kristine Rivers

- AT - 1.0 hour
- VT - 1.0 hour

Attendance:

In-person	23
Virtual	49
Total	72

President: Kathy Pittman adjourned the Board Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Purvis, Secretary

cc: Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary (Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu)