



October 2023

Chapter News – in Brief

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Vol. 23 No. 10

There will be no regular Chapter meeting this month. **FALL FIELD DAY** will be held on **Wednesday, October 11**, beginning at the BASF Planetarium located at The Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences (400 College Blvd. in Clute). Following the Eclipse Presentation, we will move to the Lake Jackson Historical Association (LJHA), located at 249 Circle Way. PLEASE NOTE: Neither event will be recorded.

FALL FIELD DAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Social time at the BASF Planetarium, with breakfast provided by the Brazoria County Library System.
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Eclipses Presentation
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Independent travel to the LJHA, 249 Circle Way
10:30 a.m. (Approx.)	“Jackson Plantation Historical Site” and “Introduction to a New Plant Survey Project” Speaker: Lindsay Scovil, Executive Director of the LJHA
Lunch	A box lunch will be enjoyed in the atrium of the Museum.
12:30 a.m. (Approx.)	Independent travel to the Jackson Plantation Historical site at 1030 FM 2004, Lake Jackson for a site tour/walk around (weather permitting). <i>(Hours for Advanced Training TBD)</i>

Our next **General Meeting** will be held on **November 8** at 6:00 p.m. with Social Time at 5:30 p.m. It will be a hybrid: attend in person at the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, 21017 County Road 171, Angleton, TX, or virtually via e-mail invite. Visitors and guests are welcome.

REMINDERS

- **TMN Tuesday**, October 3, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: October TMN Project Fair, Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program. Pre-registration is required, <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>.
- **Quintana Beach Sweep**, October 2, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Volunteers are needed for **Kids Fish Fest** at Bass Pro Shops in Pearland on October 21, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Contact Mike Mullenweg at 979.864.1152.

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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 – October 2023



Chapter Meeting
& Food!



MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager

August Recertifications:

Cindy Goodrum Sheree Muzny
Kathy Purvis Cris Tobola**
Barbara Whaley** Pam West

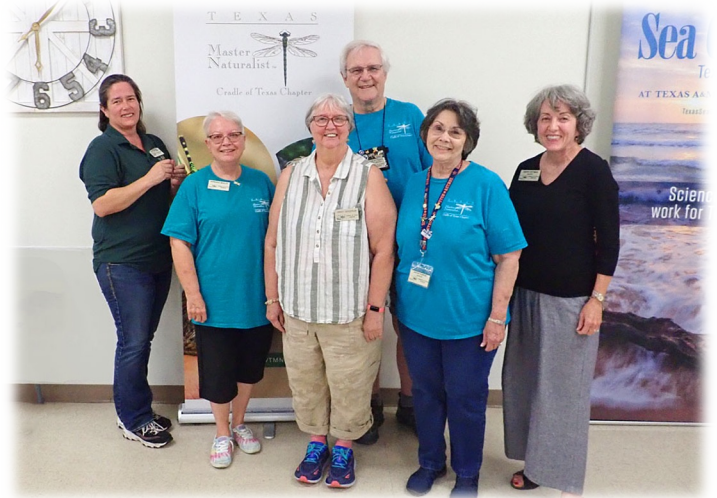
** Graduation year recertifications!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!!

Impact Data – August VMS Data

		Aug.	Year to Date
Hours*	VT	397	10,724
	AT	114	1,552
	Total	511	12,276
Impact Data*	Adults	829	4,776
	Youth	1,582	16,237
	Total	2,411	21,013

* Data not considered final until mid-October.



Photos above by Dick Schaffhausen, Angela Griffin & Kathy Purvis



Photo submitted by Amanda Gabehart

AMANDA GABEHART REACHES 4,000-HOUR MILESTONE

by Melanie Hollenshead, Training Director



Amanda was a 2017 graduate from the South Texas TMN Chapter in Corpus Christi. Hurricane Harvey severely impacted their training with extensive storm damage, closing many areas where they normally trained. Fortunately, they carried on. Amanda graduated, certified and recertified, all before the end of the year. She was determined to earn the hatching Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle pin!

She was already an experienced volunteer at the Padre Island National Seashore Turtle Lab, working with Dr. Donna Schaffer. She continued her work with the endangered Sea Turtles as a Master Naturalist.

Amanda was a year-round volunteer. She did 10-hour patrols on Padre Island on weekends and days off. She broke down and prepared used incubation boxes for the next season, assisted with necropsies and participated in many other activities.

New Year's 2018 brought a "Big Freeze" to the area. She prepared the patrol vehicles to rescue cold-stunned turtles, mainly juvenile green sea turtles. As she finished, she reported to Packery Channel and started a walking patrol. She had nearly given up, when she spotted and rescued the first of several thousand cold-stunned turtles!

Amanda spent every free minute working to save these precious turtles ... including sleeping on the floor before going to work! She worked tirelessly to ensure proper collection of data and photos of each turtle. She fully understood the importance of collecting this vital data and performing data quality reviews to ensure accuracy. Later, she was one of two people who entered this vast collection of data into computers.

Amanda currently lives in Brazoria and works for the Brazoria County Parks Department. She continues to perform beach patrols for nesting turtles and is available for possible cold-stun events. She's also the key field researcher on the "Comprehensive Survey of Spiders of Brazoria, Nueces and Kleberg Counties". Although she hates direct contact with the webs and the spiders, she takes incredible photos, captures minute specimens and enters volumes of data into i-Naturalist!

Shared by John Boettiger



What are Imported Red Fire Ants

Imported Red Fire Ants are an invasive species from South America that prey on native wildlife and compete for food.

Since its accidental introduction from South America to Mobile, Alabama over 60 years ago, the red imported fire ant has spread to infest over 260 million acres comprising most of nine southeastern states and Puerto Rico. Reaching Texas during the 1950's, the fire ant spread steadily across the state, dispersing naturally through mating flights, mass movement of colonies, and floating to new locations in flood water. Fire ants can travel long distances when newly-mated queens land on cars, trucks or trains. Shipments of nursery stock or soil from an infested area may relocate entire colonies or nests. The fire ant presently infests the eastern two-thirds of Texas and continues to spread westward. *

* **"HISTORY AND CONTROL EFFORTS"** (from: Drees, B. M., C. L. Barr, S. B. Vinson, R. E. Gold, M. E. Merchant and D. Kostroun. 1996. Managing red imported fire ants in urban areas. B-6043. Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. 18 pp.)

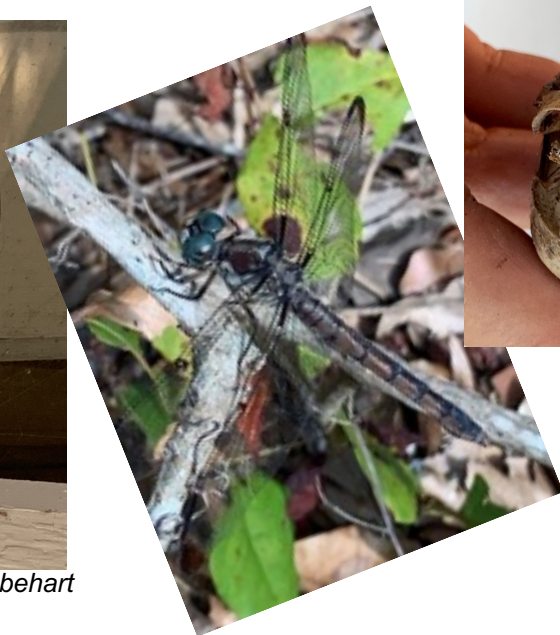


Amanda Gabehart is looking for help!

"I have been making a list of the myriad species we have living in Camp Mohawk County Park. We're off to a good start but I'm sure with your help, we could add so many more flora and fauna to the list.... Our current species tally is at 654 with bugs taking the lead as I'm a bit partial to them."



Photos by Amanda Gabehart





REMEMBERING NEAL McLAIN

by Kathy Pittman, President

Our longtime member Neal McLain, Class of 2004, passed away during the last week of August. According to his VMS record, Neal was 88 years old.

Over the years, Neal served on our Chapter's Board of Directors as Volunteer Services director, newsletter editor and as webmaster for our Chapter's website. He volunteered with the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges and served on its Board of Directors as a member of its Migration Celebration Planning Committee and as webmaster for the organization's website. Neal also volunteered with the Brazoria County Historical Museum cataloging maps and served on the Brazoria County Historical Commission as Secretary. He was also a member of the Brazos Valley Railroad Society and managed its website.

I wish I had known Neal years ago. From the few times I was around him, I felt like he had many stories to share. I wish I'd been able to hear some of them from Neal himself.

Many thanks to Ed Barrios and Mickey Dufilho, for sharing information and pictures of Neal.



President's Call to Service Awards 2014



Ann & Neal McLain



Quintana Jetties Beach Sweep

(Photos provided by Jimmy Salinas)



Ocean Conservancy

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

Here's a summary of your recent cleanup:

Date	2023-09-05
Duration	2 hours 12 minutes
Number of People	8
Weight of Trash Picked Up	1017.55 lbs
Group Name	Team Q
Distance Covered	0.957 Miles

* Note: Original report redacted as to details of items picked up.



Missed out on a meeting or volunteer opportunity? Want to attend in person or volunteer for an event, but need a ride? Reach out & let us know. Send a message to our Chapter group e-mail: (tmn-cot@googlegroups.com). A member may be available to share a ride and will contact you directly.

Fun at the "Xtreme Hummingbird 'Xtravaganza!"



Photos provided by
Patty Brinkmeyer



Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

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Vice President/Programs	Jimmy Salinas, Freeport
Secretary	Kathy Purvis, Richwood
Treasurer	Donald Sabathier, Pearland
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Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Coordinator	Kristine Rivers, Manvel
Data Manager	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson
Social Committee Coordinator	Mickey Dufilho

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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
- 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 or before the first day of the month by the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome; submission deadline is 5:00 PM on the 20th of the month preceding the publication date. Send submissions by email to Chapter News Editor at news@tmn-cot.org. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.