

Chapter News — in Brief

The December 13 General Meeting 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.

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Social Time and Refreshments (in person)
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome, Awards and Outreach
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Advanced Training Speaker: Jarrett (Woody) Woodrow, USFWS Coastal Restoration Biologist, Coastal Program Topic: “Restoration Actions for Bird Habitats on the Texas Mid-Coast” (Overview of restoration actions taking place primarily for birds on the Texas Mid-Coast – specific projects and initiatives, details on Page 2) <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.	General Membership Meeting <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>



Woody Woodrow has worked on the Texas coast for over 40 years and has been engaged in habitat restoration projects since 1998. He has participated in many wildlife habitat assessment, restoration, and enhancement projects, primarily on the upper Texas coast. These included restoration efforts associated with the Deepwater Horizon event and other projects such as restoration of colonial waterbird nesting islands, restoring hydrology to wetland habitats, coastal grassland management and beneficial use of dredged material to enhance intertidal march habitats.

Woody has also assisted Eastern Black Rail and Yellow Rail researchers in the field and provided technical assistance regarding habitat needs and biology for the Eastern Black Rail to USFWS staff who are responsible for reviewing projects under the Endangered Species Act Section 7. (Continued, Page 2)

REMINDERS

- **ECO Fund Applications – deadline is December 31!** Check our TMN website for details. It offers a variety of options for projects.
- Eight (8) volunteers are needed each day for the **BNWR Discovery Center Open House**, expected to be held the week after Christmas beginning December 26. Contact Ruby Lewis at rubylewis77515@ymail.com for details.

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<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.

From the Desk of Woody Woodrow.... (Continued from Page 1)

Restoration Actions for Bird Habitats on the Texas Mid-Coast.

This presentation will provide an overview of restoration actions taking place primarily for birds on the Texas Mid-Coast. Some are specific projects and others are initiatives: restoring colonial waterbird nesting islands, American oystercatcher islands, improving grasslands and restoring habitat for the eastern black rail, as well as approaches to protecting habitats that are somewhat intact. Several projects have been funded through the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Disaster. Some perspective on the science of restoration and habitat management will also be touched upon.

MEMBERSHIP DATA REPORT by Dave Brandes, Data Manager



Initial Certifications:

Kimberly Calhoun
Gina Summers

Recertifications:

Ed Barrios
Kimberly Calhoun
Jerry Epner
Juli Martin (September)
Carolyn May-Monie
Marlon Nation



Pictured, L to R: Kathy Pittman, Juli Martin, Marlon Nation & John Boettiger with guest speaker, Shane Bonnot – Photo by Dick Schafflhausen

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!!

VMS Data – October*

	Oct.	YTD
VT	599	12,364
AT	<u>207</u>	<u>1,856</u>
Total	806	14,220
Adults	68	4,905
Youth	<u>119</u>	<u>16,884</u>
Total	187	21,789

* data not considered final until mid-December

Marty Cornell & Kathy Pittman discussing the "Hog Wild" party for Friends of the Brazoria National Wildlife Rescue.



Photo by Kathy Purvis



Fun with Captain Shiska Bob, Nov. 8!

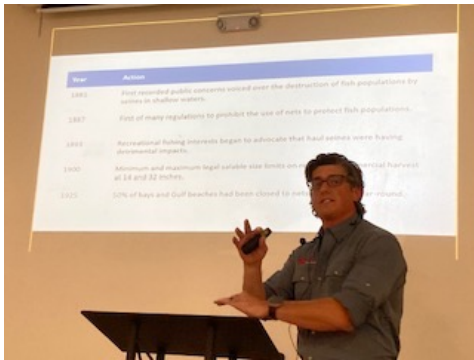


Photos by Dick Schaffhausen

Highlights from “The Redfish Wars – Past and Present”

Presented by Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director, CCA Texas, November 8 General Meeting.

- The first recorded public concerns voiced (1881) were about destruction of fish populations by seines in shallow waters. This gave rise to the first of many regulations to prohibit the use of nets in 1887. Minimum and maximum legal salable size limits on red drum were set in 1900.
- Texas tightened restrictions in 1977 with its Redfish Conservation Act, prohibiting transportation for sale of a red drum or spotted seatrout harvested in Texas waters.
- Bob Kemp established the program for data collection the TPWD still runs today. It is the longest running independent monitoring program in the USA.
- The GCCA supported "game fish" status for redfish and speckled trout for tourist and recreational fishing in 1981. This left crabs, shrimp and oysters for commercial fishing.
- Dr. Connie Arnold, a marine biologist known as the Godfather of Redfish Aquaculture, cultivated redfish larvae for fishery science.



Brazoria County, Texas on
October 29, 2023*



** Posted October 30, 2023 to the Facebook page of the Texas Master Naturalist Program Group by Viktor Odnovyn*

Election of Officers to be Held December 13

2024 Proposed Chapter Officer Slate

President	Kathy Pittman
Vice President	Jimmy Salinas
Secretary	Kathy Purvis
Treasurer	Don Sabathier

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Voting will take place during the December General Meeting.

**TMN Cradle of Texas
Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast, a
19-Year tradition that began with
members of the Class of '04**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

**After the Chapter General Meeting
(details to follow via e-mail
distribution)**



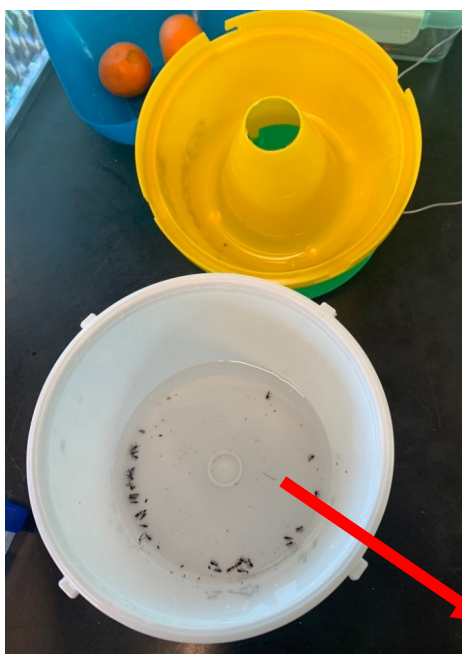
Collecting field data about weevils

Story and photos by Amanda Gabehart

Will you be serving sweet potato casserole in a couple weeks? You're welcome!

I have recently had the privilege of collecting field data for a geneticist working with the Department of Agriculture and the USDA on sweet potato weevils. This all came about when Dr. Phillip Wadl noted a weevil I had documented on iNaturalist last year. For me, bug photography was a way to keep busy on a rainy day, but this alerted him that I might take him up on his request for assistance gathering specimens from my area. The end goal of his research is to breed sweet potatoes that are resistant to specific insect pests, such as weevils. This idea, he says, has been in the R&D phase for over 50 years, worldwide.

My part in the data gathering was to set aerial pitfall traps charged with female sex hormones to attract male weevils. I had three (3) traps near the weevils' preferred host plants (in my case, morning glory is more abundant than sweet potato) and I would check the traps occasionally to confirm that weevils are indeed present. Remarkably, very little bycatch was present with the male weevils. When the traps were full, I transferred the contents to a vial for shipping labeled with GPS coordinates from the collection site and sent them to Dr Wadl. You never know when a seemingly unimportant observation could catch the eye of someone in need of precisely that information.



Have something you want to share with fellow Master Naturalists? Submit your photos and news items for our newsletter to Kathy Purvis at news@tmn-cot.org. Submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of each month. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.

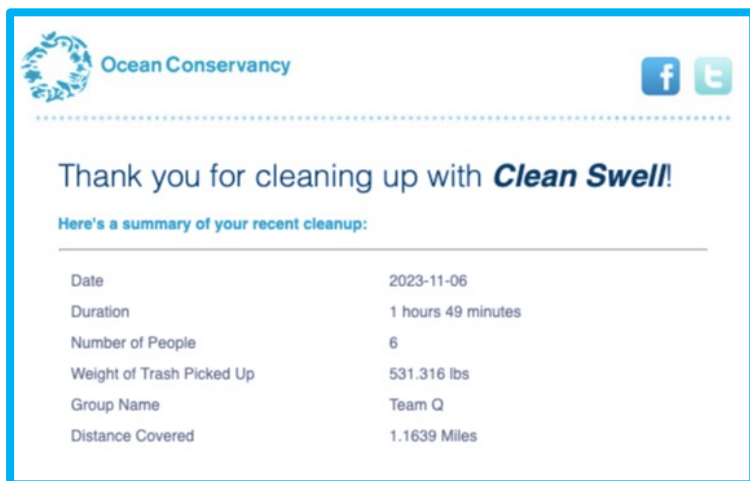
Outreach Opportunities

Holiday Open House at the Discovery Center at the Brazoria Wildlife Refuge – December 26 – January 1, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; volunteers are needed, contact Ruby Lewis at rubylewis77515@ymail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

- 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 – Monday, December 4, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; 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.



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 2023 Representative	Pam Lewis, Oyster Creek

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, Brazoria

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	Kathy Pittman, Dave Brandes, Oron Atkins, Dick Schaffhausen, Jimmy Salinas, Amanda Gabehart & Viktor Odnovun

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