



February 2024

# Chapter News – in Brief

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Vol. 23 No. 12

The February 14 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: Barbara Whaley, "Introduction to IPM (Integrated Pest Management)".  <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	General Membership Meeting <i>[Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>



Barbara Whaley is a graduate of the Spring 2023 TMN intern class of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. She stated this is the best thing she has ever done for herself and for others, as the love of nature and volunteering runs through her veins. Prior to jumping in with both feet, she worked for the Alvin Independent School District as a junior high teacher's aide and then in the Human Resources Department.

Barbara most recently became certified in Advanced Entomology. She is also a member of Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Houston Audubon Society and Texas Ornithological Society. Some of her many volunteer activities include Spring Fling at GCBO Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, XHX at GCBO, Spooktacular at Sea Center Texas, KBR Kid's Day, Summer Library Program, DEEP at BNWR, Migration Celebration at SBWR, Education program for current interns, Butterfly Monitoring for Texas Butterfly Monitoring Network, Texas Stream Team Standard Core Water Quality Testing and the 2024 Sea Aggie Sea Turtle Patrol.

## REMINDERS

**Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties** – Monday, February 5 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas.

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

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

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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 Oyster Creek.

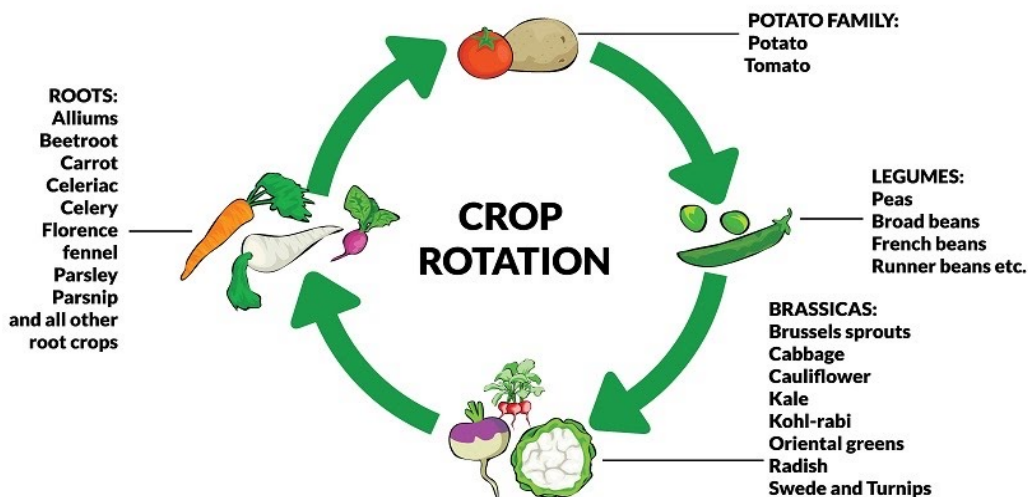
Texas Master Naturalist Program  
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## Entomology Corner: IPM of Veggies

by Barbara Whaley

The same IPM practices apply to veggies as they do to ornamental plants:

**Cultural Control** – Purchase clean and healthy plants; remove and destroy infested plants; follow sanitation procedures with your gardening tools; plant selection – resistant varieties; proper irrigation and fertilization; plant free periods or crop rotation.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

**Mechanical/Physical Control** – Physically removing or manipulating the environment to prevent insects; covers and barriers; tilling the soil; picking off insects.

**Biological Control** – Use of natural enemies to reduce the pest population; reduction of pesticides or use of target specific pesticides; predators, parasites, parasitoids and pathogens.

**Chemical Control** – Pesticides are any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pests. **Remember – organic controls are pesticides also!**

- Some reasons why insects invade early in the season are susceptible crops; cultural issues such as stressors; wrong situation such as water, sun; wrong crop for the area.
- Some reasons why insects invade late in the season are they are the “clean up” crew; plants are stressed, old and attracting pests. Know how long your plants should live.

### Common Pests of Veggies

**Harlequin Bugs** – usually a clean up crew that invades late season; they overwinter in debris around the garden. Found in cole crops (cruciferous vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage, kale, broccoli, bok choy) and some fruits. Management includes cleaning the garden at end of season, manually crush, floating row covers, insecticidal soaps or neem oil when nymphs are present, permethrin or bifenthrin.

**Cabbage Looper** – Found on cole crops, they chew holes in the leaves. Cultural management by not overcrowding and watering and fertilizing properly. Synthetic pyrethroids like permethrin and Spinosad. Regimen of 2 - 3-week treatments.

(continued, [IPM of Veggies](#), Pg. 3)

## **IPM of Veggies** *(continued from Pg. 2, Entomology Corner)*

Pests of tomatoes include leaf-footed bugs, tomato hornworm. Leaf-footed bug management includes shaking them into a pan of isopropyl alcohol, hand pick or vacuum, synthetic pyrethroids such as permethrin or bifenthrin. Tomato hornworms feed on the leaves and sometimes the fruit and prevents the plant from flowering.

Management includes crop rotation, hand picking, Spinosad and Carbaryl (Sevin). Pests of cucurbits (squash, zucchini, pumpkin, gourd, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber) are squash vine borer, cucumber beetles and squash bug. Cucumber beetles are leaf feeders and fruit scrapers. They overwinter close to the crop they infested. Management includes rotate cucurbit crops, transplant not seed, floating row covers, mulch and Carbaryl (Sevin).

- Squash vine borers lay eggs in vine crops and emerge as adult moths in the spring and start laying eggs. They probably have multiple generations per year. Management controls are wrapping foil around the vines and floating row covers when they aren't flowering. SVB pheromone traps, Spinosad – 1 week or less residual, Carbaryl – 10 – 14-day residual, permethrin or bifenthrin – 2- 4-week residual, esfenvalerate – up to 4-week residual. Treat vines one (1) week after adults are found.
- Squash bugs appear as yellow flecks on foliage and later turn brown. The foliage wilts and dies and feeding on the fruits causes wounds. Management includes avoiding mulch, use pesticides early in the season (esfenvalerate, permethrin or Carbaryl). Treat the base of the plant where they congregate, destroy crop residuals and turn over soil.

These are just a few examples that I hope help. Happy Gardening!

Information on the above has been provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Molly Keck and Wizzie Brown. Thank you for your knowledge and expertise and for taking the time in passing this information on to others.

## How do bumblebees keep warm?



Brrr! It's cold out there! Unlike humans, insects are cold-blooded animals and cannot control their body temperature – they rely on the sun to warm them up when it is cold.

Bumblebees, however, act much more like warm-blooded animals and use various clever techniques to keep warm:

- They can dislocate their wings and shiver their flight muscles (shivering is how mammals keep warm).
- Have furry bodies – the hair acts as onboard insulation.
- Alter how they pump warm/cool body fluid around their body to change their body temperature.
- Usually nest in south and south-east facing sites. This ensures they get the morning sun to help them warm up.

*Photo & story courtesy of the **Bumblebee Conservation Trust** posted on Facebook*



## Kudos to Patty Brinkmeyer!!!

Patty received her Monarch Steward Certification from the National Wildlife Federation. Participants attend three (3) workshops and complete assigned volunteer activities for each to become Monarch Stewards.

According to the website, <https://www.nwf.org/monarchsteward>, there has been a 90% decline in Eastern Monarch butterflies over the past two (2) decades. They have become endangered by “pesticides, the loss of native habitats, urbanization and climate change....

The ... program provides volunteers with the skills and knowledge needed for conservation of monarchs and all pollinators. Throughout the program, volunteers will learn to create native pollinator friendly habitats, to contribute to research through monarch citizen science, and to amplify pollinator conservation through outreach and educational presentations.” Visit the website to learn more about the certification program and available webinars.

### VOLUNTEER HOURS, CERTIFICATIONS & MILESTONES – John Boettiger

#### Recertifications:

Patty Brinkmeyer  
Mary Holler  
Ruby Lewis

Christina Hartman  
Phil Huxford  
Connie Stolte

#### Milestones:

Christina Hartman **500 Hours**



Pictured, L to R: Kathy Pittman, Phil Huxford & Patty Brinkmeyer. Photo by Dick Schaffhausen

*Congratulations to all!*

### IMPACT DATA REPORT - Dave Brandes, Data Manager

#### Impact Data – December\*

	Month	YTD
Hours:		
VT	608	14,259
AT	<u>70</u>	<u>2,032</u>
Total	678	16,291
Impact Data		
Adults	16	4,982
Youth	<u>28</u>	<u>17,517</u>
Total	44	22,499

\* data not considered final until mid-February





## And They're Off - A Look at Intern Orientation!

*Photos by Dick Schaffhausen*



### **We have a large Intern Class! Help is needed with the following:**



- Volunteer who can create a poster for the 2023 TMN intern graduate class
- Class Preparation Team for training set-up, etc.
- Field Trips Team to participate/assist with field trips
- Speaker Coordinator to confirm speakers and coordinate presentations
- Photographers (3) to capture candid photos
- Projects Team to determine outreach needs & suggest projects
- Volunteer Fair Coordinator (Volunteer Fair tentatively scheduled for April 13)
- **Intern Mentors** (contact Kate Harris, Coordinator)

Please contact Melanie Hollenshead, Training Class Director, for more information at [theladyspath@hotmail.com](mailto:theladyspath@hotmail.com).



## Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Discovery Center Open House

*Photos by Dick Schaffhausen*





## Outreach Opportunities

DEEP – February 1, 6, 8, 13 & 15, March 26 & 28, April 2 & 4, & May 14 & 16, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; contact **Ed Barrios** ([ed77566@comcast.net](mailto:ed77566@comcast.net)) or **Hannah Beckett** ([heb\\_beckett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heb_beckett@sbcglobal.net)).

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

## Volunteer Opportunities – Oron Atkins

- 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, February 5 (weather permitting); contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas
- Nurdle Beach Patrol – self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- Brazoria Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead
- Adopt a Loop for TMN – self-directed; contact Debbie Nance

Thank you to those who submitted applications for the \$500 ECO Fund grant for 2024! The grant was awarded to **Brenda Stitt's** remediation project at the Follett's Island dunes.

### Barbara Whaley's Bug of the Month for February - Robber Fly – *Promaschus hinei*

I took this picture of this Robber Fly at Hudson Woods while I was doing my intern project. I was both amazed and a little (not really, a lot) intimidated by it. I could tell he was mad at me.



*Photo submitted by Barbara Whaley*

There are over 14 different species of Robber Flies (also called assassin flies) in Texas. Robber Flies eat all sorts of other flies as well as bees, wasps, beetles and butterflies. When a Robber Fly spies a resting insect, it can catch it and it becomes dinner. It is hard to outrun this zooming insect and for that reason, they are efficient predators, and they have a big appetite for bugs.

During the day, you may find a Robber Fly sitting on a fence, handrail or garden box. It often hangs from branches near the ground waiting to ambush passing prey. After an aerial chase, it overtakes the victim and using its legs, grabs it and carries it to a nearby branch or leaf. It uses its hard mouth to pierce the body of its victim and then sucks out the victim's insides.

Robber Flies can inflict a painful bite if handled roughly, but they also help rid the garden of pests like grasshoppers, other flies, wasps, leafhoppers, white grubs and pupating beetles.



## 2024 Sea Turtle Nesting and Stranding Training Dates

shared by Melanie Hollenshead, as distributed by The Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

All individuals interested in participating in the 2024 Nesting Season must register and attend one Classroom Session. Attendance will be recorded.

Each Session will be divided into three parts. All participants (i.e., city, county, and beach maintenance workers, law enforcement, border patrol, lifeguards, patrollers, and responders) must attend from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Volunteers, patrollers, and responders associated with other Texas sea turtle programs must attend the Session from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. PAIS volunteers must attend the entire Session from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. To register, please click on the webinar registration link below the Session date that you would like to attend. If you have difficulty registering via the link or have questions, please contact the Padre Island National Seashore Volunteer Coordinator Office via email: [paais\\_seaturtlevolunteer@nps.gov](mailto:paais_seaturtlevolunteer@nps.gov) or by phone: **361-949-8173, ext. 268**.

### **Session 1**

Date: 3 February 2024 (Saturday)

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Webinar

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/6795ad9d-2283-4037-9465-c65daa4eaa30@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494>

### **Session 2**

Date: 16 February 2024 (Friday)

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Webinar

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/445dbb1f-3a40-4cb4-8b0b-90360ca36e28@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494>

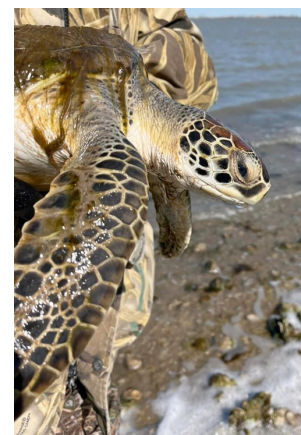
### **Session 3**

Date: 3 March 2024 (Sunday)

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Webinar

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/ac4e64a1-6071-4b53-b336-5266d695b192@0693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494>



Photos of “cold stunned sea turtles” brought to the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research which were posted on its Facebook page January 16 & 17.



## Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

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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](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 or before the first day of the month by the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome; submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding issue. Send submissions by e-mail to *Chapter News* Editor at [news@tmn-cot.org](mailto:news@tmn-cot.org). Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.