

Chapter News – in Brief

There will be no regular Chapter meeting this month.

FALL FIELD DAY, “Open to Interpretation”, will be held on **Wednesday, October 9**, (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) at San Luis Pass County Park. The Chapter will provide lunch.

Registration fees: Free/COT-members, \$5/non-members. See Page 4 for more details.

The registration deadline is **October 4**. Register now to reserve your spot!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tmn-cot-fall-field-day-2024-tickets-1007954748787?aff=oddtcreator>



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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:

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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.

REMINDERS

Delores Fenwick Nature Center – Pearland, joint workday with the Brazoria County Master Gardeners – **Monday, September 28**, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wear rain boots or work boots. Bring your hand tools, water bottle and gloves. If you have waders and are comfortable working in the water, the team could use your help!

Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties – **Monday, October 7** (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas.

KBR Kids Day, Tony Marron Park (Houston) – **Saturday, October 19**, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Texas Master Naturalist 2024 Annual Meeting – **Thursday, October 24 – 27** in San Marcos. Any attendee approaching a milestone (i.e., 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 4000, 5000 hours, etc.), must be sure to record their hours before September 29 (see Kathy Pittman’s e-mail sent on September 18).

VOLUNTEER HOURS, CERTIFICATIONS & MILESTONES

- John Boettiger

Initial Certifications

Suzanne Jerabeck
Tara Lawrence-Johnson
Sabrina Smith



We enjoyed a great potluck dinner at our Sept. meeting!!

Recertifications

Susan Buell
Joel Cobb
Donna Gregurek
Brian Hanson
Suzanne Jerabeck
Tara Lawrence-Johnson
Sabrina Smith
Gina Summers



Delicious fruit & dessert treats provided by BCLS!

Photos this page courtesy of Angela Griffin & Facebook

Congratulations to All !

Graduation for our Summer Interns – Thank you, Melanie & Team



Amanda Smith



Nicole Lochmann



Donna Rich



Scott Brown



Georgette Shepherd



Jodi Jung



Glen Cullinane

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.

Fall Bats & Blooms Bioblitz, Delores Fenwick Nature Center – Pearland, September 23 – October 23; join the Fall Bats & Blooms BioBlitz on iNaturalist & start documenting species, <https://shorturl.at/ZapDh>. (Reprint from Kathy Pittman e-mail, September 22).

Delores Fenwick Nature Center, 5750 Magnolia Pkwy., Pearland, joint workday with the Brazoria County Master Gardeners – Monday, September 28, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wear rain boots or work boots and bring your hand tools, water bottle and gloves. Some of the planned work will be “in” the pond. If you have waders and are comfortable working in the water, the team could use your help! Snacks and shade will be provided.

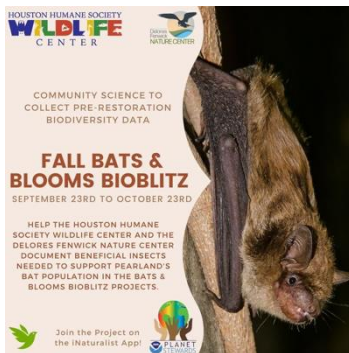
Beach Sweep, Quintana Jetties – Thursday, October 7 (weather permitting), 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; contact Jimmy or Luanne Salinas (jimmy.salinas217@gmail.com; msluhu@gmail.com).

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.

Bat Monitoring Project - contact Mickey Dufilho (dufilhos@hotmail.com).



**TEXAS MASTER
NATURALIST
2024 ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 24-27**

Registration is open!! Go to the website,
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting/>

Outreach Opportunities – Ruby Lewis

KBR Kids Day, Tony Marron Park (808 North York, Houston 77003) – Saturday, October 19, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sea Center Texas Spooktacular – Sunday, October 20, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (volunteers may wear costumes if they wish).

Pearland Farmers Market, Nature Center – Friday, November 1, 8:00 a.m.

Special Olympics + Sea Center Texas Fishing Competition - Saturday, November 9, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fall Field Day Message from Kristine Rivers –

Join us for our 7th Annual Fall Field Day on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, from 10am-3pm at San Luis Pass County Park! Our theme this year is “Open to Interpretation” and we are looking forward to a fun, hands-on, interactive event. At the beginning of the day, Jim Calvert will share the history of *Follett's Island*, including its connection to his own family - his mother was a Follett. We'll also enjoy a brief presentation on the art of interpretation - how we can make nature education engaging and deepen understanding by creating meaningful, personal connections between the topic and the audience that inspire further learning or action on their behalf. Then the fun will really begin as we explore the natural resources within the park in an open-ended scavenger hunt. Put your 4-person team together now! The chapter will provide snacks and a light lunch for all attendees. Participants will receive 4 hours of Advanced Training credit.

Register now to reserve your spot!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tmn-cot-fall-field-day-2024-tickets-1007954748787?aff=oddtcreator>

Registration fees: Free/COT-members, \$5/non-members

Registration deadline: October 4, 2024

September Beach Sweep at Quintana Jetties



Ocean Conservancy

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

Here's a summary of your recent cleanup:

Date	September 09, 2024
Duration	1 hours 47 minutes
Number of People	10
Weight of Trash Picked Up	205.5 lbs
Group Name	Team Q
Distance Covered	3 Miles
Comments	



Photos courtesy of Jimmy Salinas



Entomology Corner: Eastern Lubber Grasshopper

(Scientific Name: *Romalea microptera*; Insecta: Orthoptera: Romaleidae)

by Barbara Whaley

The Everglades National Park in Florida was highlighted in a recent episode of National Parks, USA I watched. They showed a baby alligator playing with a very large and colorful grasshopper, the eastern lubber grasshopper. It actually seemed the two were playing together. The alligator did not eat the grasshopper -- it is inedible due to expelling a fine spray of toxic chemicals as an anti-predator defense. I guess the alligator had already experienced the effect and so therefore, resorted to playing with it instead of eating it.



I was curious to see if this grasshopper was found in Texas, and learned it is limited to the southeastern region of the United States. It is found from North Carolina south through South Carolina to Georgia and Florida, and west through Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana to central Texas.

Adult lubbers are colorful, with a varied color pattern. Often, the adult eastern lubber is mostly yellow or tawny, with black on the distal portion of the antennae, on the pronotum, and on the abdominal segments. The forewings extend two-thirds to three-fourths the length of the abdomen. The hind wings are short and incapable of providing lift for flight. The forewings are usually pink or rose in color centrally, but the hindwings are entirely rose in color. In northern Florida, a predominantly black form is sometimes found.

Adult males measure up to 2 inches in length, while females often measure up to 2.75 inches and sometimes 3.5 inches (Yikes!). Due to its large size, it is often used in biology classes for dissection purposes. The eastern lubber is quite clumsy and slow in movement. It mostly travels by walking and crawling feebly over the substrate. Not only is this large, heavy bodied grasshopper unable to fly, but it is also poor at leaping, so mostly it is observed walking. It is a good climber and often climbs trees to feed on juvenile foliage at the tips of branches.

Both sexes stridulate (make noise) by rubbing the forewing against the hind leg. When alarmed, lubbers will spread their wings, hiss, and secrete foul-smelling froth from their spiracles. They can expel a fine spray of toxic chemicals up to a distance of six (6) inches. The chemical discharge from the tracheal system is believed to be an anti-predator defense, and to consist of chemicals synthesized from their diet. Their bright color pattern is believed to be a warning to vertebrate predators that lubbers are not palatable.

The eggs of lubbers are yellowish or brown in color and are elliptical in shape. They are laid in neatly arranged pods of about 30-50 eggs held together by a frothy secretion. The froth allows an easy exit for the young hoppers as they hatch. The nymph is very different in appearance from the adult and is commonly mistaken for another species. They are almost completely black with a yellow, orange or red stripe located dorsally. The hopper's face, edge of the pronotum, and abdominal segments also may contain reddish accents. Often the reddish accents change to yellow as they develop.

The lubbers are defoliators, consuming the leaf tissue of numerous plants. They climb readily and can completely strip foliage from plants. Lubber grasshoppers are not as damaging as their size suggests. They consume less food than smaller grasshoppers.

Photo of young lubber



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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 e-mail to *Chapter News* Editor at news@tmn-cot.org. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.