



Chapter News

August 2025

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Chapter News is published by Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Contact us at:

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Angleton, TX 77515-8903
979-864-1558 (Angleton)
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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.

Cover photo by Patty Brinkmeyer

President's Message



"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."
~William Shakespeare

As Texas Master Naturalists™, we have numerous opportunities to make a difference in our communities, both in public and in private settings. Not only do we educate the public on any number of topics, but we also help our families and friends become better stewards of the area we have been blessed to call home.

If you are like me, you spend a good portion of your summer caring for your children or grandchildren. This past week we had all four of our grandchildren, ages 3 to 8 years old. I was so happy to watch as they encountered the many different insects, tree frogs, toads and small animals around our property. From watching their Nana, they know to observe quietly, to move softly, and not to automatically run away from or to squish something (except for mosquitoes. The kiddos are allowed to dispatch those pests at will.) The two older grands will frequently ask their parents to send me pictures of "cool bugs" or "cute lizards" or whatever they have found interesting around their homes. My attitudes have changed a lot in the six years since I became a Master Naturalist, and I know I have made a difference in my little corner of the world. I know you have all made a difference in our communities and there are many people who thank you for your efforts.

There are many organizations that depend on volunteers like us to further their programs and goals. And there are many different events and activities that we can choose to be involved in. Sometimes my calendar gets so full I begin to feel overwhelmed. Maybe you have felt the same way at times. These are the days where we need to take a step back and take time for ourselves and our families. Everyone needs some "down time" to rest and recharge. Use that time to look up something new about your favorite species or plant. Make something. Work on a new hobby. Try a new volunteer activity – don't allow yourself to be "stuck in a rut." Our brains thrive when we stretch and expand our knowledge. And we are happier individuals when we take care of ourselves.

Please plan to attend our August 13th Chapter meeting at 9 am, social time at 8:30 am. Our presenter will be photographer Arlon Motsch. I hope to see you at AgriLife, and BRING A FRIEND!!!

Thank you for all you do for our area, and see you soon, OUTSIDE!!!!

Kathy Pittman

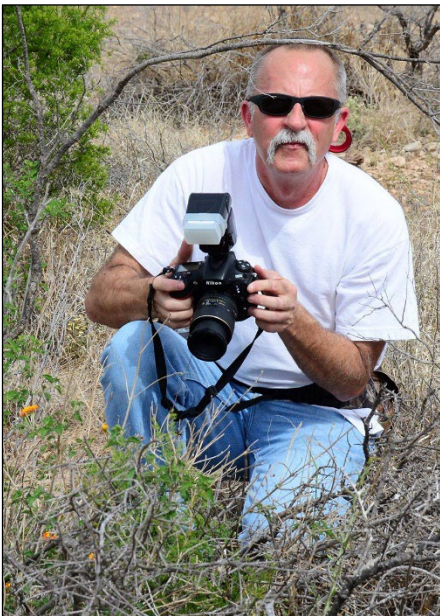
Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. ~Clarissa Pinkola Estes

August Chapter Meeting

The August 6th 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 am	Social Time and Refreshments
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome and Awards
9:15 – 10:15 am	Speaker: Arlon Motsch Advanced Training: Did we miss something? Maybe we just need to get closer. Getting a closer look and turning my yard into a studio for close-up nature photography.
10:15 – 11:00 am	General Membership Meeting (Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting)



Arlon Motsch is an avid amateur photographer who has embraced the world of digital photography on many levels. He is well versed in many types of photography but has a strong personal interest in macro, close-up, wildlife and nature photography.

Arlon enjoys the outdoors and is an avid hiker and enjoys kayaking, van camping and road tripping with camera in hand (retired from the real world). He has been known to leave water behind on hikes to carry more camera gear, make U-turns on interstates to take a flower picture, drive miles down dirt roads (many miles) to take a picture, lay in mud, ants, briars, etc to take a picture, has landscaped his yard for taking bug pictures, waded creeks and climbed hills to take a picture, climbs on the roofs of cars (even his own) to take a picture, buy camera gear instead of food and the list goes on.

His wife Resa, of 45 years has been amazingly tolerant of his abhorrent behavior.

Outreach Opportunities

GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (XHX) – Day 1, September 13, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Contact: [Celeste Silling](#)

GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza (XHX) – Day 2, September 20, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Contact: [Celeste Silling](#)

Youth Fishing Day – Sea Center Texas - September 13, 9:00 am - 11:00 am Contact: [Jordan Kieffer](#)

TMN-COT Calendar <https://txmn.org/tmncot/events>

Volunteer Opportunities

Beach Sweep – Tuesday, September 2nd (weather permitting), 8:00 am – 10:00 am, *NEW MEETUP LOCATION* Meet on the beach at the 16th Street entrance, directly across from Freeport LNG Headquarters.

Contact [Jimmy Salinas](#) or [Luanne Salinas](#)

Freeport Bryan Beach Cleanup ([online registration](#)) – 8/23, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm – contact [Celeste Silling](#)

Exploration Green Workday – every Wednesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm; contact [Christie Taylor](#)

Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project – self-directed; [Brazoria County Parks](#)

Nurdle Beach Patrol – self-directed; <https://www.nurdlepatrol.org/app/>

Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey – self-directed; contact [Melanie Hollenshead](#)

Adopt-a-Loop for TMN – self-directed; contact [Cris Tobola](#).

DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays – August 14th and 16th

3rd Saturdays and preceding Thursday – contact [Kathy Pittman](#)

Upcoming Construction Projects (TBA) – contact [Oron Atkins](#)


TMN-COT iNaturalist Data Collection Project; contact [Amanda Gabehart](#)

Time to Restore Project – self-directed; contact [Kathy Pittman](#)

#TMNTuesdays 2025

#TMNTuesdays are a way to learn about top conservation issues of the state, **earn advanced training hours**, and interact with wildlife professionals from across the state!

As webinars are confirmed, details on the speaker, the description of the webinar, and more will be presented on the website.




Online Webinar Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:00pm CT!*

*Some TMNTuesday dates and times are subject to change. Join our Email Listserv to stay updated.



Online Webinar Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

2025

January 14	February 11	March 18* <small>*Not a second Tuesday</small>	April 8
May 13	June 10	July 8	August 12
September 9	October TBA	November 18* <small>*Not a second Tuesday</small>	December 9

Save the dates for our 2025 #TMNTuesday lineup!

All webinars will be the second Tuesday of each month at 12pm CT with a few exceptions. Keep an eye on socials and emails for details!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Texas Master Naturalist 2025 Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 16th through Sunday,
October 19th College Station, Texas

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for the Texas Master Naturalist volunteers from around the state to gather, participate in hands-on educational seminars, and receive all their Advanced Training requirements for the year in one weekend. It's also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas, and to learn from chapters in different regions of the state.

Click here for the [2025 AGENDA](#)

2025 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

EARLY BIRD
FULL EVENT: \$480
TWO DAY (FRI & SAT): \$455
ONE DAY (THUR, FRI OR SAT): \$305

STANDARD
FULL EVENT: \$530
TWO DAY (FRI & SAT): \$505
ONE DAY (THUR, FRI OR SAT): \$355

MEALS
GUEST MEALS: \$400
AWARDS DINNER: \$85

OPEN NOW!

EARLY BIRD: Ends August 31
STANDARD: Ends September 30

FULL EVENT: Includes all sessions, events and meals (Thur. to Sun.) for the entire conference.
TWO DAYS: Includes all sessions, events and meals on Fri. and Sat.
ONE DAY: Includes all sessions, events and meals on either Thur., Fri. OR Sat.
GUEST MEALS: Includes meals ONLY (Thur. to Sun.) for the entire conference.
AWARDS DINNER: Includes meal ticket for Sat. night's dinner ONLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING, VISIT:
[TXMN.TAMU.EDU/2025-ANNUAL-MEETING](https://txmn.tamu.edu/2025-annual-meeting/)

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2025-annual-meeting/>

TMN-COT July Impact Data 2025*

		July*	YTD
Hours	VT	824	8,780
	AT	65	1,402
	Total	889	10,182

Impact Data	Adults	744	3,273
	Youth	1,136	9,811
	Total	1,880	13,084

*will not be considered final until mid-September 2025

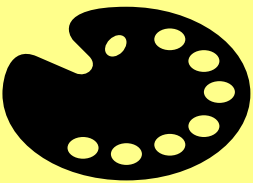
Dave Brandes, Data Manager

CALLING ALL CRADLE OF TEXAS CREATIVES!

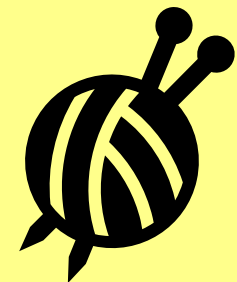


2025 ANNUAL MEETING PHOTO, ART & MEDIA CONTEST

The TMN State Meeting hosts a Photo, Art, and Media Contest for our Texas Master Naturalist program members to showcase their passions, skills, and hard work from the previous year. For 2025, the contest will again be virtual. Be sure to [read the rules](#) in their entirety before entering.



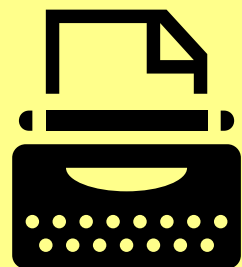
Are you ready to share your best photographs? Did you capture a perfect image of a native prairie, bird, insect, or chapter member at work or play? Photographers may submit one photograph per category, so it's time to start selecting your best to share with your fellow naturalists.



Can you draw, paint, sculpt, carve, sew, or stitch? Send us a photo or video showcasing your creativity.

Does your chapter have a fabulous newsletter, scrapbook, or brochure? We want to see how your chapter educates, records its history, or recruits new members.

(The TMN-COT July Chapter Newsletter has been submitted!)



Entries in our contests will be accepted from **August 1, 2025, 12:00AM to September 1, 2025, 11:59 PM CT**. Winners in each category will be selected by registered Annual Meeting attendees using the Annual Meeting App and will be announced during the Annual Meeting Contest Awards Ceremony.

SOURCE: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/2025-photo-art-media-contest/>

Certifications July 2025

Congratulations to all!

Recertifications

Scott Brown
Jerry Eppner
Kate Harris
Chris Kneupper
Pam Peltier
Kyle Purvis
George Valadez



2025 Pin
Roadrunner

John Boettiger, Membership Director

Milestones

Barbara Whaley
1000 Hours!



June awards at the July General Meeting:



Recertifications:

Marty Cornell, Melanie Hollenshead, Kathy Purvis,
John Boettiger; Membership Director, Jo Myers,
and Richard Schaffhausen



John Boettiger with Amanda Gabehart,
Celebrating 5000 volunteer hours



July Beach Sweep

We had a great turn out of TMN members and concerned citizens of Quintana. There was a massive amount of trash and discards in the Quintana Jetty, and beach area, and the volunteers did their best to remove the vast majority of this trash.

Enjoy the pics and see ya soon!

Blessings

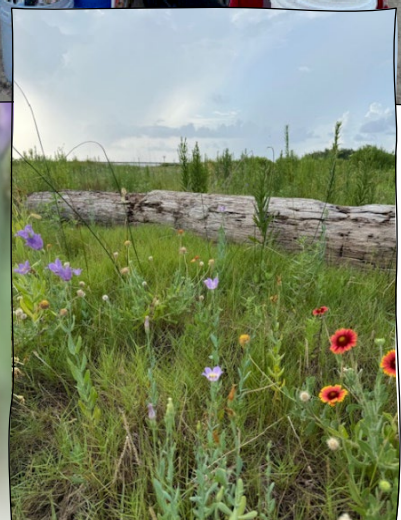
Jimmy & Luanne



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

Here's a summary of your recent cleanup:

Date	July 07, 2025
Duration	2 hours 13 minutes
Number of People	19
Weight of Trash Picked Up	162.7 lbs
Group Name	Team Q
Distance Covered	0.3 Miles



Your cleanup makes a difference! Thank you for being part of a global community, identifying ocean trash and helping find solutions. Check out what others are cleaning and more ways to get involved at <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/icc/>. (Reprint courtesy of Ocean Conservancy)

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	David Skweres, Houston
Immediate Past President	Mickey Dufilho, Brazoria
Training Director	Barbara Whaley, Alvin
Membership Director	John Boettiger, Lake Jackson
Advanced Training Director	Kristine Rivers, Manvel
Volunteer Service Director	Oron Atkins, Lake Jackson
Outreach Director	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
Hospitality Director	Rose Wagner, Sweeny
Communications Director	Patty Brinkmeyer, Brazoria
Training Class Representative 2024	Donna Rich, Angleton
Training Class Representative 2025	Betty Skweres, Houston
Chapter Advisors	John O'Connell, AgriLife Extension Service Jordan Kieffer, TPWD Sea Center Texas
Non-voting positions:	
Chapter Librarian	Debbie Nance, Alvin
Data Manager	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson
Newsletter Editor	Patty Brinkmeyer, Brazoria
Newsletter Contributors	Kathy Pittman, Dave Brandes, John Boettiger, Oron Atkins, Ruby Lewis, Jimmy Salinas, Luanne Salinas, Patty Brinkmeyer

Website	https://txmn.org/tmncot/
Facebook	http://facebook.com/TMN-COT
X	https://x.com/tmncot
E-mail Listserv	http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail

Texas 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 the weekend following the monthly Board Meeting (first Wednesday of each month) by the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome; submission deadline is the day after the monthly Board meeting. Send submissions by e-mail to *Chapter News* Editor at news@tmn-cot.org. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.

