



Chapter News

September 2025

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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.

Cover photo by Karin Saucedo

President's Message



"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." ~ Dr. Seuss

Do you ever think about trying something new, and then talk yourself out of it? Do you think that you are too old or too young for something, or not strong enough, or let fears of “what if this or that happens” drive your decision process? Maybe you don’t sign up for a class when you already have all your AT hours for the year? I can honestly say “I’ve been there.” I’d like to encourage you to take that leap and do something just for yourself.

There are NUMEROUS opportunities for training, for classes and activities in our area. Take a look at the calendars for the Brazoria County Parks Department, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory or Sea Center Texas. Browse through the courses on the AgriLife Learn website. Look at the meeting schedules for local organizations such as the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), “Keep Pearland Beautiful” and the Brazoria County Master Gardener Association. Attend a “TMN Tuesday” livestream or even the TMN Annual meeting. Many events and courses are FREE while others can be a bit pricey. You have to plan and make choices in some cases. This year I’m forgoing other vacations and activities in order to attend the Annual meeting.

I really encourage you to take advantage of what’s offered in our area. Last month, I participated in two days of kayak training offered by Sea Center Texas, and led by our TPWD Chapter Advisor, Jordan Kieffer. Dave Brandes and David Heinicke were also part of the training team. When I read the course outline, I seriously thought about backing out. “I’m too old for this” started to set in. But then I thought about my need to know more about safety in the water, especially since my grandkids are getting old enough now to kayak with their Nana. ***Reason beat out the fear of failure. A huge thank you and kudos to Jordan and her team*** – there was no pressure on the time to complete a task, which made it mentally easier for me to keep trying and successfully complete the exercises. My technique in getting back in my overturned kayak may not have been pretty, but I did it. I got a bit bruised, but I’ll take the feeling of accomplishment over the pain of a few bruises any day.

Continued next page...

Presidents' Message continued from page 1...

My hope for each of you is that you will pursue something new for yourself. Whether it's a new craft or a musical instrument or a potentially difficult course, don't let the fear of failure keep you from following your interests! Your brain will thank you!

Please plan to attend our September 10th Chapter meeting at 6 pm, social time at 5:30 pm. Our presenter will be Karin Saucedo with Project Coyote. We will also have yummy treats from the Brazoria County Library System as a "thank you" for your help with the Summer Library programs. 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

TMN-COT August Impact Data 2025*

		August*	YTD
Hours	VT	511	9,381
	AT	77	1,484
	Total	588	10,865

Impact Data	Adults	28	3,321
	Youth	0	9,836
	Total	28	13,157

*will not be considered final until mid-October 2025
Dave Brandes, Data Manager

September Chapter Meeting

The September 10th 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.

5:30 – 6:00 pm	Social Time and Refreshments
6:00 – 6:15 pm	Welcome and Awards
6:15 – 7:15 pm	Speaker: Karin Saucedo Advanced Training: Project Coyote
7:30 – 8:00 pm	General Membership Meeting <i>(Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting)</i>



Karin is the Texas State Coordinator at Project Coyote. In this role, she helps to expand the organization's core programs and campaigns throughout Texas. Karin is a published wildlife conservation photographer born and raised in Dallas, Texas. She is especially passionate about wild canids and felids and uses her images to give wildlife a voice.

For over a decade, Karin has been involved in animal rescue, rehabilitation, outreach and advocacy. She spends a lot of her time studying animal behavior remotely through camera traps.

Karin's images have been used to educate communities about coexisting with urban wildlife, document wild canid field research and create awareness about the problems with exotic animal ownership. Most recently, Karin was published in the book accompanying the film "[Deep in the Heart: A Texas Wildlife Story](#)" by Ben Masters and also "[Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature Around Dallas Fort Worth](#)" by Amy Martin. Outside of Project Coyote, Karin holds a degree in advertising and photography from Southern Methodist University. She is a certified [Texas Master Naturalist](#) and works with several non-profits. Karin serves on the Advisory Committee for [Texas Native Cats](#), an organization focused on education, advocacy, outreach, and improving the lives of threatened Texas felines. She is a Senior Volunteer at [In-Sync Exotics](#), and the Texas Outreach Representative for [The Canid Project](#). Additionally, she is a Partner Photographer for [Panthera](#), where her images are used to help support the conservation of the world's 40 wild cat species and their ecosystems. Karin co-founded [Song Dog Watch](#), an organization in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex where she and her husband help local communities understand coyote behavior and how to coexist safely with them. They collaborate with wildlife rescues and municipalities in North Texas, providing support and expertise on issues involving coyotes, foxes and bobcats.

Photography Website: karinsaucedo.com

Instagram: [@karinsaucedo](https://www.instagram.com/karinsaucedo)

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](#)

Kid's FishFEST - Bass Pro Shop in Pearland, TX – October 18, 10 am to 2 pm – Contact [Nathan Murphy](#)

KBR Kids Day – Buffalo Bayou Park -October 19, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; Contact: [Ruby Lewis](#)

Sea Center Texas Halloween Spooktacular – October 26, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Contact: [Ruby Lewis](#)

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Fall Intern Class – Assist with sessions/field trips. 9/6 – 11/22 See [Class Schedule](#). Contact [Barbara Whaley](#)

Beach Sweep – Monday, October 6th (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](#)

Texas GLO Adopt-a-Beach 2025 Coastal Fall Clean-up – September 20, 8:30 am – Noon. Statewide
beach clean-up. Locally, Quintana Beach and Surfside/County Beaches. For info and to register for either
site click here: [REGISTER](#)

ONGOING:

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 – September 18th and 20th
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](#)

Save the Date!
Year!

2026



Next year our Cradle of Texas Chapter will celebrate 25 years! How should we commemorate it? Please share your ideas with Kathy Pittman on ways to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and YOUR accomplishments throughout 2026!

Fall Intern Class

The Fall Intern Training will open on September 6th with an Orientation Session beginning at 9 am.

Sessions will be held Wednesday mornings with some Saturday sessions.

Contact [Barbara Whaley](#) if you can assist with any sessions.

[FALL INTERN
CLASS SCHEDULE](#)



It's time to
get your
Hummingbird
feeders out!

1 part sugar
4 parts water
Refill with fresh
nectar every 2 days
during our 80° - 90° Days

COT Members answer the question...

What is your favorite thing about being a Master Naturalist?

*My favorite thing about being a Master Naturalist is the **opportunities** to learn while giving time to my community and its natural environment. -Larry Peterson-*



My favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist is the opportunity to share the love of nature and environment with others in this great county and state. So many opportunities to learn, explore, & share! -Jimmy Salinas

My favorite thing about being a Master Naturalist, it is the enhanced awareness that it has instilled in me. I am so much more entuned with my surroundings than I was before. -Scott Brown



My favorite thing about being a Texas Master Naturalist is the friendships I've made with Chapter Members, as well as sharing and gaining knowledge across the nature spectrum. -Patty Brinkmeyer

A few of my favorite things about being a TMN. While my opportunity availability is low, I would say having opportunities to help the young children/students in our area experience nature in a way they may not have access to otherwise. Secondly, having a front row seat to witness the excitement and joy (in young and old alike) that TMN and partner organization experiences provide for the community. -Shara Jane Marcy



My favorite thing about being a TMN is the community of like-minded individuals. We all love nature in some form or another and it's great to see how together we span an entirety of interests. I also love that we are all working towards the same goal of spreading knowledge within our community. -Emily Matula

I love being a part of the Master Naturalists, because I can learn about and preserve our natural ecosystems. -Nicole Lochmann

2025 FALL FIELD DAY

"Revive and Restore"

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

8:00 am - 12:30 pm



Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

299 Hwy 332 West, Lake Jackson, TX 77566

8:00 - 9:00 am

Optional Enrichment Activities:

Bird Banding Demonstration

Robert and Kay Lookingbill

Entomology Critter Hunt

Angela Griffin and Amanda Gabehart

8:30 - 9:00 am

Main Event Check-in/Social Time

9:00 - 9:05 am

Welcome/Group Break-out

9:05 am - 12:00 pm

Station Rotation

STATION 1: MOTUS Tracking: Martin Hagne, GCBO Executive Director

STATION 2: Public Access Improvement: Oron Atkins and Jackie Hicks

STATION 3: Native & Water Plant Nurseries: Chris Kneupper

STATION 4: Nature Art: Sarah Castillo

STATION 5: Bird Walk: Phil Huxford and Kristine Rivers

12:00 - 12:30 pm

Lunch

Participation is free for chapter members.

Lunch will be provided by the chapter. Carpooling is encouraged.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Certifications August 2025

Congratulations to all!

Initial Certifications

Alyssa Corona
Jodi Jung (March)



John Boettiger, Membership Director

Recertifications

Lisa Martinez

July awards at the August General Meeting:



July Recertifications:

L to R: John Boettiger; Membership Director, Kathy Pittman; President, Jerry Eppner, Kate Harris, George Valadez, Pam Peltier, Scott Brown, Chris Kneupper, Kyle Purvis



Intern Certificates (belated):

Kathy Pittman; President, Shara Jane Marcy, David Skweres, Betty Skweres

August Beach Sweep

Were we in the Bahamas?! That was a comment from a family friend's visit to Surfside yesterday as the surf was calm (flat as a table) and the blue water was all the way to the wrack line!

The same could be said for Quintana Beach, as we conducted our August Beach Sweep with support from the fine people of Quintana! Oh man we covered a little over a mile of beachfront and with a group of 24 we made an impact for the better! Thanks to the City of Quintana, we had plenty of water, breakfast kolaches and door prizes at the end, that just added to the success of the day!

Blessings,
Jimmy & Luanne



 Ocean Conservancy

Thank you for cleaning up with *Clean Swell!*

Here's a summary of your recent cleanup:

Date	August 04, 2025
Duration	1 hours 38 minutes
Number of People	24
Weight of Trash Picked Up	185.3 lbs
Group Name	Team Q
Distance Covered	1.3 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
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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, Kristine Rivers, Jimmy Salinas, Luanne Salinas, Barbara Whaley, Angela Griffin, 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.

