



Chapter News

November 2025

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Cradle of Texas Chapter

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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



"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." ~ Helen Keller

The month of November can be our final chance to rest before the flurry of the holidays or it can be a time of great activity – fall festivals, winter garden prep and a host of other activities. How will you spend these next few weeks?

For me, as a Catholic, November is a time to remember those who have died and gone before us. All Souls Day is celebrated on November 2nd, and we take the weeks leading up to Advent to reflect on our own lives and those that we have known and loved. In the Mexican tradition, Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead is a time where families remember loved ones. As Master Naturalists, we can remember Chapter members that are no longer with us. How do you remember these fellow Master Naturalists? Did they make you laugh? Did they teach you something important? Are you a better Naturalist because of them and their friendship?

What about other influential people that are no longer living, but may have had a profound influence on your journey as a Master Naturalist? I have been reading "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold, widely considered the father of the Naturalist movement. Leopold's writings are wonderful and have made me more conscious of how I interact with nature and how I observe my surroundings. Jane Goodall is another person I idolized as a child but then only sporadically followed as an adult. I wish I'd studied her work more in depth while she was alive. Goodall's field research led to a greater understanding of primates in the wild and raised awareness of threats to the few remaining large apes in the wild. Who are your environmental heroes and how have they influenced you?

Take this month to reflect on your role in Nature, and how others have influenced you on your journey as a Texas Master Naturalist™!

Or next meeting will be on November 12th at 6 pm at AgriLife. Lauren Ward will be speaking on Native Bee populations. I hope you will join us!

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

November Chapter Meeting

The November 12th 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: Lauren Ward, Extension Program Specialist Advanced Training: Native Bees of Texas Texas is home to hundreds of native bee species that vary widely in appearance and biology. This presentation will cover major groups of native bees and discuss different social structures, nesting habits, and specialized pollinator/plant interactions found among them.
7:30 – 8:00 pm	General Membership Meeting (Hours for Volunteer Time (VT) TBD at close of meeting)



Lauren Ward is a Honey Bee Program Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Brazoria County, TX. She earned a master's degree in Entomology from Texas A&M University and has over ten years of experience in honey bee research, education, and practical beekeeping. Lauren has had a lifelong interest in insects, agriculture, and natural systems.

lauren.ward@ag.tamu.edu



December Speaker: Mary Schwartz Topic: Vultures

Outreach Opportunities

DEEP – BNWR Discovery Center - 11/18 & 11/20; Contact [Lee Gaston](#)

Captain Shishka Bob – Brazoria County Fairgrounds – 11/18, 11/19 (set up 11/17) Operate the Interactive –Water Cycle station (Spinners); Contact [John O’Connell](#)

Holiday in the Park – Brazos Bend State Park – *PENDING* 12/13, Contact [Ruby Lewis](#)

BNWR Discovery Center Open House – 12/26/2025 thru 1/1/2026, 11 am to 4 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 – Tuesday, December 2nd
(weather permitting), 8:00 am – 10:00 am,
Meet on the beach at the 16th Street entrance,
directly across from Freeport LNG Headquarters.
Contact [Jimmy Salinas](#) or [Luanne Salinas](#)

Christmas Bird Counts (CBC’s) –
12/14, 12/15, 12/16, 12/19, 12/20, 1/3/2026
See [calendar](#) for event locations and details.



ONGOING:

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

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

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 – November 13th 8:00 am – 11:00 am
3rd Saturdays and preceding Thursday (Saturday cancelled for November) 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](#)



2025 FALL FIELD DAY "Revive and Restore"



On October 8th, 70 COT Members participated in our annual Fall Field Day. A fun way to get AT hours. We were treated to the following trainings:

MOTUS Tracking: Martin Hagne

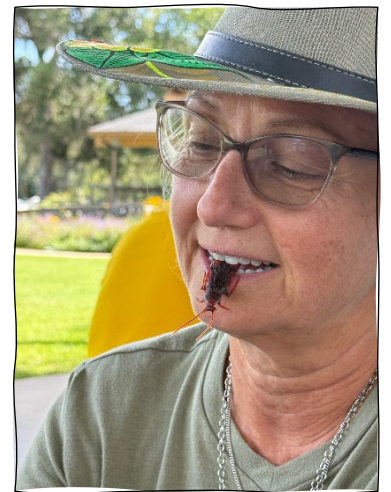
Public Access Improvement: Oron Atkins, Jackie Hicks

Native & Water Plant Nurseries: Chris Kneupper

Nature Art: Sarah Castillo

Bird Walk: Phil Huxford, Kristine Rivers

Bonus: The Watershed Game: John O'Connell





Photos contributed by:
Patty Brinkmeyer, Mickey Dufilho, Angela Griffin, John O'Connell





Certifications October 2025

Congratulations to all!

Recertifications

Kimberly Calhoun
Mike Hampy
Christina Hartman
Jodi Jung
Carolyn May-Monie
Lynne Ray
Betty Skweres
David Skweres
Brenda Stitt
Robin Townsend



2025 Pin
Roadrunner

John Boettiger, Membership Director

Milestones

Kathy Purvis
1000 Hours!



TMN-COT October Impact Data 2025*

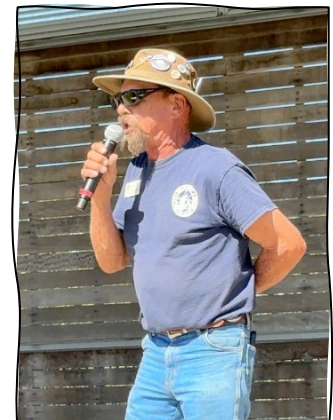
		October*	YTD
Hours	VT	570	11,096
	AT	241	1,939
	Total	811	13,035

Impact Data	Adults	169**	3,615
	Youth	0**	9,918
	Total	169**	13,533

*will not be considered final until mid-December 2025

** Incomplete reporting

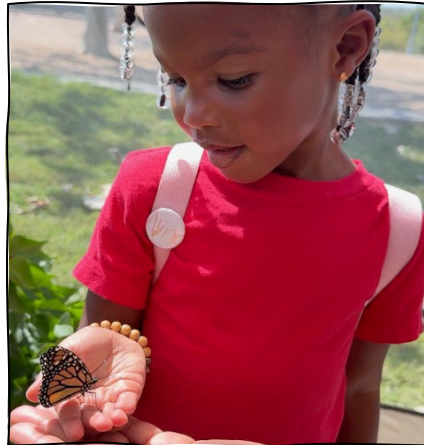
Dave Brandes, Data Manager



KBR KIDS DAY Contributed by Patty Brinkmeyer

On October 19th, COT Members joined Friends of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuges at Buffalo Bayou Park for KBR Kids Day. We have participated in this event for several years as part of USFW's Urban Initiative. Many of these children have never experienced "nature". As always, the reptiles and butterflies where a hit, as well as the Birds of Prey Program.





514
guests
toured the
butterfly tent!





HOWDY!





Representing Cradle of Texas Chapter at the State Meeting:
Hugo Martinez, Lisa Martinez, Betty Skweres, Mickey Dufilho,
Angela Giffin, Kathy Pittman, Kristine Rivers. Not pictured, David Skweres.

2025

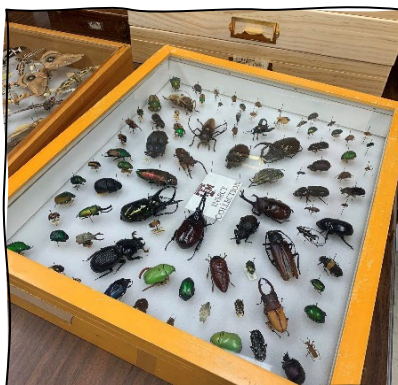


STATE MEETING

Tour of the Texas A&M University Insect Collection



Images procured from the TMN-COT Facebook page.



Blacklighting Events
100's of species were
documented in iNaturalist.



John O'Connell, Mickey Dufilho, Kathy Pittman



Field Sessions
to multiple local parks and wildlife preserves



Kristine Rivers, Lauren Young; Keynote Speaker



Kathy Pittman, Betty Skweres



Mary Spolyar, Angela Griffin

October Beach Sweep

Well mother nature sure pulled one over on us today! The beach was barely accessible by vehicle the last 3 days, and we anticipated the same today for our Beach Sweep, but nooo! The morning was great, and the beach was accessible. We had a great time combing the recent high tide wrack line for trash and debris. As you can see from the Ocean Conservancy Summary, there was plenty to be removed. Some notable items that failed to make the list because of the Apps item specific categories, included large diameter ropes, remains of a canopy/tent, and large pieces of steel and cable. Thanks to Steve Alongis and his tractor we were able to remove these larger items.

We had a great time with over 21 volunteers, young and "mature" as well. Texas beaches are gradually transitioning to the fall cycle and it's a great time to observe the changes and enjoy the wildlife.

Thanks to all of the TMN members, concerned citizens, and inhabitants of Quintana for helping to make a difference.

*Blessings,
Jimmy & Luanne*



Thank you for cleaning up with
Clean Swell!

Here's a summary of your recent cleanup:

Date	October 06, 2025
Duration	2 hours 2 minutes
Number of People	21
Weight of Trash Picked Up	446 lbs
Group Name	Team Q



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

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Training Class Representative 2025	Betty Skweres, Houston
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Chapter Librarian	Debbie Nance, Alvin
Data Manager	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson
Newsletter Editor	Patty Brinkmeyer, Brazoria
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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.

