



Chapter News

October 2026

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Chapter News is published by
Texas Master Naturalist
Cradle of Texas Chapter

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979-864-1558

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:
Roseate Spoonbills at BNWR
- Patty Brinkmeyer



President's Message



***"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows
into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness
into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will
drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn."***
John Muir, The Mountains of California

Welcome to "Hotumn!" Where is our relief from the heat?? I have been waiting and waiting and waiting..... Our first "slightly less hot" front is just around the corner, I know it!

While our daylight may be officially growing shorter each day, there is certainly no shortage of events for members to participate in! PLEASE be sure to check out our calendar and consider helping in one or two or more events in October and November. There are organizations that COUNT on us and other volunteers to make their events a success. Let's not disappoint them.

On Friday October 2nd, we participated in the Keep Pearland Beautiful Plant Thyme Luncheon, which is their annual fundraising event. We met many residents from the area, which is wonderful for us to be able to get our name out there. This year, I was able to meet my local Pearland hero, Mrs. Delores Fenwick. Yes, you may call me a "fan girl" of this remarkable lady! Mrs. Fenwick is one of the original board members of the Clean Pearland Committee which was formed in 1982. She continued to serve in several capacities for over 35 years, and in 2017, she was named the recipient of the Keep Texas Beautiful O.P. Schnable Award for her lifetime of service. Mrs. Fenwick has been a mentor, a teacher and an advocate for Keep Pearland Beautiful, Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful.



Joanne Knodel, Delores Fenwick,
Kathy Pittman

Continued on page 2...

Named for Mrs. Fenwick, The Delores Fenwick Nature Center is where we have our joint wildscape maintenance project with the Brazoria County Master Gardeners. JoAnne Knodel, Master Gardener and I initiated the project after we visited the greenhouse there in 2024. Cullen Ondracek, the DFNC Manager showed us some of the plants in the wildscape and we noticed that it needed a LOT of TLC. The Nature Center officially opened in March 2019. Go check it out, it's a wonderful facility!

Mrs. Fenwick's determination also helped in the creation of the Stella Robert's Recycling Center which now processes over 900 tons of recycling each year. Any resident of Brazoria County can take items there to be recycled. Check them out at [Recycling Center Info • Keep Pearland Beautiful](#). Our Chapter is honored to help continue her legacy of environmental stewardship in Pearland and throughout Brazoria County!

I hope you have a wonderful October, and good luck to all the teams attending Fall Field Day at Brazos Bend State Park on Wednesday October 14th!

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



Mary Holler

2026 UNSUNG HERO

Congratulations to our own COT Member, Mary Holler for being nominated and honored as an Unsung Hero by *The Facts* newspaper. A wonderful write up on her accomplishments was in the October issue of Brazos Monthly.

In addition to her countless hours volunteering with TMN, Mary also serves the West Columbia Historical Museum, St. John's Catholic Church, the Columbia Rosenwald School and Sea Center Texas.

Outreach Opportunities

KBR Kid's Day – 10/18, 11 am to 3 pm – contact [Ruby Lewis](#)

Sea Center Texas - Halloween Spooktacular 10/18, 3 pm to 6 pm

Contacts [Barbara Whaley](#) (TMN) or [Morgan Degner](#) (SCT)

City of Pearland "Outdoors for All" – Saturday, Nov 7th. Set-up 9 am – 10 am, event time 10 am - 2 pm at Independence Park, Pearland (3449 Pearland Pkwy, Pearland TX)
Contact [Kathy Pittman](#)

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Beach Sweep – Monday, October 12th (weather permitting), 8:00 am – 10:00 am Quintana Jetty
Contact [Jimmy Salinas](#) 979-824-4008 or [Luanne Salinas](#). Also, Monday November 2nd.

Abigail Arias Memorial Park – Planting Prep Day – Thursday, November 5th.
2 work shifts (9 am -12 pm; 1 pm – 4 pm) Facilitate site prep and layout. Contact [Oron Atkins](#)
[REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Abigail Arias Memorial Park - Community Planting Friday, Nov. 6th - Formal community event and installation completion (9 am – 12 pm). We would greatly appreciate any volunteers or support from the TMN-COT chapter. Contact [Oron Atkins](#) [REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Apple Snails and Fishing Line Removal – Resoft County Park TBD after nesting season.

ONGOING:

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

Camp Mohawk Pocket Prairie – workdays TBA; contact [Dick Schaffhausen](#)

Resoft Park Pollinator Gardens – workdays TBA; contact [Kate Harris](#)

DFNC Educational Pond and Native Garden Habitat Workdays – Saturday, October 17th and Thursday, October 29th, 8:00 am – 11:00 am, Contact [Kathy Pittman](#) November dates TBA

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

Citizen Science:

iNaturalist Texas Pollinator BioBlitz – 10/16 thru 11/1 – self-directed – contact [Angela Griffin](#)

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

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

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

Yellow-Legged Hornet Project (TBA) – contact [Oron Atkins](#)

September 8, 2026

Our Chapter was honored in Brazoria County Commissioner's Court with a Proclamation congratulating the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter on our 25th Anniversary.

Thank you to everyone that took part and represented the Chapter in the Courtroom. It was a great turnout, and an honor to be recognized for our efforts.





Are you participating?

Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter's *25th Anniversary Challenge!*

We're challenging all chapter members to participate in 25 activities in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. Each time you participate in any *chapter-sponsored activity**, you will receive a sticker to add to your book.

Each chapter member who completes the challenge will be recognized as a *25th Anniversary Challenge Superstar* and receive a special commemorative decal.

Check this dedicated Google Calendar for detailed information on each event.

[EVENT CALENDAR](#) (updated regularly)

Anniversary Events at a glance...

Pick up your record book at the October Fall Field Day or any General Meeting.

Kristine Rivers - 25th Anniversary Committee Chair

[Registrations that are currently open](#)

Butterfly Walk

DONE!

Hike & Seek

(Registration closed)

10/14/2026

Abigal Arias Community Planting

11/5/2026

11/6/2026

Foraging Walk

11/17/2026

Native Plant Propagation

12/5/2026

Whooping Crane Trip

(Registration closed)

12/11/2026

Beach Sweep

1/9/2027

Chapter Project Tree Planting

1/30/2027

Advanced Training Day

2/27/2027

Nature Art Day

3/2/2027

Family Picnic

4/3/2027

Evening on the Prairie

5/1/2027

Coastal Watershed Game

6/5/2027

Mothing Night

7/19/2027

The Next Twenty-five...

8/11/2027

*Regularly scheduled chapter meetings, volunteer activities, outreach events and advanced trainings count toward the 25-activity requirement.

Welcome

to our 2026 Fall Intern Class



Barbara Whaley, Training Director



Gregory
Quintanilla

I am currently living in Columbia Lakes, West Columbia, TX. I work at Killen's Steakhouse as server. I absolutely love nature, especially insects. I have been collecting insects since I was 7 years old. Something special about me is probably my voice, it is easily recognizable.



Izel (Izzy)
Hammock

I currently live in Alvin, TX. I am a student (junior year) at UHCL. My major is Biology with specialization in ecology/microbiology. I want to be a Master Naturalist to gain in person experience for my future career. Also, I have a deep passion for nature and sharing my knowledge with future generations. I have 2 cats and a dog. My cats' names are Casper and Cheddar Bob and my dog is named Roger. I enjoy crocheting, fishing, hiking and art. I hope to work in conservations research when I graduate. I would also like to get involved in bird watching.



Dana Guill

I was born and raised in Texas and currently live in Angleton, TX. I worked as a Medical Assistant for 25 years. I joined the TMN program to honor my father, a naturalist at heart, who gave me the appreciation for nature and all life.



Walter
Hutchins

I currently live with my wife and 3 kids in Missouri City, TX. Prior to that, we lived in Japan, Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky and Hawaii. This is our 3rd time living in the Houston area and we are looking forward to retiring and staying in the area. I am interested in TMN because my educational background has been related to Biology/National Resources, but my professional experience has been in the military. As I approach retirement/2nd career, I'm looking forward to getting back outdoors and learning more!



Clara Webb

I am a lifetime resident of Clute/Lake Jackson, TX and a Dow retiree after more than 35 years. I had project management and environmental laboratory and regulatory experience with Dow. I love the outdoors, gardening, anything with a focus on nature. I saw this mentioned in The Facts newspaper and wanted to learn more.



Derek
Debelgott

I live in Sweeney, Texas. I am currently a full-time student at the University of Houston, Clear Lake, majoring in Biological Science with specialization in Ecology/Microbiology/Aquatic Marine. I also work part-time at Brazosport College as a Supplemental Instructor Leader. I found out about the program from a biology professor at Brazosport College. I am looking forward to completing my training and hours. I think this is an awesome opportunity!



Sharon Cayer

I recently moved from League City, TX to Lake Jackson, TX. I am retired from Healthcare Administration and am a nature lover in all aspects. I am new to beekeeping and my hobby is volunteering. I am looking forward to the TMN training and learning new things about nature and our ecosystems.



Brandi Morse

I live in Freeport, TX. and am a recent empty nester. I've been a stay-at-home mom for 28 years. I moved from the Katy suburbs 4.5 years ago and bought some land. I love being in nature and want to learn about the local ecology. I'm interested in all things nature and gardening. I love to learn and meet new people.



Conner Glass

I am 33 years old, born and raised in Houston, TX. I currently live in East Pearland, TX with my girlfriend, Nicole, our 2 Italian Greyhounds (Chapman and Maple) and our cat, Mrs. Finch. I graduated in 2015 from Texas A&M with a degree in Business Administration in Supply Chain Management. I have worked in corporate procurement for over 10 years but recently decided to try to find a career in ecology, restoration, or horticulture. I am a member of the Brazoria County Master Gardeners, have worked at Friendswood Garden Emporium and Greenstar Wetland Plant Farm. My love for plants and the natural world started when I began my native garden 5 years ago. I have over 80 native plant species and am a pollinator gardener. I heard about TMN from my prior boss, Mary Cool, who recently completed intern training. I am obsessed with native plants and ecology restoration. I believe we, as a human race, have become so disengaged with the natural world and have got away from interacting with the plants, insects and land we evolved with. I believe this is a big reason for the mental health crisis, and we must preserve and spend time and get to know our local environment. I'm excited to learn!!



Georgianne
(Georgi) Bell

I live in Lake Jackson, TX and have been a Texas resident since 2014. My educational background is in nursing, specifically pediatrics. I currently volunteer at Sea Center Texas and do sea turtle patrol for Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research. I heard about the TMN program at Sea Center Texas. Something special: I grew up on the shores of Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area.

Fall Intern Training- October Schedule

For full training schedule and info [CLICK HERE](#)

Current COT Members may sit in on training classes. If tagging along on a field trip, please notify [Barbara Whaley](#) in advance, due to possible restrictions or requirements.

Class	Day	Date	Time	Topic	Text Unit#	Location	Comments
Advanced Training (AT)	Wed	10/14/2026	9:30 am – 2:00 pm	Fall Field Day “Hike & Seek”		Brazos Bend State Park	Sunscreen, Bug Spray Water, Water, Water BRING REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE OR CUP
Required Class (IT)	Sat	10/17/2026	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Intro to Plants – Sarah Castillo Field Trip – Patty Brinkmeyer	#11	Brazoria County Master Gardners BEES Demonstration Gardens	Notebook, Pencil/Pen, Snacks, Lunch, Drink, Sunscreen, Bug Spray. Water, Water, Water
Required Class (IT)	Wed	10/21/2016	9:00 am – 12:00 PM 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Texas Water Resources – Brazos River Watershed – Mel McKey Historical Naturalists of Texas – Marlon Nation	#9 #3	AgriLife Extension Service Building - Auditorium	Notebook, Pencil/Pen, Snacks, Lunch and Drink, Mosquito Spray, Sunscreen, Water, Water, Water
Required Class (IT)	Sat	10/24/2026	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Archaeology Class and Field Trip – Chris Kneupper	#2	Lecture location – TBD Field Trip – Auto tour to various historical places in Brazoria County	Notebook, Pencil/Pen, Snacks, Lunch and Drink, Mosquito Spray, Sunscreen, Water, Water, Water
Required Class (IT)	Wed	10/28/2026	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Entomology Class and Field Trip – Ed Barrios	#13	Brazoria National Wildlife Rescue DEEP Classroom	Notebook, Pencil/Pen, Snacks, Lunch and Drink, Mosquito Spray, Sunscreen, Water, Water, Water



Outreach

Extreme Hummingbird Extravaganza



David Dungan



Roxanne Walkowiak, Rose Wagner



David Dungan, Ed Barrios

Strawberry Jamboree



Roxanne Walkowiak, Kathy Pittman

Keep Pearland Beautiful - Plant Thyme Luncheon



Donna Rich, Kathy Pittman

Certifications September 2026

Congratulations!

Recertifications

Mike Hampy
Sherry Summers

Milestones

**Janet Townsend
1000 Hours!**



August certification recognized at the September meeting:



2026 Pin
Bobcat

Recertification August

John O'Connell, Kathy Pittman; President

25th Anniversary Luncheon

Keynote Speaker:

Mary Pearl Meuth

TMN Assistant State Coordinator
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

When: November 14, 2026

Time: Noon – 2 pm

Where: Dude Payne Event Center
Brazoria County Parks Dept.
41871 State Highway 288
Angleton, Texas

DOOR PRIZES!

REGISTER NOW

CLICK HERE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tmncotmembersonly>



57 members strong so far! Stay in the loop!

This is a TMN-COT members only page where you can share pertinent information to the group, share your nature photos and adventures, event photos, volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers, etc. Think of it as a community of friends.

TMN-COT 2026 Impact Data		September*	YTD
Hours	VS	760	11,353
	AT	95	1,618
	Total	855	12,971
Impact Data	Adults	76	4,194
	Youth	10	15,127
		86	19,321

*will not be considered final until mid-November 2026

Dave Brandes, Data Manager

September Beach Sweep

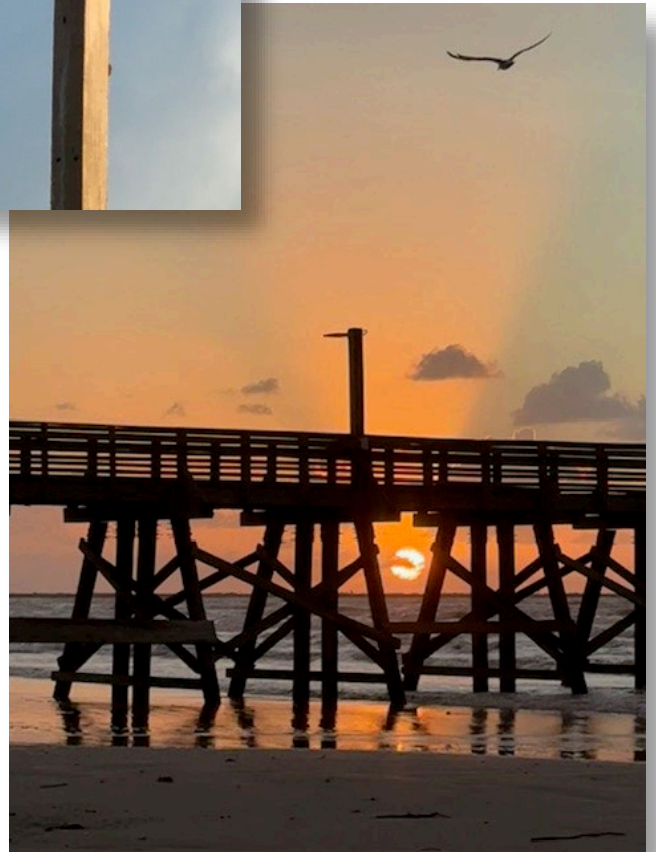
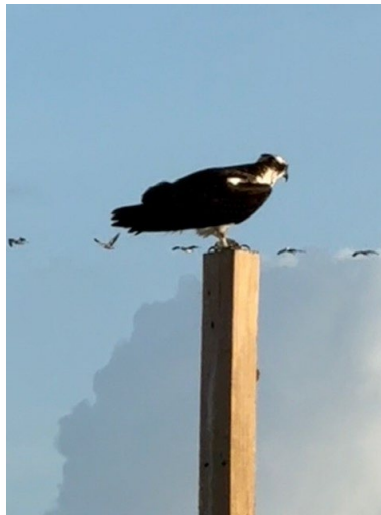
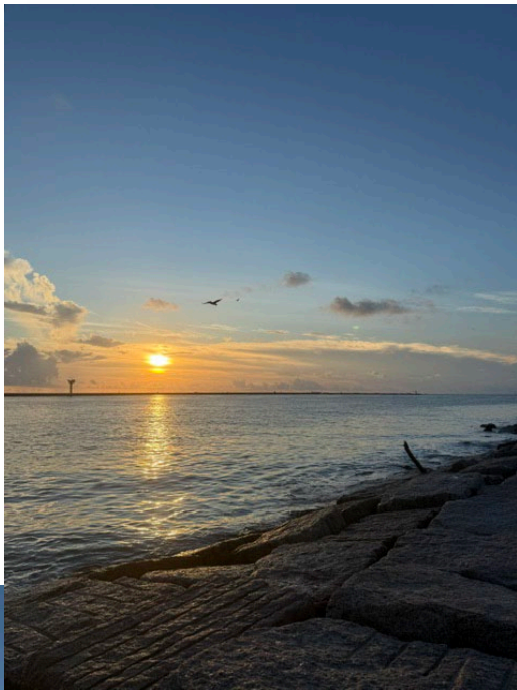
Contributed by Jimmy and Luanne Salinas

Well, as most of you know, TS Edouard caused us to postpone our September Sweep. We decided to just move on to October and cancel the September Sweep.

With that said, we plan on conducting our October Beach Sweep on MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 8 AM TO 10 AM AT THE QUINTANA JETTY Parking Area.

Hopefully, we will have some "Fall" like weather to enhance our efforts and enjoyment.

Hope to see you there! In the meantime, enjoy these photos that Luanne took.



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)

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Barbara Whaley, Patty Brinkmeyer

Website <https://txmn.org/tmncot/>
Facebook <http://facebook.com/TMN-COT>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tmncot.brazoria>
E-mail Listserv <http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail>

[Facebook TMN-COT Members Only](#)

Texas Master Naturalist Email Lists

TMN-COT Chapter list

- Instructions <https://txmn.org/tmncot/organization/email-lists/>
- Send messages to COT members 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 5:00 PM 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.

