

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, July 12, 2017
Texas AgriLife Extension Building
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903**

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Snack Team: Barbara and Ellis Burkhardt, Roy Morgan, Elaine Crews, Carole Wenny, Dick Schaffhausen
9:00 AM – 9:50 AM	General Meeting and Nature Notes <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time</i>
10:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Speaker: Kari Howard, Coastal Conservation Program, Audubon Texas, Topic: <i>Texas Estuarine Resource Network Program (TERN)</i>



Kari Howard [1]

Kari Howard began her passion for the environment during a Hawaiian field study course that sparked a fire in the areas of coastal and marine life. After graduating Texas A&M University at Galveston and graduated with a Bachelors' Degree in Marine Biology, she has worked in various lab settings, wetland consulting and delineation, and outreach and education in environmental fields.

In 2011, Kari was the Habitat and Stewardship Coordinator for the Artist Boat completing three grants that restored over 26 acres of barrier island dune habitat along Galveston Island and Follet's Island along with guiding kayak adventures around multiple bay systems. Since 2010, she has enjoyed her time as a Texas Master Naturalist for the Galveston Bay Chapter and during her free time she is an avid gardener and encourages landscaping with Texas native plants that specifically attract birds and butterflies. Currently she works for Audubon Texas, Coastal Conservation Program and brings her skills, experience, and passion for conserving wild spaces and protecting wildlife to the Audubon team to develop a new citizen science program monitoring nesting waterbirds called Texas Estuarine Resource Network (TERN). [2]

ABSTRACT

The Texas Estuarine Resource Network (TERN) is a community-based citizen science program promoting bird monitoring and conservation, managed by the Audubon Texas Coastal Program. The TERN program continues Audubon's legacy of protecting colonial waterbirds by engaging citizens in the community to gather valuable data about bird populations in foraging grounds and rookery habitats. The data collected through citizen science programs can be incorporated into management and conservation plans, and influence local, state and federal policy development.

TERN is seeking volunteers to help research two main topics: colonial waterbird rookery monitoring and waterbird foraging habitat monitoring. Rookery islands cannot exist without adequate foraging habitat and foraging habitat quality can have an effect on the production of chicks in nearby rookeries. Through our free training program volunteers will learn how to identify local species of colonial water birds, visit rookery island and wetland foraging grounds, learn current scientific survey protocols and data collections, and will assist researchers with conducting these surveys by boat and by land. [3]



[1] Kari Howard. LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kari-howard-bab7744a/>

[2] Kari Howard. Galveston FeatherFest. <http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com/leader/kari-howard/>

[3] TERN Citizen Science. Houston Audubon. <http://tx.audubon.org/conservation/tern-citizen-science>