



SEPTEMBER 2017

Chapter News

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KRISTINE RIVERS



Little did we know when Dan Reilly from the National Weather Service spoke at our August meeting about "Hurricanes and Hurricane Hazards" that the topic would hit so close to home just two short weeks later. It was a very interesting presentation, and provided us with much-needed insight on the hazards that we would soon be facing. I made a note that on average we get a hurricane landfall in our area once every nine years. Although Harvey landed to our west, we most certainly felt its impact here, and it has indeed been nine years since Ike.

I know that some of our members evacuated, and some of us hunkered down, but I hope that you and your family made it through the storm safely whatever decision you made. Unfortunately, some of our members did have water in their homes and vehicles, and others have family who did. They have already begun the long recovery process, and for a few it is not the first time that they have been

through this ordeal. It is difficult, emotional, and often overwhelming work, and they will need all the support and assistance that they can get.

Many of us who were not directly impacted have been doing what we can to help friends and family who were, and I encourage you to reach out to other chapter members whether you need help or want to offer it. Even small gestures can mean a lot during these stressful times.

After some discussion, the Board has decided to hold the September Chapter meeting as planned on September 13. Although we realize that many members may not be able to make it to the meeting, it is our hope that those who can will enjoy some fellowship and a return to normal routine. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Kristine Rivers is the president of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. She can be reached at rivers@tmn-cot.org.

CONTENTS

- Page 1**
President's Message
- Page 2**
Next General Meeting
- Page 3**
Membership Report;
New Calendar Codes
- Page 4**
Eclipse with Friends
- Page 5**
Who am I?
- Page 6**
In Memoriam: Peter Conaty
- Page 7**
Officers, Directors, Email



<https://facebook.com/TMN.COT>

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

Texas A&M AgriLIFE
Brazoria County Office
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515-8903
979-864-1558 (Angleton)
979-388-1558 (Brazosport)
281-756-1558 (Alvin)
979-388-1566 (Fax)
<http://tmn-cot.org>
news@tmn-cot.org

The Texas Master Naturalist program is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people without regard to socio-economic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Masthead photo by P&P Romfh.

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
Chapter News – September 2017**

"A snapshot of Texas as it used to be." Nash Prairie Preserve, 2017. Photo: The Nature Conservancy. See Page 6 for an in memoriam tribute to Peter Michael Conaty.



Texas Master Naturalist Program—Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Texas AgriLife Extension Building
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Snack Team: Mary Helen Israel, Becky McClendon, Jimmy Salinas, Connie Stolte
9:00 AM – 10:00 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: Scott Jones, Director of Advocacy, Galveston Bay Foundation Topic: <i>The State of Galveston Bay System Oysters with Special Emphasis on Christmas Bay and Drum Bay</i>



Scott Jones

In his position as **Director of Advocacy, Scott Jones** ensures that the Galveston Bay Foundation is an active participant in the public review of projects, initiatives and issues that impact the Bay—from individual wetland dredge and fill projects to seafood consumption safety to waste site cleanups. He seeks to foster communication between all users of the Bay so that negative impacts can be reduced and improvements to Bay health can be made.

Scott has been with the Foundation since 2008. He previously worked at the Galveston Bay Estuary Program from 2000-2008, TCEQ Water Quality Standards from 1998-2000 and Galveston County Pollution Control from 1996-1998.

Scott holds a B.S. in Aquatic Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.



GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1987 under the laws of the State of Texas. The Foundation's strength is that it involves a true cross-section of Bay interests to address issues and concerns related to Galveston Bay. It is managed by a strong Board of Directors whose members represent sport and commercial fishing groups, government agencies, recreational users, environmental groups, shipping, development, and business interests.

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve and enhance the Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come.

Its advocacy programs allow GBF to serve as the guardian of Galveston Bay, and as such, GBF reviews numerous projects and actively participates in the public review of those projects by attending public meetings and submitting written public comments. An overarching goal is to encourage and actively seek solutions to conflicts among the diverse users of the Bay; it attempts to balance the multiple uses of Galveston Bay so that the long-term interests of the Bay itself are not compromised. With its partners, GBF has successfully supported passage of state and federal legislation on behalf of the Bay: the Texas Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act, the Texas Estuaries Act, the Texas Coastal Management Program, and the Federal Clean Waters and Estuary Restoration Act of 2000.

Source: Galveston Bay Foundation website <http://galvbay.org/>



Membership Report by Pete and Peggy Romfh, Membership Directors

Congratulations to those who recently recertified or reached new hours milestones in 2017. Those receiving awards in September include:

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)

Neeta Allen
Rainbo Johnson
Roy Morgan
Kim Richardson
Robert Salzer

Impact Data—January-August

37,825 Adults and Children

Hours Totals—January-August

12,644 hours VT 1,276 hours AT

At the August 9, regular chapter meeting held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, nine members recertified, including: Marty Cornell, Cindy Goodrum, Jerry Krampota, John Minkert, Leo Novak, Pam Peltier, Ken Sluis, Linda Sluis, and George Valadez.

Receiving silver dragonfly pins for achieving 500 hours were Karen Leder and Lisa Myers.



Photo by Dick Schaffhausen.

New Calendar Codes by Neal McLain

The TMN-COT calendar now includes codes to identify the type of event listed, which should make it easier for chapter members to quickly identify potential, advanced training or volunteer opportunities. The codes are:

AT = Approved for Advanced Training

IT = Approved for Intern Training

VT = Approved for Volunteer Time

FYI = For information only; not approved for AT/IT/VT.

Note that IT events may be approved as AT for certified members, subject to approval of the Training Director. Visit the calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/BrazosCal>.

Summer 2017 Camp Roundup by Mike Mullenweg

Another summer has come and gone and with it another successful Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park. This summer, Brazoria County Parks, aided by TMN-COT volunteers, taught 22 children all about the joys of being outside.

Nature Camp, which ran from June 12th through the 15th, introduced campers to such activities as photography, archeology, the water cycle, bug sweeping, fishing, archery and many others. Even through the hot Texas Gulf Coast summer weather, Master Naturalists supported an awesome camp that had campers and their parents exclaiming about the wide array of engaging activities.

New this year was an opportunity for a second week of camp at Quintana Beach County Park.

In this its first year, the Quintana Nature Camp attracted 15 campers ages seven to twelve. Some campers came to both weeks of camp, and some



just took advantage of the new camp on the south side of the county. Campers got hands on with nets, screens and shovels and learned about different habitats on the beach and the animals that call them home. The kids even had the opportunity to find and dig up a simulated turtle's nest.

Assisting Mike Mullenweg, Brazoria County Parks Lead Interpreter/Events and Trails Coordinator, with Ed Barrios as Camp Organizer, were: Patty Brinkmeyer, Jennifer Caulkins, Johnny Dwyer, Julia Geisler, Lou Golish, Jerry Krampota, Ann Lange, Ruby Lewis, Herb Myers, Jo Myers, Lisa Myers, and Sheryl Rogers, all at Camp Mohawk County Park, and Bill Ahlstrom and Bryan Frazier at Quintana Beach.

Along with teaching campers valuable lessons in the natural sciences, which they will use in



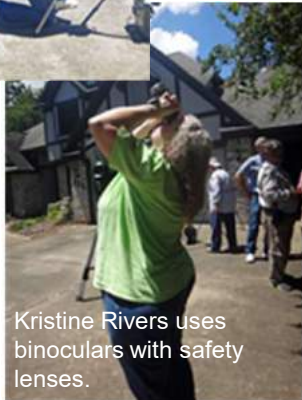
school, Master Naturalists demonstrated that it is fun to be outside. In an era when kids can spend the summer inside in front of a screen, that is a valuable lesson indeed.

(Top) At Camp Mohawk Nature Camp: Attendees learn about alligators. (From left) Herb Myers leads campers in bug sweeping. Quintana Beach Nature Camp: Mike Mullenweg, a camper, and "friend"; seining to catch various animals to identify.

Eclipse with Friends by Lisa Myers



Pete Romfh (center) viewing the eclipse.



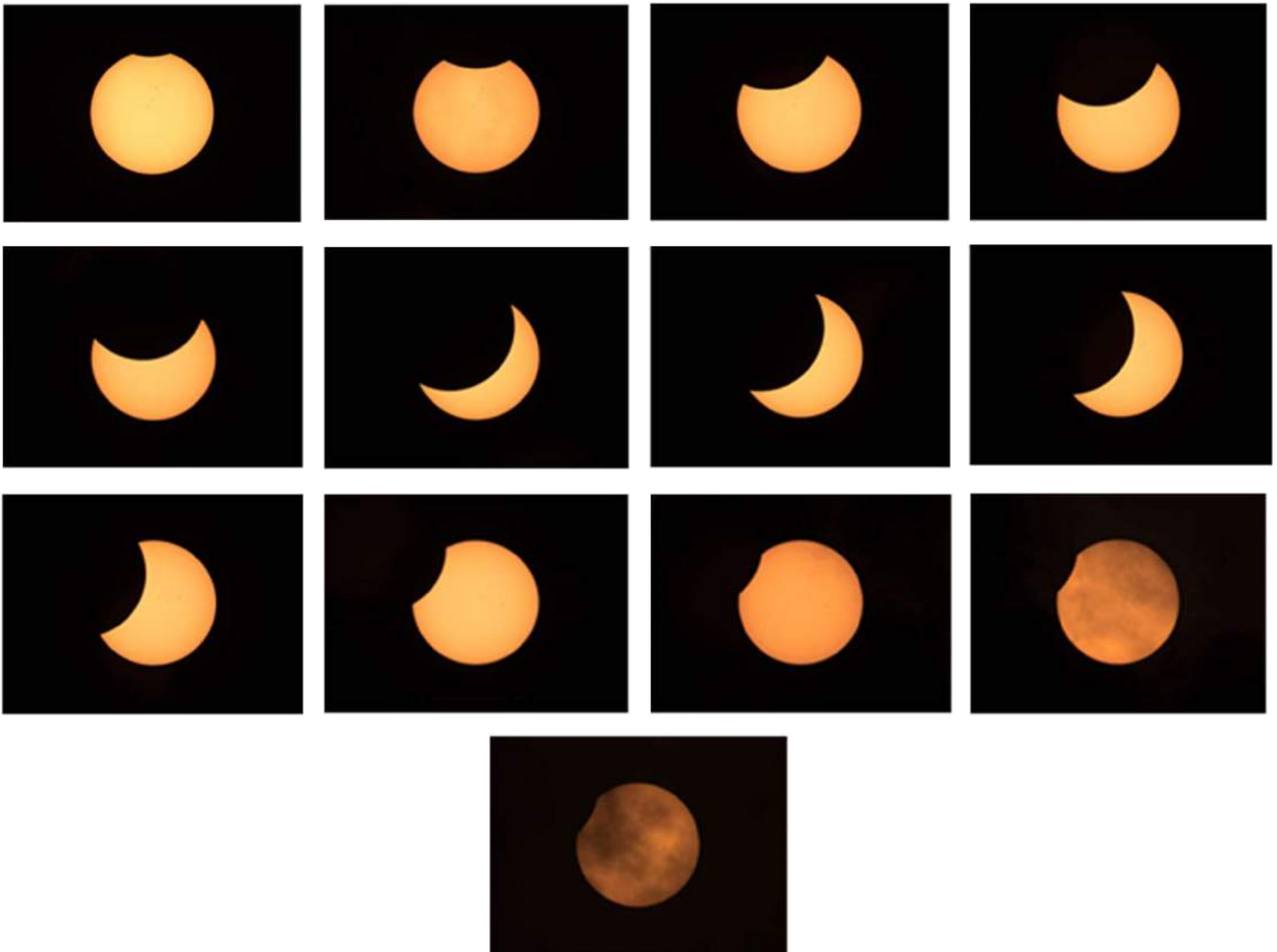
Kristine Rivers uses binoculars with safety lenses.

Several Master Naturalists from the COT chapter accepted Dave Brandes' generous offer to the membership to join him, along with some of his friends and neighbors, to view the August 21st eclipse from the comfort of Dave's Lake Jackson driveway—no traffic jams or crowds!

Not far from the shade, Dave had two impressive scopes set up. The first, an 11" reflector with glass solar filters attached, was "overkill" for eclipse viewing, according to Dave, but it allowed viewers to "get up close and personal with our sun and any sunspots." This scope provided a natural-light view of the eclipse.

The second scope, a refractor that allows a hydrogen-alpha (HA) spectral view of the sun's surface detail, yielded a dark red image of the sun but also had the capability to show any filaments, sunspots, prominences and ejections that may be happening on the surface. The best HA view, Dave explained, is before or after the eclipse, when the entire sun is available, simply because you can see more of it, but it is an interesting view at any time.

Below are photos taken by Dave.



Who am I?



The *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* (Linnaeus, 1758) or Giant Purple Barnacle of the family *Balanidae* [barnacles (crustacea)] is the most common large, pink barnacle in our area of the Texas coast. The Latin *tintinnabulum* means hand bell and probably refers to the fact that small groups of barnacles resemble clusters of miniature bells. In the Gulf, this barnacle usually attaches to platforms and washes up on beaches in clumps after storms as is likely the case of the huge root ball observed and photographed (left) by Kristine Rivers on March 31, 2017, at Surfside Beach.

Taxonomy: When Carl Linnaeus first described this species in 1758, he named it *Balanus tintinnabulum*. The lectotype was depicted by Georg Eberhard Rumphius in 1705, the type locality being Ambon, Indonesia. In a monograph on barnacles in

1854, Charles Darwin described the species as highly variable and assigned it to Section A of the genus *Balanus*, characterized by having the parietes, basis, and radii (different plates in the shell wall) permeated by minute pores. In 1916, Henry Augustus Pilsbry elevated *Balanus tintinnabulum* to subspecies rank and in subsequent years, many varieties were described. Later, it was placed in the subgenus *Megabalanus*, and in 1976, Newman and Ross elevated *Megabalanus* to generic rank, giving species rank to each of the 22 subspecies of what had previously been known as *Balanus (Megabalanus) tintinnabulum*.

Description: *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* is a large barnacle, barrel shaped or narrowly conical, up to 5 centimetres (2 inches) tall and 6.5 cm (2.6 inches) in diameter. It is distinguished from other members of the genus by having ungrooved growth ridges on the scutum and by the parietes having no spines or spiny projections. The parietes can be rough or smooth, and they are sometimes slightly folded; the basal margin of the shell is either straight or slightly sinuous. Its color is a pale shade of reddish or bluish purple, sometimes streaked longitudinally with a darker or lighter shade and sometimes with transverse bands of color.

Distribution and Habitat: *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* is of tropical origin, perhaps being native to West Africa and parts of the Indo-Pacific. It is common on both the eastern and western coasts of India and has spread to other parts of the world attached to the hulls of ships. It was observed on ships' hulls in the Netherlands in 1764, and in 1998 it was found attached to buoys off the Belgian coast. First observed in Western Australia in 1949, it arrived on the east coast of Australia by 1990 and is also found on reefs, bedrock, boulders and timber structures down to about 130 feet deep.

Biology: Like other acorn barnacles, *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* is a filter feeder. Specially adapted legs called cirri are extended through the opening at the top of the shell and are waved about at right angles to the flow of water past the shell. Food particles are caught by these and the cirri are periodically withdrawn into the shell and the food scraped off.

Eggs of *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* are fertilized internally by sperm from another barnacle nearby and start to develop into larvae within a few days. These are planktonic and disperse in the water column. They pass through six naupliar stages and one cypris larval stage before settling on the seabed, undergoing metamorphosis and developing into juveniles that cement themselves to the substrate and remain sessile for the rest of their lives.

Ecology: *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* is found at or below the low tide mark in the littoral zone and is part of the fouling community. It is found on the hulls of ships and on man-made structures in ports. It has a stable population structure and low mortality rate and is a long-lived species. In the South China Sea it was found that mollusks and acorn barnacles, including *Megabalanus tintinnabulum*, were primary foulers of hulls and other man-made structures and that their presence allowed algae, hydrozoans and bryozoans, to take hold. Empty but still attached shells of *Megabalanus tintinnabulum* are sometimes occupied by the tessellated blenny (*Hypsoblennius invemar*), which not only use a barnacle shell for refuge but also the male broods the fish's eggs inside.



Small cluster of *Megabalanus tintinnabulum*;
Copyright 2012-17; Brenda Bowling, Texas
Parks and Wildlife Department.

Source: Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megabalanus_tintinnabulum

(Note: All sources cited by Wikipedia appeared to be authoritative.)



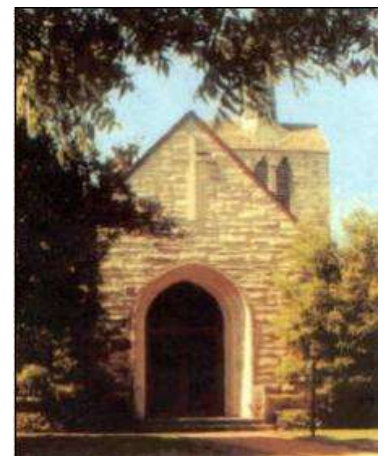
In Memoriam: Peter Michael Conaty

The Reverend Peter Michael Conaty, age 69, of West Columbia, passed away on August 17, 2017. Married to Cradle of Texas Chapter Member Susan Johnson Conaty, he was a beloved friend of COT.

In September 1999, Father Conaty became the priest for St. Mary's Episcopal Church in West Columbia and served for over 17 years. During that time, he was instrumental in the preservation of the Nash Prairie, one of the last remaining segments of the Great Coastal Prairie. Since 2013, under his leadership, St. Mary's sponsored the attendance of all the West Columbia Elementary fifth grade students to the Discovery Program at Camp Allen.

There will be a memorial service for Father Peter at St. Mary's (201 E. Clay Street, W. Columbia) on Sunday, September 17th at 2 P.M. and afterwards, a committal of ashes on The Nature Conservancy's Nash Prairie Preserve (intersection of CR25 and CR255, north of East Columbia).

In lieu of flowers and plants, the family requests that donations be made in Father Conaty's memory to either St. Mary's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486 or The Nature Conservancy of Texas: for the Nash Prairie, 404 Buena Vista Lane, West Columbia, Texas 77486.



(Center) Peter Conaty at Nash Prairie Preserve, June 2011. Frame grab from YouTube Video "Nash Prairie Preserve." Photo: The Nature Conservancy. **(Left column, from top)** Peter Conaty at TMN-COT field trip to Nash Prairie, October 2006. Photo: Neal McLain; Susan Conaty, Peter Conaty at *Ever Green: Protecting the Columbia Bottomlands*, Hudson Woods Unit, March 2008. Photo: Neal McLain; Susan Conaty, Peter Conaty at TMN-COT field trip to Nash Prairie, October 2006. Photo: John Thayer; Peter Conaty, Susan Conaty at Nash Prairie Preserve, July 2011. Photo: Houston Chronicle. **(Right column, from top)** Consecrating the Prairie: Bruce Taylor-Hille (with sons Benjamin and William), Peter Conaty at Nash Prairie Preserve, October 2014. Photo: Episcopal Diocese of Texas; Susan Conaty, Neal McLain, Peter Conaty at Tenth Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast, Lake Jackson, December 2013. Photo: Neal McLain; Susan Conaty, Peter Conaty at Tenth Annual Hog Wild Holiday Feast, Lake Jackson, December 2013. Photo: Pete Romf; St. Mary's Episcopal Church, West Columbia, Texas. Photo: Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

Cradle of Texas Chapter Officers

President	Kristine Rivers, Pearland
Vice President/Program	Jill Carroll, Pearland
Secretary	Lisa Myers, Lake Jackson
Treasurer	Donald Sabathier, Pearland
State Representative	Ed Barrios, Lake Jackson
Past President	Dave Brandes, Lake Jackson
Training Director	Carolyn May-Monie, West Columbia
Membership Director	Peggy Romfh, Houston
Membership Director	Pete Romfh, Houston
Advanced Training Director	Larry Ruhr, Lake Jackson
Volunteer Service Director	Oron Atkins, Lake Jackson
Outreach Director	Ruby Lewis, Angleton
Speakers Bureau Coordinator	Jimmy Salinas, Freeport
Chapter Host	Pam West, Freeport
Publicity Director	Richard Schaffhausen, Alvin
Publications Director	Neal McLain, Brazoria
Class of 2017 Representative	Bill Ahlstrom, Angleton
Chapter Advisor	John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
Newsletter Editor	Lisa Myers, Lake Jackson
Newsletter Contributors	Neal McLain (Chief Reporter & Editorial Advisor), Kristine Rivers, Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh, Mike Mullenweg, Dave Brandes
Website	http://tmn-cot.org
Facebook	http://facebook.com/TMN-COT
E-mail Listserv	http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail



Master Naturalist Email Lists

TMN-COT Chapter list

- Instructions http://tmn-cot.org/Email_Lists/index.html
- 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 Monday before the General Meeting by the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome; submission deadline is 5:00 PM on Friday before the General Meeting. Send submissions by email to *Chapter News* Editor at news@tmn-cot.org. Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.