



JUNE 2019

# Chapter News

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KRISTINE RIVERS

The Board has been working hard behind the scenes, and I have several updates for you.

- First, I need to make everyone aware of an important change that will affect us for the next few months. The AgriLife Extension building will be undergoing some much-needed renovations, and during that time we will not be able to meet there. **Beginning in July and until further notice, our chapter meetings will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 130 S. Arcola Street, Angleton.**
- The Board has approved the purchase of **new, short-sleeved chapter T-shirts**, and they will be free-of-charge to all active chapter members and 2019 interns. John Boettiger will take orders at the June chapter meeting, so be sure to sign up before you leave to ensure receipt of your preferred size.
- We are excited to announce implementation of the **2019 TMN-COT ECO Fund**, a grant program for member projects that enhance our mission to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within

the Brazoria County community. We'll provide program details and instructions to submit an application at the June meeting.

- Save the date for a **Fall Field Day on Wednesday, October 9**. Instead of a typical chapter meeting and AT presentation, we will present an interactive, hands-on training event until noon at Quintana Beach County Park. Planned activities include seining, digging for ghost crabs, and more.

The June meeting offers a field trip activity after lunch for those interested in participating. Teri MacArthur, Harris County Horticulture Coordinator, will present "Let's Talk Mushrooms" for the AT portion of the meeting and afterwards conduct a "Walk and Talk" mushroom hunt at Brazoria Environmental Education Station (BEES) at 585 East Hospital Drive. After all the recent rain, it should be a productive walk.

If you have ideas for an interesting topic for a future meeting, please let Bill Ahlstrom know. There are so many great things to learn about in nature!

*Kristine Rivers is the president of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. She can be reached at [rivers@tmn-cot.org](mailto:rivers@tmn-cot.org).*



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

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

Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
Chapter News – June 2019

If you haven't already: **PLEASE TAKE THE BONUS AT DAY SURVEY**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6J86X7Q>

**Texas Master Naturalist Program—Cradle of Texas Chapter**  
**General Meeting and Advanced Training**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2019**  
**Texas AgriLIFE Extension Building**  
**21017 County Road 171**  
**Angleton, TX 77515-8903**

<b>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship</b> <b>Morning Snack Team:</b> Howard Allen, Anne Bettinger, Cindy Goodrum, Roy Morgan, Mike Mullins, Kim Richardson
<b>9:00 AM – 9:40 AM</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting</b> <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time</i>
<b>9:40 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Nature Notes</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Peggy Romfh, Class of 2012 <b>Topic:</b> “Lichens”
<b>10:15 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Advanced Training</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Teri MacArthur, Harris County Horticulture Coordinator <b>Topic:</b> “Let’s Talk Mushrooms” <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of meeting]</i>
<b>After lunch</b>	<b>Field Trip</b> “Walk and Talk” mushroom hunt (if weather allows) <b>Location:</b> Brazoria Environmental Education Station (BEES), 585 East Hospital Drive, Angleton. Map: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/BEES-Angleton">https://tinyurl.com/BEES-Angleton</a>



Facebook

Teri MacArthur is an expert mycologist and has been a nature lover since childhood. She currently serves as Horticultural Coordinator for Harris County. Teri has also served as President of the TMN Heartwood Chapter and as Horticultural Coordinator at Jesse H. Jones Park, Humble, Texas, and as Environmental Education Specialist for the Water Conservation Program at The Woodlands Township.



Teri leads a tour of Jesse H. Jones Park at the park’s Arbor Day Celebration, January 18, 2014. Photo: Andrew Buckley, *The Humble Observer*. <http://tinyurl.com/n5dysoe>



Teri examines a species at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory with the TMN-COT Class of 2012 interns. Photo: Pete Romfh

## Membership Data Report by Pete and Peggy Romfh, Data Managers

Congratulations to those receiving awards at COT's June 2019 General Meeting:

### Recertification 2019 (Warbler Pin)

Ed Barrios	Larry Ruhr
Barbara Burkhardt	Jimmy Salinas
John Minkert	Ken Sluis
Sheree Muzny	Linda Sluis
Jo Myers	Chip Sweet
George Valadez	

### 250 Hours Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)

Regina Tippett

### 500 Hours Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)

George Valadez

### Impact Data YTD—January 1—May 31, 2019

7,678 Adults      23,443 Youth      31,121 Total

### Hours Totals YTD—May 31, 2019

7,837 Hours VT    976 Hours AT    97 Volunteers



From top: At the May 2019 General Meeting, President Kristine Rivers and Membership Director John Boettiger presented Cathy Sweet (center) with an initial-certification pin and certificate, and John presented Ken Sluis and Bill Ahlstrom with 500-volunteer-hour pins and Kristine Rivers with a 1000-volunteer-hour pin. Jim Calvert achieved the 5000-hour milestone and was feted with a cake.



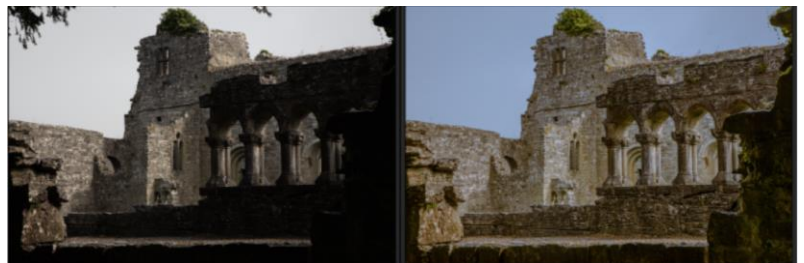
## Photographer Kathy Adams Clark's News and Tips

Noted photographer Kathy Adams Clark is a frequent Migration Celebration Nature Photo Contest judge. You may want to join her email list.

Her most recent Constant Contact post briefly shows how split toning can enhance photos (see example at right). Go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/KathyClarkMay19>

She also offers links to birding tours led by her and husband Gary, her blog, website and photography classes.



### Jim Calvert Reaches 5000 Volunteer Hours by Neal McLain

ANGLETON, TEXAS—AgriLIFE Building, May 8, 2019. At its regular, monthly meeting here today, the Cradle of Texas Chapter recognized Jim Calvert for reaching 5,000 volunteer service hours. Jim is a regular volunteer at Brazos Bend State Park. As part of his volunteer responsibilities, he removes invasive species. Jim notes that he has been “whacking and spraying” invasive Chinese Tallow for at least ten years.

Jim received the President’s Call to Service award in September 2016 when he reached the 4000-hour threshold.



Membership director John Boettiger (left) and Chapter President Kristine Rivers present the award to Jim.



Chapter Host Pam West (left) and chapter member Phyllis Gerdes stand ready to assist Jim with cutting the cake.



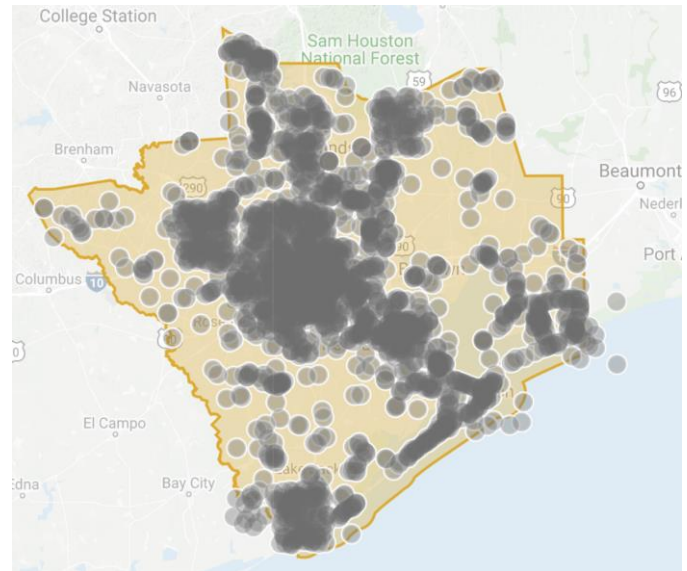
Jim “on the job” at Brazos Bend State Park.



## COT Members Participate in Houston City Nature Challenge 2019

A number of COT members did their part to help the Houston region place third in species counted during the 2019 City Nature Challenge. The images below show a few of the results and a map showing concentration of species sighted in the Houston area. At bottom are several images submitted by COT members for the challenge.

### CITIES WITH THE MOST...



Far left to right, from top: Portuguese man-o-war and speckled king snake by Peggy Romfh. She and Pete contributed 35 species; moth by Bill Ahlstrom; backlight set up used by Susan Conaty to photo insects at night; small white flower behind the GCBO host station at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary by Pete Romfh; caterpillar by Bill Ahlstrom.

# GCBO Spring Fling at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary

By Peggy Romfh

**189** bird species seen (compared to 170 in 2018)  
**1034** visitors from 31 states and 3 other countries  
**34** volunteers (30 Master Naturalists) with 515 volunteer hours

The 2019 Spring Fling event at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary (QNBS) ended successfully with a record 189 bird species seen in spite of many days of strong southerly winds. The most unusual bird seen this year was a **Northern Gannet**, which was found lying exhausted on the beach and transported to Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue by Kristine and Bobby Rivers.

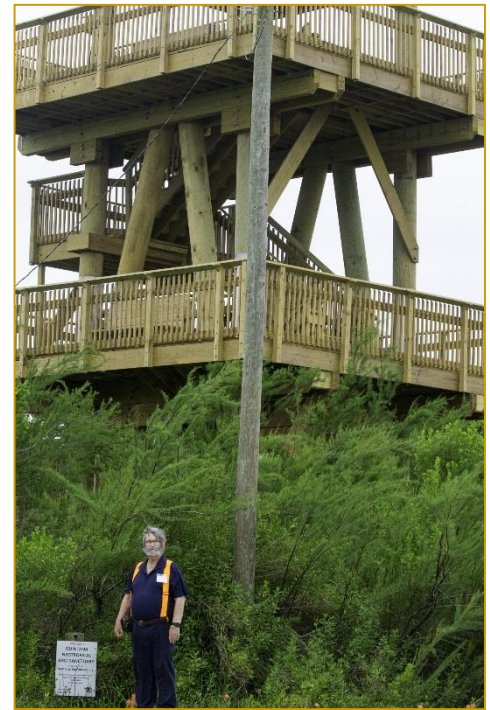
Volunteers and visitors alike brought oranges and bird seed to the host station, which was much appreciated. One day, we put seed out on the trail and five **Painted Buntings** soon came out of the underbrush to feast. A first-time visitor from the Austin area, who had never before seen Painted Buntings, was overwhelmed at the sight.

For me, my Spring Fling volunteering was complete when I saw, for the fourth year in a row, a **Common Nighthawk** roost on the top of the swing set, but visitors and volunteers alike each found a favorite bird, whether it was a **Cape May Warbler** or flock of orioles.

The new observation tower, completed over the past few months, proved popular, as the view from the top was spectacular.



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Above: Oranges were placed on branches around the sanctuary, attracting both resident Great-tailed Grackles and migrating birds. Pete Romfh stands in the road to show the scale of the massive, new, observation tower.



Clockwise from above left: COT members hosted 12 members of the Coastal Prairie Chapter, who spent the morning at QNBS and Quintana Beach. An Orchard Oriole takes turns feasting on coral bean plants and oranges. A Common Nighthawk roosts on top of the swing set next to Quintana Town Hall.

**Thank you  
COT  
volunteers!**

Photos by P&P Romfh

## Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

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## Master Naturalist Email Lists

### **TMN-COT Chapter list**

- Instructions [http://tmn-cot.org/Email\\_Lists/index.html](http://tmn-cot.org/Email_Lists/index.html)
- Send messages to [TMN-COT@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Thursday before the General Meeting. Send submissions by email to *Chapter News* Editor at [news@tmn-cot.org](mailto:news@tmn-cot.org). Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.