



Chapter News

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KRISTINE RIVERS

Let's face it, it's hot. Although it's tempting to hunker down in the air conditioning somewhere, I still enjoy getting out and enjoying nature. My husband and I tend to spend more time out in the evening in summer than we do in other seasons. One of our favorite things to do is drive on the beach, stopping anytime we see something interesting, whether it's a bird, ghost crab, barnacles, large shell, oddly-shaped piece of driftwood, tracks in the sand – you get the picture. There's always something new to see, and the magical light as the sunset approaches provides a lovely backdrop for photos.

This will be our first chapter meeting in our temporary location, **First Presbyterian Church, 130 S. Arcola Street in Angleton.** You may have noticed that I am your speaker yet again, as I am pinch-hitting for our planned speaker who had an unexpected conflict.

The layout of our new meeting room will be different, with round tables rather than rows. To me, this provides the perfect opportunity to do some group activities so we can all learn from each other. My topic is "Mammal Detectives" – in this interactive workshop we will discuss the unique characteristics of mammals, review some of the mammals that are common in our area, and learn how feeding behaviors impact skull shapes and features, before breaking into

groups for a fun skull identification activity.

We're still looking for nature Notes presentations and full-length AT presentations for meetings, so don't be shy! If you have an idea, let us know about it.

Candace Novak did a Nature Notes presentation on frog calls for us last year, and recently expanded it to create a display board that provides visuals to go with the calls that she plays on her laptop. Ruby Lewis added this to the summer library program as a new feature, and it's been a big hit with kids and adults alike. Now Candace is working on a full-length presentation for us in the spring about frog reproductive habits. You never know where your interests will take you!

We have a lot of interesting partner projects that have just appeared on the horizon, most of which involve a bit of AT followed by citizen science VT. You'll be hearing about those in future meetings. In the meantime, I hope you're also finding some time to enjoy our beautiful county, despite the heat. See you soon!

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



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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 Neal McLain.

2019 INTERN TRAINING CLASS STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Registration is open now

Maximum class size is 15 participants.

For further information--

http://tmn-cot.org/Intern_Training/TMN-COT_Cradle_Texas_Chapter-PDF-5.pdf

Spread the word to all your friends.

Join the TMN-COT Class of 2019!

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced
Training Wednesday, July 10, 2019
First Presbyterian Church
130 S. Arcola St., Angleton, 77515**

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Fun and Fellowship Snack Team Mary Helen Israel, Kristine Rivers, Neal McLain, Regina Tippet, Phyllis Gerdes, John Minkert
9:00 – 9:50 AM	General Membership Meeting This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time
9:50 – 10:00 AM	Nature Notes Speaker: Barbara Burkhardt Topic: <i>A Gardener's view of Habitat Gardening</i>
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Advanced Training Speaker: Kristine Rivers, President of the Cradle of Texas Chapter. Topic: <i>Mammal Detectives</i> . In this interactive workshop we will discuss the unique characteristics of mammals, review some of the mammals that are common in our area, and learn how feeding behaviors impact skull shapes and features, before breaking into groups for a fun skull identification activity.



Kristine Rivers grew up in Manvel, Texas and began birding at a very young age; by the time she was 14, she was serious enough about it that she participated in her first Christmas Bird Count with the National Audubon Society. She attended the University of Oklahoma as a Professional Zoology major with a primary interest in Ornithology, and was accepted into the Junior/Senior level Ornithology class as a Freshman. Although she didn't end up following that career path, she has continued to be an avid birder for her entire life.

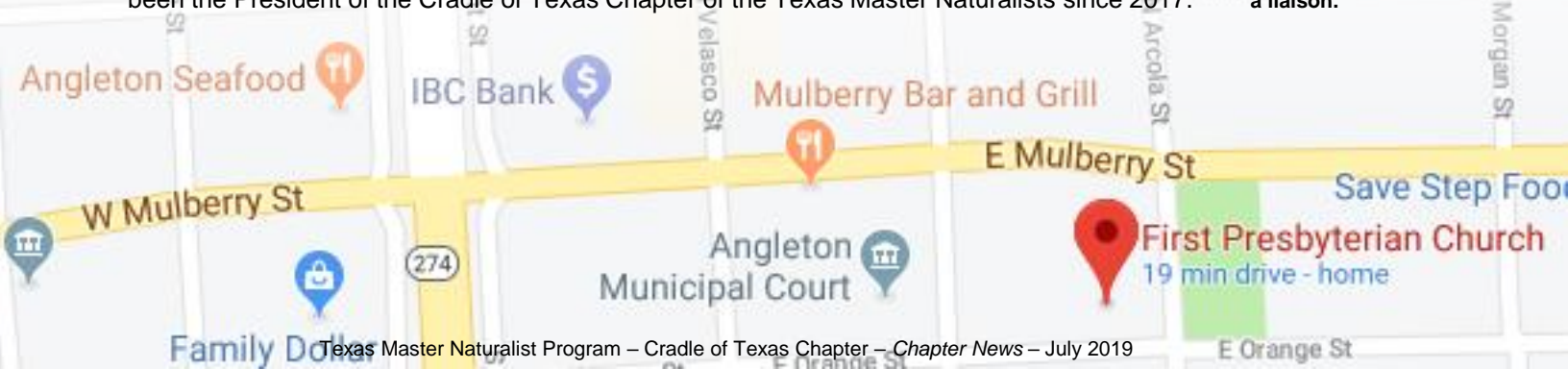
She has participated in every year of the Brazoria Christmas Bird Count since its inception in 1984, and was instrumental in working with the founder and compiler to start it back up again in 2010 after the last year it had been held prior to that was 1994.) She has been an Area Leader for the Brazoria CBC (now known as the Brazoria-Columbia Bottomlands CBC) since 2013. In addition, over the Years she has participated in many other Christmas Bird Counts, including the Houston CBC, Freeport CBC, and Brazos Bend CBC. She has also participated in the Texas City Prairie Preserve Bird Count.

Kristine has been the Birding Instructor for the City of Pearland, the City of Meadows Place, the City of Missouri City, and Galveston's Osher Lifelong Learning Center (OLLI). These engagements variously included teaching children ages 6-14 in summer camp, and providing workshops and classes for adults in both Beginning Birding and Intermediate Birding. She developed all of the curriculum, presentations, and field trips for these programs. She currently leads family-friendly nature events for the City of League City.

Kristine became a certified Texas Master Naturalist in 2016, and soon began leading workshops and teaching summer camp classes about other native Texas wildlife in addition to birds. She has been the President of the Cradle of Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists since 2017.



Kristine at Galveston FeatherFest, 2016, where she served as a liaison.



Membership Data Report by Pete and Peggy Romfh, Data Managers
 Awards to be presented at the June General Meeting
 Presented by Kristine Rivers, President, and John Boettiger, Membership Director



Mike Hampy with an initial-certification pin and certificate.



Regina Tippett with the 250-hour milestone pin and George Valadez with the 500-hour milestone pin.



Candace Novak with the 1000-hour milestone pin she earned in April.



Pam Peltier and Karen Leder with 1000-hour pins earned in February and January respectively.

Photos by Larry Peterson.

Cradle of Texas Chapter Board

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- 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 Thursday 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.