



Chapter News

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KRISTINE RIVERS

Are you ready for our first annual **Fall Field Day on October 9th**? As a reminder, **our October chapter meeting will be held at Quintana Beach County Park, 330 5th Street, Quintana.** We'll get together for morning snacks and a brief business meeting starting at 8:15am, then break into groups and rotate through six different activity stations:

- Wetland Development
- Dune Life
- Dune Vegetation
- Beachcombing
- Beach Life
- Seining in the Gulf

If you just can't get enough fun, we're also offering two, optional after-lunch activities: Birding at the Jetty; and Sea Turtle Nest Detection. If you'd like to participate in either one, be sure to bring a sack lunch! Our 2019 intern class will be joining us for Fall Field Day. I hope you'll introduce yourselves and get to know them as we enjoy the beautiful fall weather that's predicted.

At our September chapter meeting, I was pleased to present Jackie Hicks with the 2019 ECO Fund Grant of \$500 for a project with our partner

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO).

The grant will enable GCBO to purchase and erect interpretive signage along several trails that will engage people with the property's unique surroundings and help visitors connect more deeply with the environment and what they're seeing in it. The signs will identify areas of interest, describe the habitat and its importance, and promote investigation and inquiry.

Jackie will report to the Board about the project's progress next March, followed by an overview presentation at our September 2020 chapter meeting. If you didn't apply this year, I hope you are inspired to apply next year.

The 20th TMN Program Annual Meeting will be held October 18-20 in Rockwall, and I am looking forward to attending. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet people in other chapters and share best practices and ideas, as well as attend different types of AT workshops and field trips. I hope to see some of you there.

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 Charles Jesse Miller Jr at BNWR

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

REMINDER: Fall Field Day and General Meeting at Quintana Beach County Park on October 9 at 8:00 a.m. See Page 2 for details.

Texas Master Naturalist Program—Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training Field Day
Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Quintana Beach County Park, 330 Fifth Street, Quintana, TX

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM	Fun and Fellowship AND General Meeting Morning Snack Team: Howard Allen, Mike Bettorf, Mary Holler, Rainbow Johnson, Chris Kneupper
8:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Fall Field Day Stations (6 teams rotate through 6, 30-minute activities) Beach Life; Beach Combing; Dune Life; Seining; Wetland Development; Dune Vegetation <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of event]</i>
12 PM ~ 2 PM	Optional Stations Afterwards If there is sufficient interest and the weather permits, two additional sessions are planned: Sea Turtle Field Program; Birding on/around the Jetty <i>[Hours for Advanced Training (AT) TBD at close of event]</i>



FIELD DAY CHECKLIST

- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Water
- Insect repellent
- Binoculars
- Beachcomber booty bag
- Event Center has AC
- Camera
- Pencil and paper
- Field guides

If there is something that you particularly want to see or learn about while we're at Quintana, contact Bill by October 4th and he'll try to accommodate you.

ahlstrom@tmn-cot.org

Cell 979-299-8645



Membership Data Report by Pete and Peggy Romfh, Data Managers

Congratulations to those who will be receiving recertification at COT's October 2019 General Meeting:

Recertification 2019 (Warbler Pin)

- Mickey Dufilho
- Phyllis Gerdes
- Christina Hartman
- Brenda Martin
- Mike Mullins

Impact Data YTD—January 1—September 30, 2019

12,149 Adults 28,945 Youth 41,094 Total

Hours Totals YTD—September 30, 2019

12,617 Hours VT 1,379 Hours AT 115* Volunteers

* 123 active members and interns



At the September 2019 General Meeting, Membership Director John Boettiger and President Kristine Rivers presented volunteer-hour-milestone awards

Above: Mary Schwartz achieves 250 hours; right, Tom Morris achieved 5,000 hours.



A Full Fall for Volunteers

- **Captain Shishka Bob**, October 31 and November 1, contact John O'Connell
- **Pollinator Palooza**, November 2, contact Patty Brinkmeyer
- **KBR Kids Day**, October 12, contact Ruby Lewis

POLLINATOR PALOOZA
Butterflies & Bees

Walk-in Butterfly Enclosure
Kids Crafts & Activities
Caterpillar & Chrysalis Exhibits
Brazoria County Beekeepers
Live bee hive display and local honey for sale

Quintana Beach County Park
DISCOVERY EVENT CENTER

SATURDAY
NOV 2 2019
10 AM - 4 PM

New for 2019!
OSU Research Asst., David Berman will be speaking on discoveries and data he has collected during his 3 year study on milkweed and monarchs. Quintana Park is one of the sites included in his study.
3:00 pm in the Event Center

Quintana Beach County Park
350 5th St., Quintana TX
979-233-1461

PRESENTED BY
BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP

2019 KBR
KIDS DAY
AT GUADALUPE PLAZA PARK
2311 RUNNELS STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77083
OCT 12TH
11AM - 3PM

FREE FAMILY FUN!
Hands-on activities and birds of prey shows. Halloween costume parade, local entertainment, face painting, rock climbing wall and so much more! Food trucks will be selling tasty treats.
Visit buffalobayou.org for more information!

See also page 7 and TMN-COT Calendar for these and many more volunteer opportunities.

Welcome, 2019 Interns!

The COT intern class of 2019 began training on September 4 at the BEES (Brazoria Environmental Education Station) facility in Angleton. Our 18 new interns were welcomed by COT board members and began learning under the guidance of training-team members (pictured below, middle): Regina Tippett, Jo Myers, Herb Myers, John O'Connell, Jimmy Salinas, and Mary Schwartz.



Photos by Marty Cornell.

Continued next page

Meet the COT 2019 Interns



Courtney Campbell



Joel Cobb



Susan Falcone-Potts



Hunter Gibson



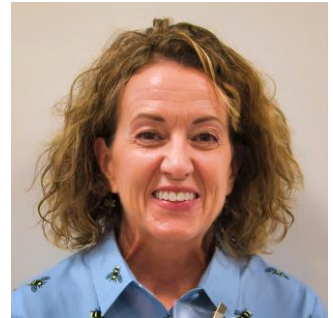
Cynthia Grandjean



Paula Hanson



Melanie Hollenshead



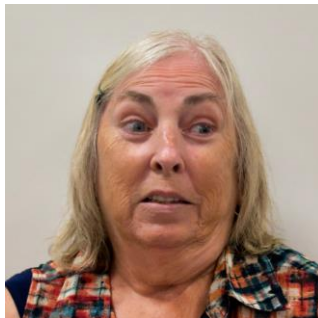
Kathy Pittman



Kathy Purvis



Kyle Purvis



Beth Reeves



Luanne Salinas



Dwight Steffler



Brenda Stitt



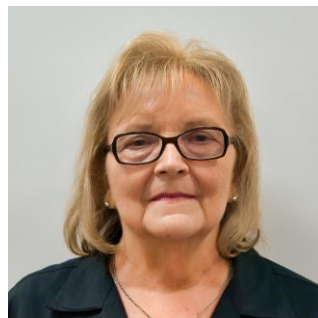
Janet Townsend



Cindy Vincent



Beverly Walton



Barbara Yoder

Photos by Dave Brandes.

“Water, water everywhere...” by Peggy Romfh

If these lines from the “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” resonate with those living near the Texas Mid-Coast—with its mix of Gulf, rivers, streams, bayous, marshes and estu-



To become a Texas Water Specialist, eight hours of water-related AT are required. Training may be obtained by attending Texas Waters events at the annual TMN State Meeting, Texas Waters webinars, or

aries, you may already be spending part of your volunteer efforts on water-related projects. From water quality measurements—as part of the Texas Stream Team; wetlands renewal—with the TCWP (Texas Community Watershed Partners); training students on water cycle or movement of water using the stream hydrology trailer; or citizen science projects such as the recent American Eel project, Cradle of Texas Master Naturalists are extensively involved in how water and the species that live in water affect our natural environment.

To support the importance of water to the state, Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPW) has created a Water Specialist Certification for Texas Master Naturalists. The intent of the program is “to develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas.”



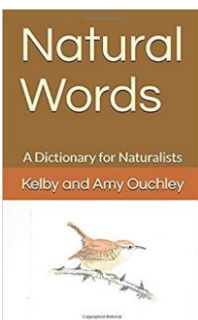
Texas Stream Team training (four hours maximum of AT credit) or participating in a small group-study program. More information may be found in the link below or contact Melissa Alderson, Conservation Education Manager, melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov.

Note that the Water Specialist AT must be coded to an “AT: Texas Waters Specialist” AT code. If you would like to begin work on your water specialist certification, contact Oron Atkins (oronatkins@tmn-cot.org) to add the code to your VMS opportunity list.

For volunteer service activities, there is a checkbox on each VMS entry screen that you can click to denote that the service effort was water related. Ten hours of relevant water-related service are required each year.

More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/TX-water-specialist>. Yes, there is a certification pin!!

From the TMN Listserve: *Natural Words—A Dictionary for Naturalists*



As biologists and environmental educators, we recognize the terminology of our trade is often foreign to those who seek to learn more about the natural world. In response, we have compiled a small book to address this issue: *Natural Words: A Dictionary for Naturalists*. The book contains those unique words that one might hear in a ranger's campfire talk or read in a conservation magazine or scientific article. They

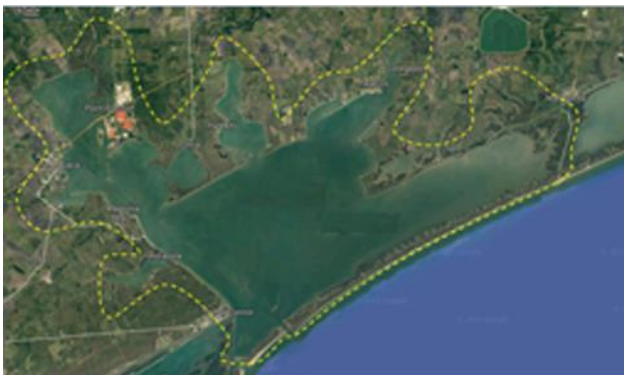
express the physical description, behavior, classification, and life history of living organisms. They illustrate the environment in which the organisms are found. Simply put, this small dictionary is geared toward all nature lovers with an interest in learning the terminology used to relate to the natural world.

In paperback, by Kelby and Amy Ouchley (Authors). Available from Amazon in paperback and e-book at: <https://tinyurl.com/Natural-words>.

The Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Assessment by Bill Ahlstrom

On September 21, I attended a meeting at the Matagorda County Navigation District facility in Palacios, Texas, the purpose of which was to give stakeholders in West Matagorda Bay an opportunity to express opinions about the ecosystem-assessment project and request that certain ecological interests be included in the assessment. Dr. Sue Heath, a GCBO avian biologist, requested that American Oyster Catcher nesting interests be included in the assessment.

The assessment will be conducted in West Matagorda Bay, including subsidiary bays and the land surrounding the bays. The map below shows the assessment area.



The Texas Comptrollers Office is partnering with TAMU Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) to conduct the assessment. This partnership brings together the Harte Research Institute (HRI) located at TAMUCC; Bio West Services of San Marcos, Austin, and Houston; and Texas Sea Grant. Dr. Gregory Stunz of TAMUCC/HRI was the main meeting presenter. He is also the Principal Investigator of the assessment.

Dr. Stunz presented the following project goal and the deliverables due March 31, 2020.

Project Goal:

To perform a multi-disciplinary ecosystem assessment of West Matagorda Bay to inform conservation of imperiled, threatened and endangered species.

Deliverables Due at Contract End, March 31, 2020:

Final report including analysis, results and the associated data for all tasks, including:

- Habitat mapping for evaluation of habitat change
- Sea turtle movement and ecosystem connectivity
- Biological sampling across habitats
- Marsh ecosystem sampling for flooding and sea rise assessments
- Trophic ecology and food web analysis
- Coupling historical and ongoing datasets
- Water quality and plankton monitoring

This is a world-class undertaking with some of the best in the business heading the project. Dr. Stunz, Dr. Pamela Plotkin, Director of Texas Sea Grant, and the Texas Comptroller Staff all stated the potential for considerable Citizen Science involvement.

Within a week, you will have access to the meeting presentation on the Texas Comptrollers Office's project website at [project website](#).

This is going to be an all out, no oyster left unturned, no sea grass left undocumented, assessment of the biodiversity and habitats of West Matagorda Bay.

The contact point for the project is: Chelsea Jones, Natural Resources Senior Research Analyst, Data Analysis & Transparency Division, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 111 E. 17th St., Room 427A, Austin, TX 78774, Phone: (512).475.5315

A poster for the Sea Center Spooktacular event. The background is orange with a black fish illustration. The text reads: "SEA CENTER SPOOKTACULAR" in large black letters, "COME JOIN SEA CENTER TEXAS FOR ITS ANNUAL HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!" in smaller blue letters, and "SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 1P TO 3P" in large black letters on a light blue background at the bottom.

A poster for the Seabourne Nature Fest. The top has a dark blue header with "Seabourne Nature Fest" in white. Below is a photograph of a woodpecker on a tree trunk. Text on the left side reads: "Saturday, Nov. 2, 10a-4p Hosted by Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists Free and open to the public at Seabourne Creek Nature Park in Rosenberg".

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
- 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.