

# Mid-Coast Chapter



October 2022

## Save the Dates

### MID-COAST CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Virtual—October 8, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
*All members are welcome to attend.*

### MID - COAST CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

November 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
*Watch for details on the Mid-Coast Chapter Website Calendar*

### DECEMBER 12TH NEWSLETTER ENTRY DEADLINE

Send articles or photos to  
[ANAKIRI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANAKIRI@GMAIL.COM)

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## HummerBird Celebration

By Debbie Minns

What an amazing event during Annual Rockport-Fulton HummerBird Celebration! Hundreds of visitors were greeted by our Chapter Members who were armed with knowledge, experience, and educational materials focusing on Texas Native Plants. Over a thousand native plants were placed in the hands of excited local gardeners. While the fundraising aspect of the event pales in comparison to the environmental good it does, the Chapter made a significant net profit of nearly \$6,000.

Hundreds of volunteer hours will be posted for this event, as it operates as a finely tuned machine with many moving parts. Volunteers plan; coordinate; prepare educational materials and signs; propagate and grow plants; order, receive and care for plants; move, move, and move plants; advertise and market the sale; set up tables and tents, enter and track inventory and sales; educate and sell; and even volunteer to schedule volunteers.

As the event grows, coordinators strive to keep the event as close as possible to our mission while making adaptations that enhance the sale. At the start of 2022, a dedicated team began brainstorming on plans for the 2022 sale. With Donna Baily continuing as the Plant Sale Manager and Debbie Minns in training as her successor, team leaders were added: Bill Burge as Logistics Coordinator; Sandra Garcia, Volunteer Coordinator; Charla Ingalls, Inventory and Financial Coordinator; and Cathy Koenig as Propagation Coordinator. Everyone did an outstanding job! This year, we added inventory and point of sale equipment that gives us extremely accurate and specific reports which will allow us to be strategic and precise on our plans for the coming year.

As we move forward, please share any suggestions or observations about the sale. Anyone wishing to be more involved in the Chapter Plant Sale, please contact Debbie Minns at 830-928-5076 or email [debminnsart@gmail.com](mailto:debminnsart@gmail.com).

Thank you so much for your participation in HummerBird events!





# HummingBird Celebration



Mid-Coast Plant Sale at the HummerBird Celebration 2022



Mid-Coast Chapter's Outreach Booth at the HummerBird Celebration 2022



# HummerBird Celebration



Mid-Coast Chapter members who were present at time of photo and helped with the plant sale at the HummerBird Celebration.

From left to right: Brigid Berger, Bob Cunningham, Bill Burge, Donna Bailey, Laura Clark, Debbie Minns, Charla Ingalls, Sandra Garcia, Melissa Guthrie, Ken Goodner, Judy Goodner, and Neli Spurrell.



## Mid-Coast Chapter President **Bob Cunningham's Thoughts**

Summer heat has begun to loosen its grip. Throngs at the sugar-water feeders have diminished as those feisty little hummingbirds wing their way south for the winter. Rain after weeks of drought has encouraged lush growth at last. Time to put away the summer and begin to prepare for year's end.

First priority as your chapter President: We really need volunteers to step up into leadership to fill the Secretary and Treasurer positions! Please contact me or our Past-President, Claire Barnhart, if you are at all interested. We'll be happy to discuss what those positions entail. Or contact Kim Gaddy or Charla Ingalls who are leaving those roles, if you prefer to get

the inside scoop about the jobs. These are critical positions on the Board of Directors--but don't be intimidated, we'll provide plenty of support as needed!

The big news of late was our chapter's sole fundraising event and major educational outreach--the annual Native Plant Sale in conjunction with HummerBird Celebration in Rockport. Great planning, great turnout, great weather, great financial success--it was great! Special thanks to Donna Bailey who ran the show, her deputy Debbie Minns who will be taking the reins next year, and Charla Ingalls who ram-rodged a new inventory-sales scanning system. Plenty of additional credit is due, covered elsewhere in this edition. Thanks to all who participated. Don't forget to record those volunteer hours!

Thanks to Rebecca & Phil Stapleton who manned the chapter Outreach table outdoors for the whole weekend, alongside Ray & Kris Kirkwood supporting Chapter Partner South Texas NPSOT's butterfly tent. Thanks and congratulations to our new Communications director, D'Ann Williams, and the interpretation team at Bent Oaks Rookery and Linda S. Castro Sanctuary who reached out to birders attending the festival.

All those efforts convinced several visitors to sign up for the 2023 training class! If you know someone in our region who might be interested in becoming a Master Naturalist, urge them to submit an application (and payment) soon, as the class is filling up quickly.

Looking ahead: There's still just enough time to register for "Late Virtual Access" to the TMN Annual Meeting in Houston. Brigid Berger will be giving a presentation on turtle rescue, and has been busy collecting photos and other material to show off our chapter's activities for the last year. Mid-Coast is supporting TMN's silent auction with a tote bag of items from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge's gift shop.

Also on the horizon is the chapter's annual meeting on Sat, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, at the newly opened visitor center at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Important business will include voting for a slate of officers for the 2023 year, voting on chapter Bylaws newly revised by TMN, a review of our financial audit, and reports from directors including how we did at the Plant Sale and plans for the 2023 initial training program. Potluck is planned, and probably a volunteer opportunity tending the pollinator garden. Finishing the year with a bang! See you there.

Until next time, get outside to enjoy the best weather of the year and keep up the great work!

Bob Cunningham  
President, Mid-Coast Chapter



# Bent Oaks Rookery Park

## Habitat Restoration Project to Begin this Fall.

Bent Oaks Rookery Park is a Rockport treasure, hosting a colony of over 100 nesting herons and egrets in a windswept live oak woodland. The importance of this site has made it a focus of a public outreach program initiated by Mid-coast Chapter member D'Ann Williams, the "Aransas County's Ecology – Public Engagement" project.

Unfortunately, the woodland is in a state of decline and its future, in addition to the rookery, are threatened by both natural and human-caused factors. In response, the Mid-Coast Chapter has been working with the city of Rockport and other partners to develop a plan to restore and expand the woodland, and to better protect the rookery. The first phase of that project is scheduled for this fall, to include planting of 25 live oaks donated by the Texas A&M Forest Service. Other plan actions include an irrigation system, perimeter fencing, improved public viewing area, modified mowing and maintenance practices, and educational signage, the latter to be coordinated with the MCTMN Aransas County's Ecology project.

If you wish to volunteer to help with the planting and restoration activities, or to review the restoration plan, please contact Patrick Hartigan at [pdhartigan4321@gmail.com](mailto:pdhartigan4321@gmail.com).



## Save the Monarch

By Bobbie Lee

On July 21, 2022, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) was added to the endangered list by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. This butterfly is very recognizable and popular around the globe. These magnificent butterflies travel over 2500 miles from the United States to Central Mexico. Their numbers have declined by over 99% from the 1980s to 2021. Back in the 1980s, an estimated 4.5 million butterflies were overwintering in California. In the fall of 2019, there were an estimated 30,000 butterflies.



The loss of the monarch can be linked to several causes. One major cause is the loss of their natural habitat, food, and the change in the climate. While in the caterpillar stage of their life they eat exclusively milkweed leaves. Droughts hinder the growth of milkweed. The increase in the temperature has also caused their migrations to take place sooner.

Another cause for the decline in monarch butterflies is the use of glyphosate herbicide. This herbicide on various crops has led to a decline in the growth of milkweed. The hibernation, migration, and reproduction of the monarch butterfly are also being disrupted by the warming of our temperatures.

The great news is we have a way of helping in our area. Monarchs are known to migrate through our region. We can help by simply planting milkweed and nectar flowers in our yards. We can also lower our use of pesticides and herbicides in our yards. Several dozen different species of milkweed can be planted. With more variety of the plant, the tends to be a higher count of eggs laid. Collect seeds from already planted milkweed and plant them in your garden. This is preferable to buying store-bought milkweed, as multiple pesticides have been detected on the purchased plants. So if buying your plants, make sure they are from a trusted source that doesn't spray their plants with harmful pesticides that are creating more issues.

The Agricultural Research Service did a major study to figure out what species of milkweed helped to increase the number of eggs laid by the monarch butterflies. This study also looked at the survivability rate of the eggs once they hatched into caterpillars. The species that were preferred over others were swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and common milkweed (*A. syriaca*). These two species had the highest number of eggs laid on them. The lowest survival rate was linked to tall green milkweed (*A. hirtella*) and prairie milkweed (*A. sullivantii*). **However, the research did find that overall, the female monarchs didn't make a choice** based on the species of the milkweed. The monarchs also changed their preferences throughout the season. They did find that more variety of milkweed that was planted, helped to increase the outcome of surviving offspring.

Some species of milkweed that grows in the Coastal Bend of Texas includes Blunt-leaf (*Asclepias amplexicaulis*), Sand (*Asclepias arenaria*), swamp (*Asclepias incarnata*), and common milkweed (*A. syriaca*). So let's get out and plant some milkweed. For further information on the varieties of milkweed that grows in the region see: [Identification of Milkweeds in Texas](#)



2022 Monitoring Avian Productivity Survivorship Group (MAPS)



Dr. Glasscock banding an Olive Sparrow



Dr. Glasscock, Angie Arredondo & Steve



Dr. Glasscock & Ray Kirkwood determining molting stage.



2022 MAPS Group



Left: Bill Burge & Alejandra Martinez processing summer tanager. Bill Burge & Alejandra Martinez removing male cardinal from net, banding.



Left: Bill Burge checking a cardinal for body molt. Right: Ray Kirkwood removing a green jay from the net.



Kris Kirkwood recording data.



The 2022 MAPS Crew



## CHAPTER MEMBERS' AWARDS



Bob Cunningham with Sally Scroggs,  
1000 Hour Milestone



D'Ann Williams and Jane Moore  
Lightning Welk



Jane Moore and Bob Sideoats Grama Pin and  
2021 Service Against All Odds



## CHAPTER MEMBERS' AWARDS



Top: Petite Belle, A half-sized replica of the La Salle's ship that is anchored at Port Lavaca Harbor. Photo was taken at the Chapter Meeting August 13th.

Middle Left: Marisa Rinche, Monica Clark, and Carla Rinche.

Middle Right: Marisa Rinche receiving her certification from Bob Cunningham.



# VOLUNTEER HERE!

## ~Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary~

They are looking for people to follow and like the Facebook page located at [Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary](#)  
They are also looking for volunteers that are interested in wildflower restoration, seeding, mulching, and planting.

Contact either Jane Moore ([janemoore@utexas.edu](mailto:janemoore@utexas.edu)) or Vickie Wilson ([vwilson0607@gmail.com](mailto:vwilson0607@gmail.com)) with your email address to be added to their mailing list to be notified of dates and times they are working to help get this beautiful place reestablished. This 4.5 acres has 3 habitats: coastal prairie, ephemeral pond, and live oak motte or coastal Live Oak forest. There is Wildlife Watching and Hiking or Walking trails.

Address  
4140 Hwy 35 N.  
Rockport, TX, 78382

## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Texas Children in Nature Network Summit: Opening the Doors to Nature For All

December 7-9, 2022

AT&T Conference Center, University of Texas at Austin

For more information and to register

<https://www.texaschildreninnature.org/events/texas-children-in-nature-network-summit-opening-the-doors-to-nature-for-all>

During the 3-day event, TCiNN (Texas Children in Nature Network) will bring health, education, faith, conservation, and more together to help shape the future for children of Texas and make it brighter.

New this year will be a private screening of "Deep in the Heart."

### WRITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Submit photos, articles, opportunities and anything you think fellow chapter members would have interest in seeing or reading. Get VS credit for your time. Report as Chapter Business (CB), Communications, and describe as newsletter submission work. **Email newsletter submissions to: Bobbie Lee [anakiri@gmail.com](mailto:anakiri@gmail.com)**



# Texas Master Naturalist 2022 Annual Meeting

Great News!

Registration for our Texas Master Naturalist 2022 Annual Meeting opened two weeks ago, and we’ve had a busy first weeks! Thank you for those who have registered already and those who have shared this year’s event with your fellow naturalists. Don’t forget that the Annual Meeting is open to EVERYONE – naturalist or not!

### Registration

Registration is now OPEN! More information about how to register, the agenda, and sessions can all be found on our website - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2022-annual-meeting/#registration>  
We’ve opened up a “One Day” Option for registration as requested. We’ve also fixed any hotel block issues you may have experienced on day one of registration.

### Standard Registration – Open September 1<sup>st</sup> – September 29<sup>th</sup>

- 1. Standard – Full Event Registration – \$390.00
- 2. Standard – Two Day (Friday and Saturday only) – \$375.00
- 3. Standard – One Day (Friday OR Saturday only) – \$200.00

### Virtual Option

Registration for the **Virtual Access will be \$100** and open now until **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. After October 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, virtual access can be purchased for \$125 (aka Late Virtual Access). In-person Registration does include the ability to watch those sessions in the virtual rooms as recordings post-event.

Virtual Options	
Virtual Access – Now – September 30	\$ 100.00
Late Virtual Access – October 1 – October 23	\$ 125.00

### Contests

We encourage you to participate in our Annual Meeting Contests – they’re so much fun to see the winners called forward on Saturday night & Sunday morning! Three of these contests are CHAPTER level contest entries – the Chapter Advisor, Chapter Project Fair, and the Video Contest. The Photo, Art & Media contest is an individual level entry contest. More information is on our website for each contest:

#### Chapter Advisor Awards

- 1. Nominate your chapters advisor(s) to be recognized
- 2. Nominations due **October 1st**

#### Chapter Project Fair

- 1. Submit your chapter project for our virtual fair!
- 2. Written entries due **October 1st**

#### Video Contest

- 1. Videos of 1 minute to 3 minutes
- 2. Entries due **October 1st**

#### Photo, Art & Media Contest

Hosted by the Gideon Lindecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists  
Entries submitted online between **September 1st-30th** (Submission form coming soon!)

### Silent Auction

Our Galveston Bay Area Chapter is hosting our Silent Auction this year! They’re bringing back the traditional silent auction too – with naturalist books, gear, art, trips, and more. But to have the best auction possible – we need your help with gathering auction items. Please review the Silent Auction request letter attached and linked on our website: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2022-annual-meeting/#silent-auction>

If you have any questions about the auction, please reach out to the Galveston Bay Area chapter via their email - [tmnauction2022@gmail.com](mailto:tmnauction2022@gmail.com)

### Bookmark our page!

Our 2022 Annual Meeting Website. For all your information on the Annual Meeting - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2022-annual-meeting/>



## CHAPTER RESOURCES

### ***OFFICERS FOR 2022***

President - Bob Cunningham  
Vice President - Bill Burge  
Secretary - Kim Gaddy  
Treasurer - Charla Ingalls

### ***BOARD MEMBERS***

Advanced Training Director - Linda Shirey  
Communications Director - D'Ann Williams  
Membership Director - Dee Mahaffey  
Training Class Directors - Greg Simmons & Sally Scroggs  
Projects Director - Ray Kirkwood  
Immediate Past President - Claire Barnhart  
Chapter Advisor - Trey Barron  
Class Rep 2022 - Laura Anderson

### ***Committees and Contacts***

Newsletter - Bobbie Lee  
Website Editor - Kris Kirkwood  
Webmaster - Ray Kirkwood

### ***Volunteer Project Leaders***

Mad Island Marsh Preserve - Brigid Berger  
San Antonio Bay Partnership - Allan Berger  
Linda S. Castro Nature Sanctuary - Jane Moore or Vickie Wilson

### ***Sponsor Contacts - Texas AgriLife Extension Service***

Aransas County - Ginger Easton-Smith  
Calhoun County - RJ Shelly  
Matagorda County - Nicole Pilson

### ***Sponsor Contacts - Texas Parks & Wildlife Department***

#### [TPWD Website](#)

Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator

MCTMN Website: <https://midcoast-tmn.org>

MCTMN Facebook page: [Mid-Coast Chapter Texas Master Naturalist](#)

MCTMN Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/midcoasttmn/>

