

S2E9 Texas Master Naturalist

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:00:08] Hello. Welcome to a Talk on the Wild Side. Your biweekly tour, of all things Wild in Texas. I'll be your host; I'm Sandra Rideout-Hanzak.

Andrew Lowery [00:00:16] And I'm Andrew Lowery. Howdy. Howdy.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:00:19] Hey, so it's fall, Andrew.

Andrew Lowery [00:00:21] Yeah, it is one of my favorite times of year. Yeah. Pumpkin season.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:00:26] Well, you know how we know it's fall in south Texas. It's not by the beautiful leaves or the cool temperature, but by the butterflies on the grill of a car. Right.

Andrew Lowery [00:00:40] My truck in the parking lot now is painted like. Like tiger colors from the beautiful monarchs that are on out highways.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:00:47] I know, it's so sad. I'm practicing my line, "No, officer, I haven't been drinking. There are just so many butterflies!"

Andrew Lowery [00:00:54] So many of them. I'm trying to dodge them.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:00:57] And they are really pretty. We've got the queens and the snouts and then all...

Andrew Lowery [00:01:03] The lunas come through as well. Those guys are so pretty and.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:01:07] and a million others that I cannot identify on the wing while I'm driving along. But yeah, they end up on the grill. Oh, I wanted to let everybody know, if you've been listening for a while our beloved co-host, Georgi Eccles, won't be with us anymore. Not because she hates us or anything, but because she's just really busy with her Ph.D. work, and she'll be concentrating on that. And we loved having Georgi here, and I think she had a good time too, and so we're really going to miss her. But she did a great job and we enjoyed her as co-host.

Andrew Lowery [00:01:42] She did an absolutely awesome job. You will be greatly missed.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:01:45] Yeah, you will. So what's new this week, Andrew?

Andrew Lowery [00:01:48] Well, we have some news for whitetail hunters this week, but it may not be the news you were wanting to hear. So this year, Texas Parks and Wildlife has announced the projected deer season is not looking so good due to extremely low rainfall numbers as well as the extended drought overall that we've seen throughout the year. It's not going to be a record breaking year out there, guys, I'm sorry to tell you.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:02:09] Oh, dear.

Andrew Lowery [00:02:10] But sadly, there's not much you can do about it other than to get out there or wait for the next season.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:02:16] When do all the different seasons start this year?

Andrew Lowery [00:02:19] Okay, so let's start with archery season that starts October 2nd through November 5th. We have muzzle loader January 13th through the 16th and then the general season, which is November six through January 2nd. You plan to go hunting this year, Dr. Rideout?

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:02:35] I don't have any plans to right now. But ,what about you, Andrew?

Andrew Lowery [00:02:39] I actually do. I haven't got to go deer hunting for the last couple of seasons. It's something I grew up doing. I grew up in East Texas. You spent some time in East Texas as well, and the deer culture in East Texas is very prevalent. It's most people's favorite time of year. And it's not been something I've got to really be a part of for probably five or six years now. But I plan to go hunting with my father in law as well as a couple of friends this season. So I'm very, very excited. Even if it's not going to be a record breaking year, it's still great to just get out there. Even if you don't get a deer, just spend some time with nature, get in to see the sunrise, go do it. It's awesome.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:03:16] Yeah, definitely. I do enjoy time in a deer stand. I just enjoy watching all the birds. And I mean, once you get quiet, it's amazing how loud, how loud everything around you gets. So it's really cool. Do you remember your first time hunting?

Andrew Lowery [00:03:33] I do, you know, some of the things that really stand out, and I think this is maybe where some people who don't hunt don't necessarily understand, is actually harvesting the animals is one of the last things I think about and remember. What I think about is waking up early with my dad, making coffee, making something, scrambling some eggs, getting in the car, getting out into the deer stand and it's cold and it's chilly and you can see your breath. It's still dark. And you as a kid, you're making a little bit too much noise. So your dad's kind of looking at you like, "come on, man, be quiet. You will scare the deer off." And you know, the moment when you actually harvest is kind of the last thing. Because the whole time before and the whole time after. Yeah, that's where a majority of it's spent.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:04:17] And, I think people who've never hunted don't understand that it's really about that special time and making lots of cool memories.

Andrew Lowery [00:04:29] And connecting with nature, you know, just getting back to where we came from, which is something that's really important to me.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:04:33] For sure.

Andrew Lowery [00:04:34] You know? And now every time I go hunt, especially being a biologist now or quote unquote biologist, I like to think about how the funds from the firearm that you bought, the ammunition, the hunting license, all of that is going back to conservation and, you know, helping that kind of effort.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:04:50] Mm hmm. Yeah. Historically, the vast majority of the funds that have gone to wildlife conservation have come from hunting licenses, and taxes on ammunition and firearms and all that good stuff. So it has funded a whole lot of good conservation that doesn't, you know, it doesn't necessarily always have to do with just the animal that we're hunting.

Andrew Lowery [00:05:18] Exactly.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:05:19] Okay. Well, you said biologists like you weren't really sure, but we're going to talk to somebody who, you know, is here to tell us, I think, that really everybody can be a biologist in a naturalist sort of way. And we're going to learn about what a naturalist is today. And I think everybody's going to really enjoy it. Our guests name is Mary Pearl Meuth, and we're excited to have her. So let's get started. Mary Pearl is the assistant state coordinator for the Texas Master Naturalist Program out of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. Welcome, Mary Pearl! We appreciate you being here.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:06:04] Absolutely. Thank you.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:06:06] Now you are with the Texas Master Naturalist program, and that's what we want to talk about. Tell us about the Texas Master Naturalist program for people who aren't familiar with it. What is a Master Naturalist and how do we become one?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:07:07] Of course. So the Texas Master National Program, it's a it's a unique organization. It's actually a partnership between two state agencies, Texas A&M, Agrilife Extension, who I work for, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. And I have a co-coordinator who works on the parks and wildlife side, Michelle Haggerty. And so she and I, together with this statewide program, we provide resources for training volunteers from nearly every county in the state of Texas at this point, organized into single or multi county chapters. And these chapters will train these volunteers with the resources that we've provided, a curriculum that covers a whole litany of conservation and natural resource topic--birds and plants and weather and soils, water and archeology. And, then the management of those resources too. As these trainees and these chapters are bringing in that knowledge, they're also really focusing on their local ecosystems. So if you are training with the Brazos Valley chapter in College Station, Texas, you're going to learn about the blackland prairies and the coastal savannah, birds and plants and mammals and that area and those management techniques and strategies for those resources and habitat. So really focusing on learning where you are and learning about those resources around you. And then as a bigger part of the support from the two state agencies, we ask these trainees with that new knowledge to then volunteer for their state program. And that's to the benefit of Texas A&M and to Texas Park from all these volunteers who are now highly skilled and really understand the conservation of resources in their backyards and their local parks and counties are volunteering at state parks or volunteering at school grounds just around the corner from them, and are helping to provide conservation with pollinator gardens at the city park down the street from them and spreading that educational message for the need for those resources and the management of them locally.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:09:35] That's terrific. I've had the opportunity to teach a few classes for the Texas Master Animals program. And it was really fun because it was so nice to teach people who are, you know, asking questions and super-interested. And I had a great time with that.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:09:51] Master Naturalists, they ask the best questions because they're there to learn. They are so excited about what they're absorbing. And it's that whole drinking water through a fire hose kind of training. It's 24 units of curriculum, 760 pages. And it's just hours and hours of classes. But they're there for a reason, for a purpose, because they want to know more. They crave that knowledge, and then they create that opportunity for civic service in their communities.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:10:24] Yeah, it's a great program. And you said it was a unique program, but we have listeners all over the country. Are there Master Naturalist programs in other states?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:10:40] There are. Texas was actually the first statewide program. We don't get to claim the title of the first Master Naturalists, Fort Collins, Colorado, actually coined that term and began a local Master Naturalist program and that. When our city parks and Rec and then Texas heard about it, and everything's bigger and better in Texas. So we made it our own. And we really have a really great program. So it's massive here in Texas, but there are 29 other states that have Master Naturalist like programs. They're all just a little bit different to match those individual state needs and individual kind of state wants and support for programs like this. There's also an astronomical program in Australia that was begun by a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer who went back to Australia and said, we need to have something like this in our community. So it's fun to see it kind of spread across the globe.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:11:48] So it's a fun program. But why is the program important? What benefits does the general public get from the Master Naturalist program?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:11:59] Of course. So going back to the original state sponsoring agencies, Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, between those two state agencies, there's about 4 to 5000 state agency employees dedicated to the missions of those agencies. We have 15,000 Master Naturalists that have been trained over the last 20 years. So tripling the ability for the conservation message to get into the communities of Texas. Our average kind of active membership is in that 6 to 7000 member range on a year to year basis. And, so we're doubling the workforce of these two conservation state agencies. Being able to take those programs into the classrooms, get to know the communities, get to put hands in the dirt and really provide that active conservation in the communities.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:12:59] You mentioned volunteer hours that Texas Master Naturalists earn each year. How many hours do they have to earn every year and what sort of volunteer projects can they get into, does any kind of volunteering count or what?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:13:15] Yeah, so let me let me back up; I didn't clarify it earlier, but to become a certified Master Naturalist, the first step is that basic training. That's drinking water from a firehose. That's a curriculum that you're absorbing with that local community and that local chapter. So there's 40 hours of basic training required within that first cycle and then 8 hours of advanced training. That's where we encourage trainees and Master Naturalists to really find their niche. And that's the fun conservation out there. But to find their niche in the in the curriculum, the things that they have gotten, that they're excited about, if they're bird people, they might take some more bird classes. If they're herp people, they may take some more reptiles and amphibians classes. They can dive deeper with those advanced training opportunities into the thing that really excites them. And, then

as part of the final leg on this three legged stool of becoming a certified Master Naturalist, we ask that they complete 40 hours of volunteer service. And with those three legs, 40 hours of basic, 8 hours of advanced, and 40 hours of volunteer that our trainees claim the title of certified Master Naturalist. And then each year after that, we ask that they continue their 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service on an annual basis to maintain that certification each year. But to get back to your original question, I apologize about the run around there. You asked about volunteer projects and what Master Naturalists can volunteer with. They can work with their local chapter to find projects that are interesting, that they're interested in; projects that their chapters already initiated with local partner organizations. And then there's a vast array of both virtual and distance and single person or joint group team projects that they can get into. I'll give you a few examples. We have Master Naturalists that host pollinator gardens at schools or on city parks, put up interpretive signs at these gardens, put up informational signage along trails at state parks, or again, a variety of different kind of open and green space areas. They will also take the conservation message into classrooms, teaching young Texans about the wildlife that they live with and the resources around them. We also have Master Naturalists who are a vital part to the research happening on a day to day basis in Texas, contributing through citizen science or community science programs like INaturalist projects. Species of Greater Conservation Need projects, water resource projects where they're testing water quality in different flowing water bodies across Texas. So the ways in which a Master Naturalist can volunteer is incredibly varied and can really get personalized by that individual volunteer. As long as it is serving the natural resources of the community, it helps to provide and promote for acknowledgment of the astronauts program, the missions of our two state agencies. And, then it serves the greater ecosystem that they that they work and live in.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:16:56] Well, that's terrific. It sounds like there are lots of different things that you could do. Certainly you could find something that interests everybody. That's pretty cool. So this is really neat; I understand that there was recently a Texas Master Naturalist in space. Is that right?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:17:15] Yeah. Yes.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:17:16] So tell us about that.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:17:20] Yeah. So Master Naturalist comes to us from a variety of different backgrounds. We have Master Naturalist who are retired from professions spanning from teacher to administrator to entrepreneur. We have astronauts that come to us still active in the workforce and have found the time to engage in this kind of outdoor passion of theirs. And so we have a Master Naturalist who is currently serving as an astronaut for NASA, and he and his wife both took the training with our Houston regional chapter. And, then during his day job, he is on the International Space Station on the crew for mission right now. He gave us the opportunity recently to be able to downlink with him or to be able to have a conversation with him while he is in zero gravity on the International Space Station. It was amazing. Absolutely. I don't I don't do it all the time, but it was awesome.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:18:27] Wow, that sounds really cool. What is his job there at the Space Station? Does he have specific duties?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:18:35] Yeah. So his background is actually in emergency medicine and human health. But he also has done projects and research on the Space Station. He

was previously in space in 2015 and he grew lettuce. And so they're doing some photo or not photo like photosynthesis and plant growth programs. And I would be remiss if I tried to explain that eloquently.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:19:06] Well, that's neat. So what's his name? We're talking about this guy, but we haven't said his name.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:19:10] Yeah, his name is Kjell Lindgren. Kjell and his wife, Christy, both took Master Naturalist training, like I said, in Houston in 2021. And he's a fantastic astronaut who volunteered with Boy Scouts. He's volunteered at Armand Bayou Nature Center, which is a nature center in Houston. He also volunteered virtually. I don't think he's volunteered virtually from space quite yet because he's probably pretty busy up there right now. But he has volunteered virtually with some of our partner programs with the Botanical Research Institute in Texas and Dallas. So it's fun. How he's been able to flex his engagement in the program with his schedule as busy as an astronaut. Yeah.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:19:58] Yeah, I can't imagine what that schedule might consist of--get up, drink Tang, work out, you know, go zero gravity. I don't know...

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:20:09] Take pictures and upload. Yeah. Take pictures and upload them to iNaturalist in between.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:20:15] Yeah. Well that's really neat; is that downlink still available that people could see after the fact?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:20:22] Yes, ma'am. Yeah, it's on our website, it's on our YouTube channel and I can provide all of those links to be able to embed into your podcast too.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:20:31] Okay, great. That's really terrific. I'm sure some people would be interested in that. What is your favorite thing about the Texas Master Naturalist program?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:20:44] I'm just hoping to come up with a singular answer for that. I think my favorite part about the Master Naturalist program is the people. They are, they're fellow nature nerds. They're the people who geek out with me on trails when we run across scat. They understand that you don't go on hikes. You go on very slow strolls as you're photographing and listening every step of the way. They're passionate about what they're learning about and what they're educating others about. They have a deep connection to the resources that they live and eat and work alongside. And they're in their counties and in their ecosystem. They're just nature nerds. They geek out about this fun stuff with me. And yeah, it's got to be the people.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:21:43] It is nice to get to hang out with like-minded people. So that sounds like a real gift.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:21:51] Exactly. Yeah. And I'll tell you, there's a running joke. Jeff Foxworthy years ago had a "You might be a redneck if..." joke series. And so I started just kind of slowly writing down, "You might be an Master Naturalist if you have more pictures on your phone of your of plants than of your own kids." "You might be a Master Naturalist if you end up stuffing litter in your pockets as you're walking along the pathway on a park or hike or something like that."

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:22:28] So, Texas Master Naturalists are volunteers, but people make a whole career out of being a naturalist. Maybe you might consider yourself a professional naturalist, but who would a naturalist work for? And how would somebody prepare themselves for a career as a naturalist?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:22:48] Of course, I define a naturalist as somebody who's interested in a little bit of everything about the natural world around us. So that's the "inch deep and a mile wide" kind of perspective on all things conservation. So I myself am not an expert when it comes to plants, but I do know a little bit to make me dangerous. I'm not an expert when it comes to birds, but I know a little bit and I'm always learning. And I think that's also part of what makes a naturalist so important, too, is that they're always learning, they're always taking in new facts and new resources to be able to build their definition of themselves as a naturalist. And so.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:23:37] Yeah.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:23:39] The ways that folks can engage in a full time career as a naturalist doesn't necessarily mean that they work in conservation. As a wildlife biologist, for example, they could be a naturalist and still be a teacher and teach their kids, but also still absorbing that knowledge and sharing it with others. A naturalist could be a lawyer who has converted their front lawn to a native habit or wild scape. I don't think a naturalist has to be somebody who works in the profession on an 8 to 5 basis, but somebody who is just simply engaged, excited, constantly learning and constantly giving back with that natural resource knowledge.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:24:28] I think you hit the nail on the head. Just being a lifelong learner is just so important--so if you're kind of that person who could make a career out of going to class, you know, like I probably could.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:24:45] Exactly.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:24:46] I could have, you know.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:24:49] Well, there are definitely careers in conservation as a naturalist working for state agencies, working for nonprofit organizations. Here in Texas, we have over 400 conservation nonprofits that are that are either statewide or locally based organizations actively working in the community of natural resources. And, so those are very tactile careers for naturalists. But there's ways to engage your naturalist interests beyond just your 8 to 5 to.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:25:27] We love to ask our guests for a Biology Blunder. Do you have any funny story that you could share with us from your career?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:25:36] So you asked me about a Biology Blunder in the field. I don't work in the field quite as often as I used to. And in my previous work, I was a youth educator for Texas Wildlife Association, one of those many nonprofit organizations that we talked about earlier. And I would take skins and skulls in the classroom. And one of my favorite experiences in the way that it was very enlightening. I took a white-tailed deer skull into a downtown inner city Houston classroom to do a typical wildlife Skins and Skulls presentation. What is this animal? Learn about its teeth and about its eyes. And these kids, when I asked them, what is this white-tailed deer skull? What is this skull? What animal is this? They had no idea. They had no reference to that animal. You know, they

asked if it was a Longhorn, if it was a reindeer, if it was a cow. There was no connection to the resources that were just outside of the inner city loop that they lived in in Houston. So a blunder in the framing in which I was going into this classroom thinking that I was bringing this very standard level conservation message. And I really had to reset and say, we still have a long ways to go. There's a lot more work to do in conservation education. There's a lot more opportunity to be able to educate those who don't get out and around. And actually, I had a friend, a fellow colleague who said, you know, the wildlife that they see isn't the wildlife that we see. We see white-tailed deer, and we see larger mammals and birds, and we see kind of large open fields in central and further out in Texas in rural areas. The wildlife that they see in inner city Houston is squirrels and pigeons and insects. And that is how we need to frame what wildlife is, is kind of where they are and talking about bringing the... Not bringing the wildlife to them, but talking about the wildlife and where they live and where those children are able to understand it and connect with it.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:28:04] That's a good point. I wouldn't have thought about that either. Well, it's easy; we're humans. It's easy to assume that, you know, everybody knows about deer and everybody knows about, I don't know, cardinals and things like that. But a lot of folks have never experienced that. So how would they know?

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us today, anything about the Master Naturalist program or just anything?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:28:33] Yeah. Okay. The best way to get started at the master program is yesterday. And the first step to join your local Master Naturalist program is to find your local chapter, and that can be done on our website or going to the local county extension office or a local Parks and Wildlife office here in Texas. If you live in a different state a quick Google search of Master Naturalists programs in your state's name will help you find if your state has a Master Naturalist program. And, then getting started with the training, attending chapter meetings, getting to know those people that geek out about plants alongside you and just kind of finding your tribe. We talk about the people of Master Naturalist as a family because it really is. It's such a great organization that really creates that community of those like-minded folks really actively doing conservation. I didn't get to talk about the numbers earlier, but with those 6000 active volunteers that we have across the state, they're giving back 300-400,000 hours of volunteer service each year. That is huge in the way of active volunteer service. And then if you put a financial figure to that volunteer hours, it's incredible what Master Naturalists are accomplishing in the state. I'll give you another example. We have had Master Naturalist identify new plant species.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak Really?

Mary Pearl Meuth I couldn't tell you what the name, the scientific name is. We had a Master Naturalist's son actually was the first person to document the emerald ash borer in north Texas. And the emerald ash borer is a highly invasive species. Having that early indicator of the species movement in Texas is vital for agencies to be able to put management practices into place. Master Naturalists have started new programs and new initiatives in their communities, and it's just incredible to see the work of these highly dedicated individuals.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:30:56] Well, it's got to be really gratifying, though, to hear, too, that this program that you're co-leading is having such great impact on their local communities, wherever they are.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:31:10] Yeah, it really is. It's so much fun.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:31:13] So go to the website and see what the opportunities are and how you can get started. I have a question. Can you get started any time of the year, or do you have to start those classes at a certain time?

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:31:27] Yeah. So here in Texas, our chapters have either spring or fall training, but typically spring training typically start January, February and fall training start August, September. So but that doesn't mean that you can't start attending chapter meetings. You can't start volunteering quite until you take the training. We want to make sure that you are fully trained before you're volunteering in the community, representing yourself as a Master Naturalist. But if you catch it in between those two training cycle route, look up your chapter, attend their chapter meetings, attend programs and presentations or workshops that they're hosting, and you can start to build your relationship with that chapter early. We also have kind of a related, but not really related. We also have collegiate chapters. These are fairly new for us in the last five years. We have four.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:32:26] I wasn't familiar with that; that's really cool.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:32:27] We have four collegiate chapters. One is the Canyonlands chapter with Concordia University. So they were the first collegiate chapter and then there's three others that are spawned off of that across the state. It's a really interesting model where the chapter is a shared college student and community member trainees in the training course. And, so these college students are getting course credit. They're learning about natural resources, they are creating relationships with partners, getting relationships with these community members and mentees, potentially, for them. And, then they can take that title of Master Naturalist and transfer their membership to another Texas Master Naturalist Chapter. If they go outside the state, they can they might not necessarily be able to transfer their membership to every state. So a little bit different, but they can join a different Master Naturalist program in another state and have kind of token friends automatically.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:33:31] Yeah, that sounds terrific. That is fun. Well, I've learned a lot about the Texas Master Naturalist program today. Thank you so much, Mary Pearl, for spending time with us.

Mary Pearl Meuth [00:33:42] Absolutely, no problem. Thank you for calling and asking. And I hope everybody out there gets a chance to, if not be a Master Naturalist today, get to take a trail, walk with the Master Naturalist, or get involved in the workshops and programs that they host.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak [00:33:58] Oh, for sure. Lots of opportunities out there. So thank you very much. We appreciate you.

Georgi Eccles [00:34:09] Remember, you better not feed the wildlife!

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak A Talk on the Wild Side is a production of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Funding for this project is provided by the Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi. Podcast artwork is created by the talented Gabby Olivas. Tre' Kindall

contributes with his creative talents as well. And, editing is conducted by Andrew Lowery. For you hardcore fans. We're now putting bloopers at the end, so hang on.

Brianna Slothower We can do that? Wow, okay.

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak Okay. I'll leave it up to Andrew. He seems to know that. Yes, Andrew has a good pulse... a finger on his pulse... or whatever. (laughing) Andrew has a good pulse. (laughter) So, what I was trying to say with that...

Brianna Slothower I'm glad you're healthy.