

CROSS TIMBERS MASTER NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



November 2022

Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S PEN	2-5
ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
NOVEMBER SPEAKER	7
PLANT OF THE MONTH	8-9
HISTORICAL WOMEN NATURALISTS	10- 13
THE NATURE OF OAKS	14- 16
HOLLIE'S HABITAT	17
TCU CLEANUP	18- 21
HOLLIE'S HABITAT	22
TEXAS TREE ADVOCACY WORKBOOK	23
BOARD MEMBERS	27



President's Pen: The Rules our Chapter Lives By

Sharon Hamilton



An updated set of **Chapter Bylaws** has been written by our The Texas Master Naturalist™ Program [“State Office”], and our chapter will votes to adopt them during our January 16, 2023 chapter meeting. Bylaws are reviewed and updated by our state program coordinators and volunteers from TMN members every few years.

The State Office provides several governing documents for each chapter. These include

- Bylaws
- Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP)
- Chapter Operating Handbook (COH)
- Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct

Chapter Bylaws for the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Program must be adopted verbatim by each chapter with only two allowable changes. Chapters may choose between one year or two years for the term of officers/directors (Cross Timbers Chapter long ago selected that officers have a two-year term of office and each chapter may choose to include an Addendum for 501 (c) (3) Chapters. Cross Timbers was

President's Pen: The Rules our Chapter Lives By

Sharon Hamilton

incorporated as a 501©(3) organization status by the state of Texas in 2002.

To adopt the new bylaws, **we have already taken some steps.** We've sent chapter information about terms of office and our 501©(3) status to Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist State Program Coordinator. We've asked for and received approval to hold the upcoming vote from our TPWD sponsor, Rachel Richter. We'll hold a voice vote of eligible members and trainees at our January 16, 2023 meeting.

You may ask, **"Since, as a chapter within TMN program, we must adopt these bylaws verbatim, why do we even hold a vote?"** To reaffirm our association with the TMN program, to inform everyone of chapter requirements as written in our bylaws, and to individually confirm that these are the rules we will follow.

From the TMN website,

Once adopted, the Bylaws establish the rules of the road for the chapter....

Bylaws set the rules of the road; the **Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP)** gives specific directions and instructions. All chapters must comply with and adhere to the procedures defined in the CMOP.

The **Chapter Operating Handbook (COH)** is a document tailored to the individual

President's Pen: The Rules our Chapter Lives By

Sharon Hamilton

chapter and intended to assist the chapter in structuring and defining in detail local operational procedures and practices. A Chapter Operating Handbook Framework document is provided by the state office assures compliance with the Bylaws and the CMOP while allowing flexibility for the chapter to adapt its COH to local needs and resources. [Cross Timbers Chapter will review and customize our COH in 2023.]

All members of the TMN Program must adhere to the **Code of Ethics** and **Standards of Conduct**. Those two documents establish the values and principles upon which the TMN Program is built and provide clarification when questions arise about member behavior and intentions for the program.

To access all these documents provided by the TMN state office (and others relevant to TMN chapters), visit

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/> .

To access all these our chapter's bylaws, including the terms of office and the 501© (3) addendum, visit

<https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/chapter-bylaws/>

At our November meeting this Monday, we will be conducting our elections according to our bylaws. Terms are ending for the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Glenna Walker, our Secretary, has another year in her term of office.

President's Pen: The Rules our Chapter Lives By

Sharon Hamilton

The Officer Nominating Committee, chaired by past President Bill Collins, submits this slate of candidates:

President - Sharon Hamilton

Vice President - Mary Beth Lampe

Treasurer - Dee Ann McGinnis

Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to our vote.

If only one candidate is nominated for an office, that candidate may be elected by voice vote. **Voting members are those who are current in paying dues, including our class of 2022 trainees.** If only one candidate is nominated for office, the candidate may be elected by voice vote. If more than one candidate is nominated for office, the election will take place by secret ballot.

We will have paper available for those persons attending in-person and will use Zoom Polls for those attending virtually. This is our first use of Zoom to collect votes anonymously. We cannot guarantee that this system will work smoothly, as numerous issues may prevent themselves, but we will do our very best. If you want to make absolutely sure that your vote will count, we urge you to attend in person.

Winners will be determined by a simple majority and the newly elected offices will assume their duties in January 2023.

November 2022

Monthly Announcements

November Meeting:

Our upcoming meeting on November 21, 2022 will be held in person and on Zoom, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Social time will start at 6:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Scott Kiester, who will be leading a discussion on wrens. We will also be voting for our upcoming president, vice president, and treasurer for the next terms. Hope to see you all there.

To all Members:

Your hours matter. Please record them within 45 days of service.

Hours may qualify as \$74 worth of matching funds so the State of Texas can receive money from the Federal Government. Let's get our tax dollars back in Texas!

Looking for the monthly Calendar of Events?

Please go to <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/events-calendar> for a readable, upgraded calendar

Help us include as many Master Naturalist activities as possible to our online calendar.

If you have CTMN items to add or corrections, contact Mary Beth Lampe at mblampe@gmail.com

Thank you!

November Speaker - “Wrens: Little Birds with Lots of Energy”

Scott Kiester

Scott Kiester loves nature, and he loves to teach people about it. Kiester is a master naturalist and serves as project manager for the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). He often leads bird walks at various locations in North Texas.

Below, Kiester discusses his interest in the environment and the work it takes to be able to learn and teach others about nature.



Read more at this link:

[Kiester talks about role he plays in keeping Denton County beautiful](#)

Plant of the Month: Possumhaw

Josephine Keeney

**Possumhaw, Deciduous Holly, *Ilex decidua*,
Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)**

This wonderful shrub or small tree reaches 15-30 feet high and is rather inconspicuous most of the year looking very much like Yaupon Holly which is a relative with a big difference, Possumhaw is deciduous and Yaupon is not.

It blooms in March-May with little white flowers in the leaf axils and it can grow in full sun to partial shade preferring plenty of moisture.

This plant is dioecious, meaning that they are not self fertile, the female plant makes the berries but it needs a male plant somewhere in the area for pollination. The male doesn't need to be really close, since pollen travels a long way.



When you buy this plant it is best to buy it in the fall when it is in fruit, so you can be sure to get a female. Sometimes the nurseries get them mixed up and you could end up disappointed.

Plant of the Month: Possumhaw

Josephine Keeney

The big show starts in the fall when the berries turn bright orange red and continues in winter when the leaves drop and the tree is ablaze with color. The fruits last until late winter when they get soft and start to ferment. The last show begins when Mockingbirds take possession of the tree and try to chase away all other birds, but they are no match for the Cedar Waxwings that come by the thousands and devour all the berries in a frenzy that lasts only a few minutes.





COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

CTMN

Holiday Party

December 12, 6:30 p.m.

The Tarrant County Resource Connection Campus

2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth, TX, 76119

(there will be "CTMN Event" signs posted along the route)

SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED

GUESTS WELCOME

LIVE MUSIC BY CTMN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



Historical Women Naturalists: Remember Forgotten Pioneers

Glenda Walker

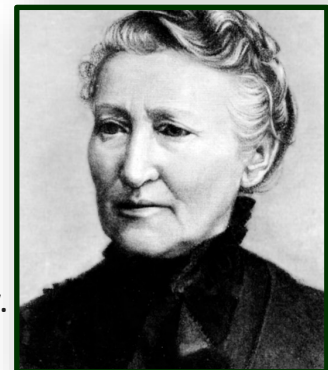
In a recent TMN Tuesday program, former state intern Addison Preston Regennitter presented about female naturalists of the last two centuries.

Addison's presentation concentrated on six women featured in **American Women Afield: A Collection of Writings by Historic Women Naturalists**, written by Marcia Meyers Bonta.

Martha Maxwell (1831-1881) was encouraged by her stepfather and husband to pursue natural history. Maxwell learned taxidermy, and was inspired to create a full collection of Colorado fauna. She often collected her own specimens, trapping and shooting them on trips with her husband and stepson or alone. In 1875, she opened a museum in Boulder, Colorado. Maxwell made observations on 224 birds and 47 mammals, including three black-footed ferrets. She was invited to showcase fauna and animals in their natural environment at the 1876 National Centennial in Philadelphia.



Mary Treat (1830-1923), was interested in botany and entomology--carnivorous plants and predatory insects in particular. Mary was widowed and had to support herself, so she used her interests to fuel her writing career. She discovered several new plants and insects. Four species were named after her, two types of ants, one amaryllis, and a rain lily. She is quoted as saying, "***The more I limit myself to a small area, the more novelties and discoveries I make in nature.***"



Historical Women Naturalists: Remember Forgotten Pioneers

Glenda Walker

Florence Merriam Bailey (1863- 948) is mentioned in the TMN curriculum book currently used in training . Influenced by her brother and father, 26-year-old Bailey wrote **Birds Through an Opera Glass**, the first historically detailed field guide that bridged science and outreach for the general public. Married to Vernon Daily, chief naturalist for the US biological survey, she spent the next 50 years exploring the West. As the author of **Handbook of Birds of the Western United States** and **Birds of New Mexico**, Bailey was an activist for conservation of birds. She protested the killing of birds for their feathers used for the fashionable hats that were popular during her lifetime.



Annie Trumbull Slossom (1838- 1926) had a childhood interest in nature. A widow with no children, Slossom wrote fiction, and was mentored by male colleagues in her professional endeavors. She began studying entomology at age 48. One of the first members of the New York Entomology Society, she hosted meetings and raised money selling mounted butterflies. Over 100 species were named for Slossom, and she donated 35,000 species in her personal collection to the American Museum of Natural History. She wrote **The Experiences of a Collector** in 1917. When asked



Historical Women Naturalists: Remember Forgotten Pioneers

Glenda Walker

why she became an entomologist she said, *"It is hard to describe in a way you can comprehend. The questioners know nothing of our real burning, our full reward for all the pains and exertions."*

Born and raised in Illinois, **Agnes Chase** (1868-1963) was an agrostologist [one who studies grasses] and a suffragette. Despite only having an elementary education, Chase was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Illinois. Agnes began her career as a mostly unpaid botanical illustrator. She worked at the USDA, becoming senior botanist, and stayed with the Department for 24 years after her retirement! Her fieldwork was done in Europe, Brazil, and other South American countries. In 1922, she **wrote The First Book of Grasses**, aimed at the serious amateur, that was translated into Spanish and Portuguese.



Perhaps the best-known woman naturalist was **Rachel Carson** (1907-1964), who loved the natural world from a young age and received a Master's Degree in Zoology from Johns Hopkins. An aquatic biologist with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, she developed **Romance Under the Waters**, a radio program, and was editor-in-chief of **The Sea Around Us**. Rachel wrote **The Edge of the Sea**, and **Underneath the Sea World**, compilations of articles she had written for the



Historical Women Naturalists: Remember Forgotten Pioneers

Glenda Walker

USDA. Carson's passion was writing for the general public. **Silent Spring**, Carson's 1962 landmark book that reshaped thoughts on United States' environmental policies, was inspired by a friend who told her about the effects of DDT. Carson testified before the Senate about how DDT affected the bald eagle—our national symbol. Her work resulted in the nationwide ban on the use of DDT and the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Carson received many posthumous honors: parks, libraries, sculptures, and wildlife refuges have been named for her. She was awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom and inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973.

There are many recurring themes throughout the lives of these historic Women Master Naturalists. They all had a love of nature and most were inspired by their families. Many were raised in rural environments. They were independent, but some supported themselves and were mentored by male professional peers. Their books and publications were mainly written for the general public. Most had little formal education and were in fields dominated by men. But they didn't let that stop them! Learning about these pioneering women, we can all be inspired to study and advocate for the natural world!

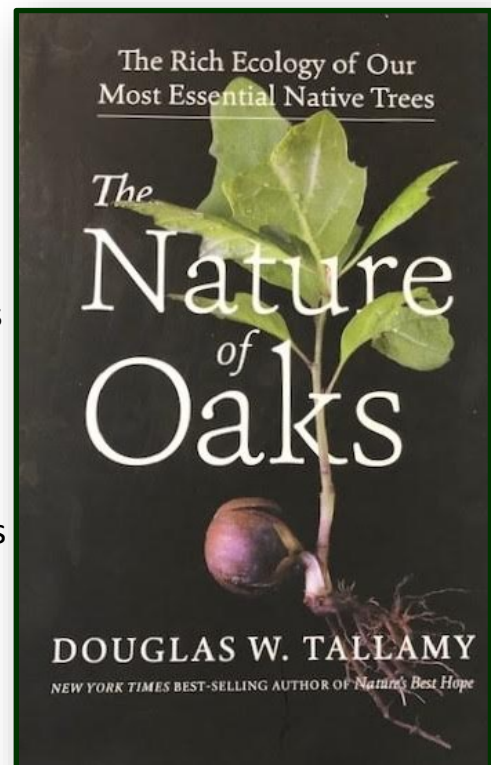
Book Review: “The Nature of Oaks” by Doug Tallamy

Hollie Carron

A Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, Doug Tallamy has established himself as a mainstream author. His New York Times bestseller, “Nature’s Best Hope”, is inspiring homeowners everywhere to apply conservation principles and create wildlife corridors in their own landscape. He is a talented lecturer and great storyteller that explains the food web of the ecosystems we live in. He explains the importance of native plants to support the insects which feed the reptiles, amphibians, birds and other small mammals.

In his newest book, “The Nature of Oaks”, he chronologically walks through the year, month by month, describing many interesting details you can observe on and around oak trees throughout the year. It is full of stories and facts to engage anyone who is interested in the natural world around them. The book discusses the major characteristics of the Quercus family which are responsible for their role as a keystone species.

The first characteristic is the size of the genus Quercus. It is the largest within the northern hemisphere. North America lists over 90 species out of the 600 species found worldwide. Quercus also has the greatest geographic range of any tree genus in the world, leading to an overlap of ranges of caterpillar species. They support more caterpillars than any other plant genera. Oaks use tannin in their leaves as a plant



Book Review: “The Nature of Oaks” by Doug Tallamy

Hollie Carron

defense, but it is not immediately toxic such as the cardiac glycosides in milkweed. Since *Quercus* evolved over 60 million years ago, the insects have had a lot of time to adapt. The plant size and lifespan are also key factors. A very large, long lived oak tree has a much better chance of attracting insects such as butterflies or moths. The encounters facilitate the evolution of a host relationship. This characteristic is described as plant apparency.

I came to appreciate how interconnected the cycle of predation can be between different insect species. The oak weevil cycle was one of his stories. The early developing acorn attracts an adult oak weevil that is ready to lay her eggs. She creates a nest on the developing acorn by drilling a tiny hole onto the surface to deposit the egg in. The weevil then closes off the entrance with feces. Once



the egg hatches the larva tunnels into the acorn where it feeds on the nut and grows until the acorn drops from the tree. To avoid predation the larva quickly drills a hole in the acorn and squeezes out to pupate in the soil below. The larva that doesn't make it out of the acorn before it is the food source for another species make a great additional source of fat and protein. The acorns on the ground with holes in them are then available for another opportunistic species, the *Temnorthoax* ant species. These tiny ants move in, using the tiny larval exit holes as their doorway, which is small enough to

Book Review: “The Nature of Oaks” by Doug Tallamy

Hollie Carron

keep their predators out. The acorn is then serving as a safe home for a colony of about 100 ants. Some *Temnorthoax* species raid other colonies and raise the captured larva as slave workers.

Winterized caterpillars were a delightful surprise to me. Like your car’s radiator, they contain glycerin to keep from bursting in freezing weather. Many moth species, like the *Lytrosis unitaria* (inchworms) pause their feeding and development in winter at the third or fourth instar and remain on the trees. They are hidden in bark cracks and crevices or just sitting still on

branches. Those that don’t serve as a winter meal resume their growth when there are edible green leaves again. Autopsy evidence has shown caterpillars serve as winter food for songbirds and even owls. Evidence showed chickadees have a winter



diet of 50% insects. Even our author, a long-time entomologist expressed surprise at this. He admitted to a previous assumption that chickadees had a granivorous diet in the winter.

In this book Dr. Tallamy explains why oaks are considered one of the top keystone species but he also entertains us with stories about the natural world. It is an easy read that will satisfy the curiosity of a naturalist while motivating us all for change.

Hollie's Habitat



SLEEPY ORANGE



COMMON
CHECKERED SKIPPER



GREAT PURPLE
HAIRSTREAK



SLEEPY ORANGE



TEXAS WASP MOTH



COMMON BUCKEYE

Hollie Carron's shrubby boneset plant, the *Argeratina havanensis*, has been attracting a lot of attention from her local pollinators. It seem's like some plants attract many more kinds of insects than others.

CTMN Supports Neighborhood Park Cleanup Led by TCU TCU Harris College of Nursing

On Saturday, October 29, almost nine tons of trash were cleaned up at Glenwood Park in the Historic Southside neighborhood of Fort Worth during TCU's annual Day of Service. Despite the overcast, cool, and wet conditions, 46 TCU student volunteers and 37 community volunteers, some of whom were TCU faculty and staff, volunteered to help create a climate-safe neighborhood.

"It feels really good to help out my community and get involved," said Plez Transou, a movement science major. "It's really good to be able to give back to the community as a school and get really connected and involved in Fort Worth."

In partnership with TCU Nursing, School of Science and Engineering, Burnett School of Medicine, Bob Schieffer College of Communication and AddRan College of Liberal Arts, the [Fort Worth Climate Safe Neighborhood Coalition](#) hosted the park cleanup and health fair event to **increase equitable access to safe and sustainable green space, advance tree equity and extend environmental knowledge throughout Fort Worth.** The Coalition is made of several community partners: the Historic Southside Neighborhood Association (HSNA), TCU, the city of Fort Worth, Tarrant County Public Health and the **Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter.**



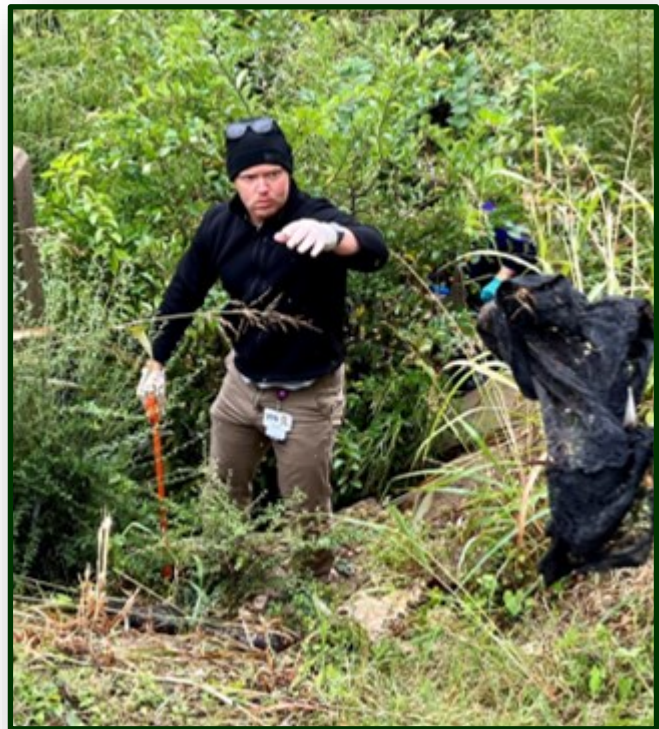
"Our interest began in 2019 wanting to promote greenspace in the city, wanting to prescribe nature," said **Gina Alexander**, associate professor in nursing, and member of

CTMN Supports Neighborhood Park Cleanup Led by TCU TCU Harris College of Nursing

Cross Timbers Chapter. “People tend to equate health care with medication and treatments, very expensive and not sustainable; our health care system prioritizes a down-stream approach and rescuing people. Public health and primary care prioritize an up-stream approach through health promotion, prevention and people being outdoors, in nature, off their screens, engaged in the fresh air.”

Students, faculty and staff members from across TCU joined to help clean up Glenwood Park. “There are currently 37 acres not being utilized for greenspace or recreation,” said Alexander, “and neighbors report that homeless encampments and criminal activity at night are a deterrent to community members feeling safe to use it.”

Along with members of the Fort Worth community, volunteers walked around the banks of the creek, picking up trash and learning about the history of Southside Fort Worth.



“Seeing all these people around me really just fills me with energy, knowing we’re all here for the same cause. Seeing the park improve bit by bit puts a smile on my face and is encouraging me to work harder,” said Abraham Morales, economics major.

The health fair included the TCU Institute of Behavioral Research’s (IBR) new Mobile Health Unit and the Tarrant County Public Health mobile operations unit, which

CTMN Supports Neighborhood Park Cleanup Led by TCU TCU Harris College of Nursing

provided COVID-19 vaccinations at the event. The [TCU Mobile Health Unit](#) is not yet available in the community, but is available to those enrolled in the IBR research project that is focused on addressing gaps along the service and prevention cascade of care by connecting at risk members of the community to local resources.

Booths were on-site to provide community resources such as voter registration; to get input from community members on Glenwood Park improvements; and to provide education on the value of biodiverse, climate



-resilient nature and green space that the entire community can enjoy. Members **Vicki Brooks** and **Gina Alexander** organized the event, **Sally McCoy** joined the clean up crew, and **Sandy Thornburgh** and **Sharon Hamilton** staffed the **CTMN** table.

Some Coalition members, particularly the Historic Southside Neighborhood Association, have advocated for park and greenspace improvements for several years and recall a time when Glenwood Park was a family-friendly, outdoor retreat for the surrounding community.

“In the heat of the day, you could come here, put your blankets out and have picnics. Nobody bothered anybody. Music would be playing,” said **Johnny Lewis**, vice president of the HSNA. “These trees have seen some good times.”

CTMN Supports Neighborhood Park Cleanup Led by TCU TCU Harris College of Nursing

Ultimately, the Coalition would like to develop a master plan for park amenities. This plan would include an improved playground, a renovated pavilion, additional pavilion areas, some tennis and volleyball courts, a walking and nature trail, a dog park, more picnic tables and more lighting.

Their next event is a celebration of Earth Day, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023, with an alternate date of April 15.



HOLLIE'S HABITAT



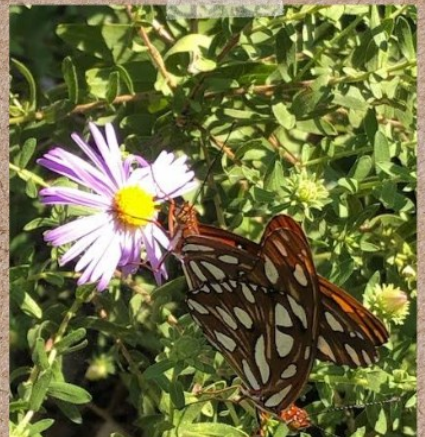
**GREGG'S MISTFLOWER
WITH MONARCH**



**BEAUTYBERRY WITH A
QUESTION MARK
BUTTERFLY**



**BUCKEYE BUTTERFLY ON
GOLDENROD ALTISSIMO**



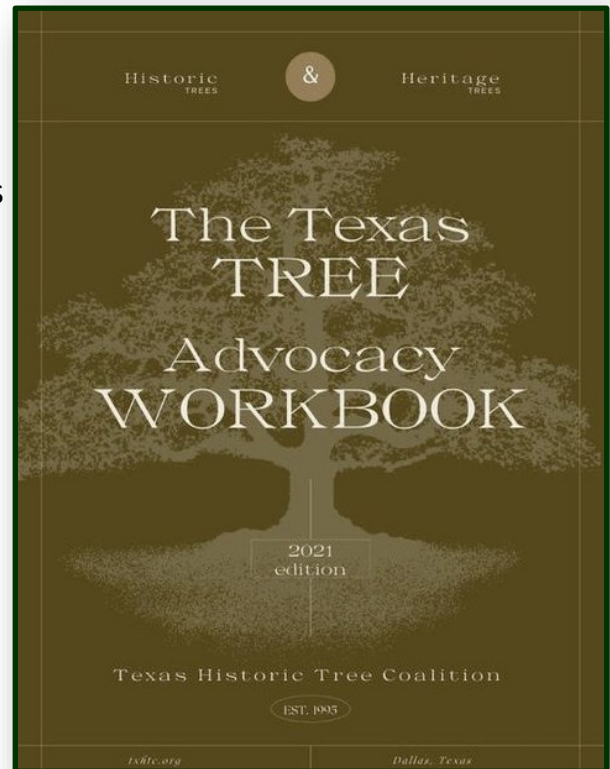
Texas Tree Advocacy Workbook

Amy Martin

Steve Houser, former tree instructor of the North Texas chapter, has used his rare spare time to arrange for his material to be transformed into a beautiful readable PDF. A project of the Texas Historic Tree Coalition <https://txhtc.org/>, co-founded by Ned Fritz <https://nedfritz.com/>. Enjoy!

The Texas Tree Advocacy Workbook

This advocacy workbook is a valuable tool for those looking to preserve and protect our Earth's natural assets. Since 1995, the coalition has worked with grass-root organizations, city and county leaders and officials, public and private entities, as well as other institutions to protect trees and urban forests in the state of Texas. This compilation of advocacy best management practices was designed to help empower new and seasoned advocates alike. We hope you find the information, tools, and resources helpful.



Download for free here: https://mcusercontent.com/1c90b990ca5fbab3b7e835715/files/d6e04c22-fabc-6b2d-8258-3e58e39a18ea/2022_TXHTC_Advocacy_Workbook_Read_Only.pdf

CTMN Board Members

- SHARON HAMILTON - PRESIDENT
- MARY BETH LAMPE - VICE PRESIDENT
- GLENDA WALKER - SECRETARY
- CHRISTOPHER CASTORO - TREASURER

CTMN Chair Members

- DEBBIE STILSON - MEMBERSHIPS
- SHARON HAMILTON - OUTREACH
- MELINDA WOLFINBARGER - EDUCATION
- THERESA THOMAS - VOL SERVICES AND AT HOURS
- SANDY THORNBURGH - HOSPITALITY
- THERESA THOMAS - RECORDS
- EVAN VAUGHN - NEWSLETTER
- FRANK KEENEY - WEBMASTER
- ERIKA SWYRYN - CLASS OF 2022 REPRESENTATIVE

Citations

- "COVER PAGE" PHOTOS - PHOTOS OF MEMBERS - PHOTOGRAPHER: EVAN VAUGHN AND CECILY RODGERS
- "SEPTEMBER SPEAKER" - PHOTO OF VEROICA VILLEGAS: [HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/VERONICA-VILLEGAS-551B1616/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/veronica-villegas-551b1616/); PHOTO OF VICKI BROOKS: [HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/BROOKS_VICKI?REF_SRC=TWSRC%5EGOOGLE%7CTWCAMP%5ESERP%7CTWGR%5EAUTHOR](https://twitter.com/BROOKS_VICKI?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)
- "CLASS OF 2022" PHOTOS- PHOTOGRAPHERS: EVAN VAUGHN AND CECILY RODGERS
- "MEMBER SPOTLIGHT" - PHOTOGRAPHER: MARCIE DELGADO
- "SHRUBS FOR ALL SEASONS" - PHOTOGRAPHS - [HTTPS://NEILSPERRY.COM/](https://neilsperry.com/)
- "RESULTS FOR THE NORTH TEXAS FALL SOCIALLY DISTANT BIOBLITZ 2022" - ALL PHOTOGRAPHS: [HTTPS://WWW.INATURALIST.ORG/](https://www.inaturalist.org/)
- "MINERAL WELLS POLLINATOR GARDEN" - PHOTOGRAPHER: VICKI BROOKS