

CROSS TIMBERS MASTER NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

T E X A S

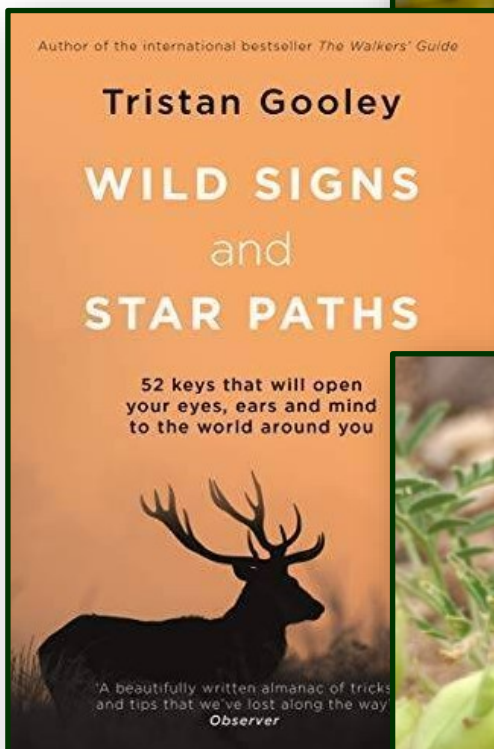
Master
Naturalist™



January 2023

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President's Pen: Important Vote to Adopt New Bylaws January 16, 2023

Sharon Hamilton

At our January 16th meeting, we will vote to adopt the State Program's 2022 version of Chapter Bylaws.

This important task reaffirms our commitment to follow guidelines created and amended for all TMN chapters. Bylaws are amended every few years to reflect changes that have occurred in the TMN program, such as holding virtual meetings and online voting.

While each chapter's bylaws includes two items specific to that chapter, the vast majority of the content was created and amended by our State sponsors with the input of a committee of TMN volunteers who spent dozens of hours reading, editing, and revising the 16-page document.

I urge you to read over the new bylaws, available on our chapter website at <http://txmn.org/crosstimbers/files/2022/11/2022-CTMN-Chapter-Bylaws.pdf> to learn more about how our chapter works.

A few summarized and annotated items:

Article III Chapter Purpose: "A chapter is *not organized for profit*, nor shall any of its net earnings inure [be an advantage]... to members, employees, or other individuals. Each chapter shall be an educational, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to

President's Pen: Important Vote to Adopt New Bylaws January 16, 2023

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fulfilling the Program's mission."

A chapter's main objectives are to provide natural resource service, enhance public understanding, provide education and outreach, and develop a knowledgeable volunteer network.

Article IV Membership: Categories of membership include TMN Member-in-Training, Certified TMN members, and TMN Members. The Member category includes volunteers who have "not yet met the requirements for initial certification" or *previously certified members "who have not completed recertification for more than one year."* **This last category includes those of us who are not able to certify due to health issues or other personal reasons.**

Hurray! Every member is important, whether you are able to certify each year or not.

Articles V and VI Officers and Other Board Members: Officers include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other Board members include our chapter advisors (from TPWD and Tarrant AgriLife), the immediate past president, a state representative (for most chapters this is the President), and Directors. Directors are appointed and confirmed by the officers, advisors, and the immediate past president. Officers must be Certified, and with the exception of the advisors, all other board members must be "in good standing," or current in dues and in compliance with the TMN Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

President's Pen: Important Vote to Adopt New Bylaws January 16, 2023

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Article VII Meetings: “The chapter membership shall be notified of all meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.” [Remember, **CTMN meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month** except December when we hold our end-of-year Holiday Party.] “Meetings may be held remotely/virtually (by electronic means) so long as... the electronic media permits the democratic participation of all attendees.”

Since the “*chapter membership shall be notified of all board meetings,*” we post Board meeting dates on the website’s calendar. Most Board meetings are the first Monday of the month except in July, August, and September. The August meeting coincides with the first training class of the year.

Board meetings are open to all chapter members and to the public.

Article X: Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws: The template provided by the TMN program “*must be adopted verbatim*” with the options of term-length of officers being 12 or 24 months and an Addendum for 501© (3) chapters. [Officers of CTMN have a term length of 24 months and as a 501© (3) organization, we include the Addendum.] Chapter Bylaws shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of members constituting a quorum.

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Addendum for 501©(3) Chapters: Conflict of Interest: This policy protects our tax-exempt organization's interest when "contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director. It includes a "Duty to Disclose" any financial interest as well as a procedure for the Board to determine whether a conflict of interest is present. Board members shall annually sign a statement affirming that the person has received a copy of this policy and has read and understands it.

We look forward to adopting these new Bylaws. After that task is completed, we will examine the new **Chapter Operating Handbook**, an addition document that governs every TMN chapter. If you are interested in serving to review and customize this Handbook, please contact Sharon Hamilton at shamilton16@ctmn.org or president@ctmn.org.

January 2023

Monthly Announcements

January Meeting:

Our upcoming meeting on January 16, 2023 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 Meghan Cassidy, who will be leading a discussion on our local spiders. 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!

January Speaker - “The Spiders of Cross Timbers”

Meghan Cassidy

Meghan is a data analyst by day, and a naturalist, photographer, and a strong advocate of everything in class Arachnida by night!

She can often be found in Texas parks taking macro photography of small critters such as spiders and insects, or hosting nighttime spider walks!

Some of her photos have been published in journals and books, such as an upcoming publication from Texas A&M Press titled "[Mindful of Texas Nature](#)" - a project with author & herpetologist Michael Smith.



Some of you may also know her as "wildcarrot" on iNaturalist, and chances are she's identified your spiders!

Volunteer Opportunity

Range and Pasture Plan Identification Judges

Howdy! For the Fort Worth Livestock Show, I serve as the Superintendent for the 4-H/FFA Range and Pasture Plant identification Contest. I am in need of volunteers to help grade hand written score cards.

This activity is on **January 21st** from **12:30 pm to 5 pm** and is held at the **Botanical Research Institute of Texas and the Fort Worth Botanical Garden.**

I am in need of 2-3 volunteers who could work for 3 hours from 1 to 4 pm and would be interested in grading plant names on contestant score sheets. Onsite training for being a volunteer grader for this contest is provided on site, but if someone is interested and wants to know the names of the plants being judged.



If you would like to visit with me by phone on this opportunity, please call me on my cell at 979-255-0391. Thanks for considering my request. - Barron

2023 Dues are Due!

You can pay on the ctmn.org website, bring a check to the meeting, or mail a check to our treasurer at:

Dee Ann McGinnis
2843 Co Rd 3838
Bridgeport, TX 76426

Please note, that the membership cost is now \$25.

Thank you for your continued support of our program.

Reading Nature

Linda Little



Winter will find me dreaming in seed catalogs, bundling up for chilly adventures, or snuggled up and cozy with a good book. Cheers to this time of reflection and quietude where we can look back on the past year's triumphs and plan for our future endeavors.

This book list covers an array of interests for us Naturalists; from trees and plants, animals and invertebrates, the environment, climate change, sociology and more. It is in no way complete and you're probably thinking of your favorite books that aren't on this list and should be. Wouldn't you want to share it with us as well?

Please send some of your favorite books and they will be shared in the next issue along with your name. Mail

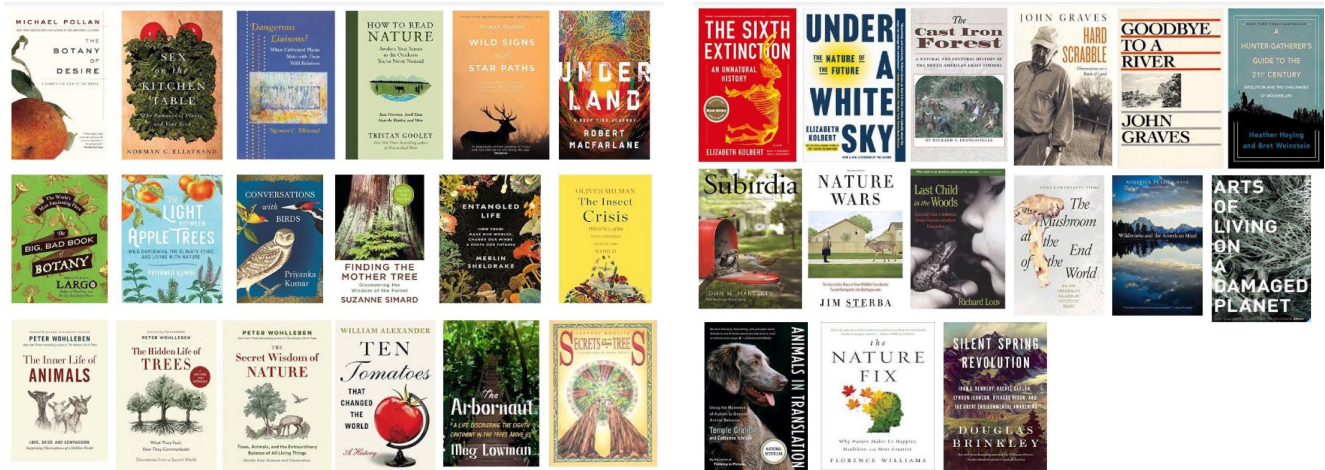
to lindalittle631@gmail.com.

Happy reading to us all!

Reading Nature: Book List

Linda Little

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World	Michael Pollan	Note
Sex on the Kitchen Table: The Romance of Plant's and Your Food	Norman C. Ellstrand	Note
Dangerous Liasons?: When Cultivated Plant's Mate with Their Wild Relatives	Norman C. Ellstrand	
How to Read Nature: Awaken Your Senses to the Outdoors You've Never Noticed	Tristan Gooley	Note
Wild Signs and Star Paths: 52 Keys That Will Open Your Eyes, Ears and Mind to the World Around You	Tristan Gooley	
Underland: A Deep Time Journey	Robert Macfarlane	Note
The Big, Bad Book of Botany: The World's Most Fascinating Flora	Michael Largo	
The Light Between Apple Trees: Wild Gardening, The Climate Ethic, and Living with Nature	Priyanka Kumar	



Reading Nature

Linda Little

Conversations with Birds [Priyanka Kumar](#)

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest [Suzanne Simard](#)

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures [Merlin Sheldrake](#)

The Insect Crisis: The Fall of the Tiny Empires That Run the World [Oliver Milman](#)

The Inner Life of Animals: Love, Grief, and Compassion: Surprising Observations of a Hidden World [Peter Wohlleben](#)

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World [Peter Wohlleben](#)

The Secret Wisdom of Nature: Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things - Stories from Science and Observation [Peter Wohlleben](#)

Ten Tomatoes that Changed the World: A History [William Alexander](#)

The Arbornaut : A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us [Meg Lowman](#)

Secrets from the Lives of Trees [Jeff Goelitz](#)

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History [Elizabeth Kolbert](#)

Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future [Elizabeth Kolbert](#)

The Cast Iron Forest: A Natural and Cultural History of the North American Cross Timbers [Richard V. Francaviglia](#)

Hard Scrabble: Observations on a Patch of Land [John Graves](#)

Reading Nature

Linda Little

Goodbye to a River: A Narrative

John Graves

A Hunter-Gatherer's Guide to the 21st Century:
Evolution and the Challenges of Modern Life

Heather E. Heying, and
Bret Weinstein

Welcome to Subirdia: Sharing Our
Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins,
Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife

John M. Marzluff

Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How
Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into
Battlegrounds

Jim Sterba

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children
from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Richard Louv

The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the
Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet: Ghosts and
Monsters of the Anthropocene

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

Wilderness and the American Mind

Roderick Nash

A Sand County Almanac

Aldo Leopold

Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of
Autism to Decode Animal Behavior

Temple Grandin

The Nature Fix

Florence Williams

Silent Spring Revolution: JFK, Rachel Carson,
LBJ, Nixon, and the Great Environmental
Awakening

Douglas Brinkley

Volunteer Opportunity

Fort Worth Zoo Demonstration Garden

Do you need hours? We need you! Volunteer hours will count towards certification under the category: NPSOT volunteer activity with Fort Worth Zoo Demonstration Garden in the description. More information about this project follows.



Native Plant Society of Texas North Central Chapter member Stesha Pasachnik is working with Fort Worth Zoo to create a demonstration garden at the front of the Zoo, outside the main entrance. This garden will be viewed by the many passersby going to the Zoo and is a great opportunity to reach more people to fulfill the mission of the NPSOT. This project has just started, being seeded and planted in the last few weeks – even using some of the rescued plants from the Forest Park Pool demonstration garden. The idea of this garden is to showcase different types of native plant gardening with a wild prairie in the back half and a more manicured garden in the front. This project is for you if you would like to get in on the ground floor in developing a new demonstration garden. If you would like to volunteer to work with Stesha, please contact her at SAPasachnik@gmail.com.

Environmental Education Award Recipient: Suzanne Tuttle

We would like to take a moment to congratulate Suzanne for this amazing achievement! She received the Environmental Education Award at the Green Source DFW Awards ceremony on December 4, 2022 at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Suzanne Tuttle has an exemplary record as an environmental educator in North Texas. The list is long. She was the Director of the **Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge** and has helped ID plants at **Tandy Hills Natural Area**. She has led numerous Wildflower Walks during the 10-year run of Prairie Fest at Tandy Hills. She was a founding member of the Kids on the Prairie team of Master Naturalists in 2006 who led field trips for young students.



Suzanne helped write the Master Plan for Tandy Hills in 2007. She was a major participant in the Tandy Hills Bioblitz in 2011. And finally, she helped write grants to help Friends of Tandy Hills improve the trail systems in 2018. That's just Tandy Hills. She is deeply involved in education opportunities with the **Native Plant Society of Texas**, **Native Prairies Association of Texas**. She leads Winter Tree ID field trips at [Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve](#) and elsewhere. She remains a consultant to City of Fort Worth Park & Rec Department and others.

Suzanne is a soft-spoken laid-back yet highly professional and capable educator, brimming with knowledge and vast experience in her field. Her style is calm, confident and inspiring.

Please take the time to congratulate her the next time you see her!

CTMN Volunteer Achievements

2022

Please take a moment to help us congratulate those members that have recertified in 2022! They have completed, logged, and had approved 40 volunteer hours and 8 advanced training hours. They will all receive the Lightning Whelk Pin.

November

Terry Austin
Betty Starnes

Martha Mullens
Troy Mullens

December

Gina Alexander
Ellen Long
Dee Ann McGinnis

Cindy Cobb
Laurie Lucas
Larry Mundt

Jason Cole
Megan McConnell
Roberto Ramos

Member Milestones

Annabelle Corboy - 250 hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)

iSpy

Evan Vaughn

Hopefully everyone is having a great 2023 so far! We are going to be introducing a game for this upcoming year to help people get outside in nature, log some hours, and have fun.

Every month we will have a scavenger hunt of sorts. We will list 4 to 5 animals or plants for you to find. Your job is to go out, take a picture of the animal or plant, and upload it to iNaturalist. Once you have completed the tasks, send us an email at newsletter@ctmn.org, letting us know your iNaturalist id so we can see your pictures.

Don't forget, you can log volunteer hours for participating in iNaturalist. At our monthly meetings, we would love to show off some of the photos that our members have taken.

Depending on the level of participation we get, we might introduce prizes throughout the year. Let me know if you have any questions. January's iSpy challenge is on the next page.

Happy hunting!

iSpy January 2023

Even in the winter, there's still plenty of activity outside. See if you can find the following this month.



Fox Squirrel



Northern Cardinal



Possumhaw

Inland Sea Oats



White-Tailed Deer



Don't forget to send your iNaturalist ID to
newsletter@ctmn.org

CTMN Board Members

- SHARON HAMILTON - PRESIDENT
- MARY BETH LAMPE - VICE PRESIDENT
- GLENDA WALKER - SECRETARY
- DEE ANN MCGINNIS- 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
- "JANUARY SPEAKER" - PHOTO OF MEGHAN CASSIDY: [HTTPS://WWW.INATURALIST.ORG/USERS/43591](https://www.inaturalist.org/users/43591)
- "VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY" PHOTO— [HTTPS://WWW.TRISTATEFAIR.COM/EVENTS/2022/RANGE--PASTURE-PLANT-ID-CONTEST](https://www.tristatefair.com/events/2022/range--pasture-plant-id-contest)
- "SUZANNE TUTTLE" - PHOTO - [HTTPS://PUBLIC.NTMN.ORG/ARCHIVES/419328](https://public.ntmn.org/archives/419328)
- "JANUARY ISPY" - PHOTOS—[HTTPS://WWW.INATURALIST.ORG](https://www.inaturalist.org)