

CROSS TIMBERS MASTER NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



April 2023

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President's Pen - The 2023 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Sharon Hamilton

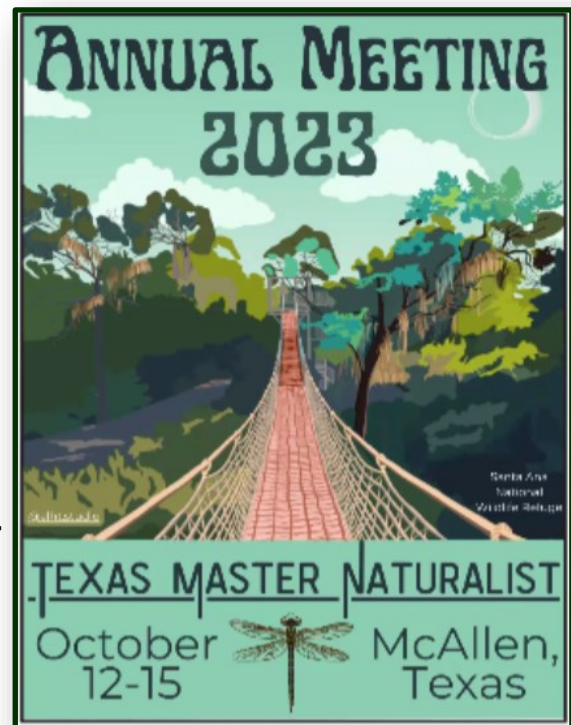
Imagine being part of a group of hundreds of Texas Master Naturalists, TPWD specialists, environmental professionals and fellow nature nerds--trading stories, experiencing the outdoors, participating in hands-on educational seminars, learning techniques, laughing, cheering for, and sharing meals with each other for three and a half days. All while earning enough Advanced Training hours to fulfill the year's requirements!

This year's TMN Annual Meeting, held October 12th through Sunday, October 15th at the southernmost point of Texas' South Plains ecoregion, surrounded by mesquite and prickly pear brush country in **McAllen, Texas**, Hidalgo County. **Plans are for a fully in-person event.**

This year's host chapters are Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Chapter and the South Texas Border Chapter, along with our energetic TMN and TPWD staffers, have been preparing for months for this wonderful event.

"Famous for its diversity of birds, butterflies, and endangered species including ocelots, Texas tortoises, Sabal Palms, and piping plovers, the Lower Rio Grande Valley is unlike any other ecoregion of our state. McAllen offers some of the best birding and nature exploration opportunities in Texas, with its sunny subtropical climate and prime location along the Central Flyway."

Most indoor and plenary sessions will be held at the McAllen Convention Center, which sits between multiple nature centers and wildlife refuges along the Rio Grande Valley.



President’s Pen - The 2023 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Sharon Hamilton

Although plans for sessions on Saturday, October 14 have not been officially announced, Michelle Haggerty teased an all-conference, all-day field trip to a nearby off-site location that will provide a prime location to view October’s annular solar eclipse and participate in other outdoor activities!

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM SKELETON AGENDA

Thursday 10/12	Pre-Event Field Sessions
	Chapter Leadership Luncheon
	Afternoon Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
	Welcome Dinner
Friday 10/13	All Day Field Sessions
	All Day Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
	Keynote Address
Saturday 10/14	Annular Solar Eclipse
	All Day Off-Site Conference Location
	Annual Awards Reception & Dinner
Sunday 10/15	Post-Event Field Sessions
	Contest Awards
	Morning Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
	Conference Wrap up by Noon!

Thursday, October 12

Pre-Event Field Sessions
Chapter Leadership Luncheon
Afternoon Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
Welcome Dinner

Saturday, October 14

Annular Solar Eclipse
All Day Off-Site Conference Location
Annual Awards Reception & Dinner

Sunday, October 15

Post-Event Field Sessions
Contest Awards
Morning Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
Conference Wrap Up by Noon

Friday, October 13

All Day Field Sessions
All Day Concurrent Advanced Training Sessions
Keynote Address

Presenters come from all over the state and keynote speakers may travel or Zoom from anywhere in the US! Past presenters include ISS astronaut and Gulf Coast Chapter member Kjell Lindgren, author Doug Tallamy, author Amy Martin, Tracy Herbarium’s Dr. Dale Kruse, as well as our own Brent Franklin, Rachel Richter, and Sam Kieschnick!

Proposals are being accepted until May 15, 2023. See <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/#call-for-proposals> for information.

Special arrangements for lodging are available at any of five hotels within walking distance of the convention center; see <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/#Lodging> for details. Participants are not required to stay at these hotels, so feel free to bunk at your south Texas friends and family’s places!

President's Pen - The 2023 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting

Sharon Hamilton

State staffers plan to have the full agenda online in early July, with registration opening on the website the first week of August. Field trips have limited space and fill very quickly—old timers recommend you register as soon after registration opens as possible.

Check the official website, <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2023-annual-meeting/>, for updates.

All members achieving volunteer milestones will be recognized—some volunteers earn a standing ovation for contributing thousands of volunteer hours! Local chapters will host a Silent Auction again this year—a perfect place to find holiday gifts for your family or yourself! Cross Timbers Chapter is one of several chapters recognized for sponsoring this event, contributing funds to keep the cost of attendance as low as possible.

In the past, CTMN has been able to offer partial scholarships for attendance. The Board has not yet discussed this for 2023, but watch this space!

If you're thinking of attending, email Sharon at shamilton16@gmail.com or president@ctmn.org with the Subject line CTMN: 2023 Annual Meeting. We'll start a group text/email/chat to share information about travel, lodging, possible roommates, etc.

April 2023

Monthly Announcements

April Chapter Meeting at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens:

Our upcoming meeting on Apr 17, 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 Breena Riley, who will be leading a discussion on our diversity and ecology of Texas diatoms. 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!

2022 Volunteer Recap

Rachel Richter

April is National Volunteer Month. I'd like to celebrate by taking a moment to say THANK YOU for all of the amazing work that you do! This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. The Cross Timbers Master Naturalist (CTMN) chapter was one of the first few chapters formed in the state, meaning that our chapter has invested well over two decades into improving North Texas. I have had the privilege of being one of the State advisors for the CTMN chapter for seven years now. During that time, I've watched you all accomplish amazing things. When it comes to managing and advocating for natural resources, the Master Naturalists are true experts.

The Texas Master Naturalist program was created, in part, because there was a great need for natural resource management that could not be met with the number of wildlife professionals in the state. With over 150 current members, our chapter is large and very active. In 2022, you logged 11,737 volunteer hours. That's over 225 hours per week! That's the equivalent of 5.5 full time natural resource professionals devoted to Tarrant and Parker Counties.

CTMN members bring their manpower, passion, and talent to a wide variety of projects. In 2022, members contributed to 101 different volunteer opportunities. These projects include monitoring bluebird boxes, battling invasive plants, leading outreach events, cataloging plants for BRIT, bioblitzes, and native plant gardening.



2022 Volunteer Recap

Rachel Richter

Because you are members of the community, you are uniquely positioned to be effective in a way that professionals often cannot. Community managers are typically eager to hear feedback from their constituents. I have frequently watched Master Naturalists use their knowledge and a little bit of polite persistence to convince cities to let native plants take over areas that were once dominated by exotics and other incredible feats.



Quite simply, the natural places and natural things of Tarrant and Parker Counties are immeasurably better because of the hard work, skill, and dedication that all of you contribute. Your everyday activities are making a tremendous difference. Thank you, on behalf of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, for amplifying our mission. Thank you for making our world better for both wildlife and people. Thank you for being amazing.



Volunteer Opportunity

Ducks Unlimited Expo and Mayfest

The Ducks Unlimited Expo and Mayfest are happening on the same weekend; TPWD is trying to host stations at both!

Can you help? TPWD is excited to return to [Mayfest](#) and the [DU Expo](#). We have enjoyed the previous events and the great attendance, a fun atmosphere and partnership in conservation. We would love to have your help and we will be open to public audiences on the busy weekend of 5/5 - 5/7.

If you're able to assist, please find shifts behind this link with [this link for the activities at the DU Expo](#), at the Texas Motor Speedway, and [this link for the activities at Mayfest](#), at Trinity Park! We'll be down on the track at the speedway!. Don't miss the "See More" button for more shifts on Sunday!

No training is necessary, and we're always appreciative of extra helpers. **Volunteers will receive free entry and parking for the festival and a TPWD Volunteer T-shirt. This includes free parking at Mayfest, a new addition for volunteers in 2023.**

For one of our greatest needs, the archery range, staff will be on-site to run the range. They will be very appreciative of the extra hands and eyes to ensure things run safely and smoothly.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Robert Owen (robert.owen@tpwd.texas.gov). More information will be provided as we get closer to the event!

We look forward to working with you! Use the **TPWD Outreach Event** entry in VMS.

Volunteer Opportunity

Molly Hollar Wildscape WOW Event



The Molly Hollar Wildscape is looking for volunteers to help lead elementary students or be presenters for a "Walk on the Wildside" (aka WOW) field trip for the morning of Monday, April 24th.

We start about 9:15 for set up at the Molly Hollar Wildscape at Veterans Park in Arlington. Kids arrive at 10:00. Around noon take things down.

Directions:

[Molly Hollar](#) 2600 Spanish Trail, Arlington, TX 76016

This is always a fun and rewarding event and requires a lot of volunteers. The kids love this trip into nature and are amazed at what they see and learn. We hope you can come join us for this fun and rewarding event.

You will earn volunteer hours for the VMS Opportunity "Molly Hollar Wildscape".

Please contact Ann Knudsen, MH Wildscape Coordinator, to volunteer or for more info at native_gardener@yahoo.com or cell # 682-554-4443.

TCA Launches Lights Out Fort Worth - Take Action. Protect Wildlife. Madison Gover

Want to know how to take action and protect wildlife this spring? Join us as the Texas Conservation Alliance announces the first season of Lights Out Fort Worth! As an extension of our Lights Out Dallas surveys for migrating birds that have struck windows downtown, we can learn more about birds that migrate through DFW and how they are affected by light pollution. Interested in Volunteering? Visit Lights Out DFW to fill out a volunteer interest form. Contact Mariah Campos to receive future Lights Out Fort Worth updates. As TCA is establishing the Lights Out Fort Worth program, feel free to forward this email to anyone who might be interested. Thank you for your interest in this initiative and for your commitment to wildlife conservation!

Downtown Fort Worth Surveying:

Lights Out Fort Worth Surveys for Spring 2023 begin Saturday, April 1st and end Wednesday, May 31st. No RSVP is required!

When: Mon-Sun mornings, 6am - 8am

April 1st - May 31st, 2023 (Rain or Shine)

Where: Surveys begin and end at the Tarrant County College Trinity River East Campus (TREC) Parking Lot (Map/driving directions attached)

Parking: TCC Trinity River East Campus (TREC) Parking Lot: 401 E Belknap St, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

A Parking Permit is required to park in the TREC Parking Lot, which will be provided for you on arrival. Please park in the white parking spaces designated for students.

TCA Launches Lights Out Fort Worth - Take Action. Protect Wildlife.

Madison Gover



What to Bring:

- A flashlight or headlamp
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Comfortable walking shoes

Before you arrive: Please complete [TCA's Volunteer Liability Waiver](#) online. Every new volunteer must fill out the waiver for 2023. Volunteer Guide (attached): [Review the guide for additional information.](#)

TCA Launches Lights Out Fort Worth - Take Action. Protect Wildlife. Madison Gover

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

You can help save migratory birds by turning off unnecessary lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during their spring migration period, one of the most dangerous times in their lives.

SAVE THE DATE

- Full Migration Period: March 1 – June 15
- Critical Peak Migration Period: April 22 – May 12

Millions of birds migrate through Texas each spring, with some species like Ovenbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and Indigo Buntings traveling almost 1,200 miles to reach their breeding grounds further north.

Migrating at night gives birds protection from diurnal (daytime) predators and allows them to

feed and rest by day. Navigation by positioning of the stars allows them to zip through the night sky, flying anywhere from 10 to 30 miles per hour. However, tall structures and light pollution from cities create bright reflective surfaces that disorient birds, with many colliding into buildings and windows during peak migration periods. With the fast-pace of the city, very few notice something as small as a bird. How can we really know the impact of city lights on birds until it's too late?



Special thanks to Leishawn SpottedBear (right), the Director of Science Collections with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, for joining the Lights Out Fort Worth team for our preseason survey. Dedicated volunteers would be the core and soul of Lights Out Fort Worth! Join us!

TCA Launches Lights Out Fort Worth - Take Action. Protect Wildlife. Madison Gover

Stronger State and Local Partnerships for Spring 2023

Working together, we amplify the voice of unspoken ones.

- Special thanks to the generosity of the Amon G Carter Foundation for supporting the Lights Out Fort Worth program.
- Audubon Texas took over the statewide facilitation of Lights Out Texas in 2022. Their leadership will continue to support all the Lights Out programs across the state, including Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and Austin.
- Birds that are collected throughout Lights Out Fort Worth are transferred to the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (BRTC) at Texas A&M College Station, where they are used in numerous research projects to help future bird populations.
- Fort Worth local partners are excited to support our first season of Lights Out Fort Worth. Thanks to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History for its commitment and assistance in participating in our collision surveys. We greatly appreciate Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus in downtown Fort Worth for assisting us with parking spaces in support of our volunteers and survey leaders. Shout out to Downtown Fort Worth Inc. for their continuous administrative assistance in connecting us with local Fort Worth businesses and organizations.
- Dallas local partners are taking an active role in Lights Out Dallas in addition to facilitating the start of Lights Out Fort Worth. Thanks to the Dallas Zoo and Trinity River Audubon Center (TRAC) for stronger support in leading the collision surveys, the Perot Museum for its continuous administrative assistance, and the North Texas and Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists for participating in surveys.

TCA Launches Lights Out Fort Worth - Take Action. Protect Wildlife. Madison Gover

These enhanced partnerships will continue to form a stronger voice for migratory birds and Lights Out Fort Worth!

Every bird counts. Migration is the most hazardous time for birds. Join us to make a difference for birds like Ovenbirds and Indigo Buntings! Turn off unnecessary lights and spread the word. Thank you again for your deep commitment to saving migratory birds!



A White-eyed Vireo found in Fort Worth by Mariah Campos & Madison Gover, Lights Out Fort Worth Coordinators, during the preseason survey in spring 2023.

Nominations Needed

Bill Collins

With an organization like the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists, we utilize about a dozen people to make sure everything gets done. (Meetings, speakers, documentation of volunteer and advanced training hours, organizing and executing an annual 10 week training program, outreach programs, and special events).

Every two years we go through the process of making sure we have the right people in place on our executive committee for the next two years. This year the positions of president, vice-president and secretary are to be filled.

Please consider stepping up and running for one of these positions. For information about duties of these positions, please see the recent Chapter Operating Handbook that was sent you by Sharon Hamilton.

If you are interested and need more information, please contact, Sharon at president@ctmn.org or Bill Collins at whc6845@yahoo.com.



What Are Those Yellow Flowers?

Stephonia Roberts

Spring has finally arrived dotting the countryside, highways and byways with wildflowers especially Bluebonnets. While roadside tourists and admirers of these beautiful native flowers draw the attention from near and far. However, there's another wildflower drawing people out of their homes and apartments inside smaller communities in the Southeast and Southwest corridor of Fort Worth.

The early morning hustle and bustle of congestion of cars, buses, and other vehicles making their way to their assign destinations briefly have moments where a glimpse of beautifully bright yellow gives their eyes an reprieve.

This yellow beauty has been seen near school sidewalks, neighborhood yards, and of course along the roadside.

I have seen in the past many immigrants residing in the Monarch apartments off Campus and Seminary drive collectively gathering these little yellow beauties . Of course this peaked my interests only discovering the beauty of yellow primroses and possibly a source of herbal remedies for those who harvested the plant.

Upon gathering my own these beauties are magnificently yellow with a small tint of pink more vibrant then their cousins Pink ladies (*Oenothera speciosa*).

The clusters of green leaves adds contrast against the fierce yellow blossoms.

What I find fascinating is the blooms open up in the afternoon and closes early morning. As a winter annual it makes its debut in a glorious burst of sunshine. Introducing Stemless Evening Primrose (*Oenothera triloba*) welcome to the neighborhood.

What Are Those Yellow Flowers?

Stephonia Roberts



CTMN Volunteer Achievements

2023

Please take a moment to help us congratulate those members that have recertified in 2023! They have completed, logged, and had approved 40 volunteer hours and 8 advanced training hours. They will all receive the Texas Ecoregion Pin.

February

Dana Austin	Avon Burton	Peggy Carr
Marcie Delgado	Sandy Fountain	Donna Honkomp
Carol Marcotte	Martha Mullens	Troy Mulls

March

Suzanne Tuttle

Member Milestones

- Hollie Carron - 250 hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)
- Kristine Smathers - 250 hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)
- Dee Ann McGinnis - 250 hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)
- David Vestal - 250 hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)
- Carmen Fahy - 250 hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)
- Marcie Delgado - 500 hours (Silver Dragonfly Pin)
- Theresa Thomas - 2,500 hours (Polished Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Volunteer Opportunity Glenwood Park's Earth Day Event



**Earth Day
Park Cleanup**

HELP CREATE A CLIMATE-SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD!

JOIN US FOR:

- DOOR PRIZES
- NATURE ACTIVITIES
- MOBILE HEALTH UNITS
- COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- VOTER REGISTRATION
- OPEN FORUM ON PARK IMPROVEMENTS

SATURDAY, APR. 22

9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**GLENWOOD PARK
900 S RIVERSIDE DRIVE**



**Harris College
of Nursing & Health Sciences**

Nursing

Sponsored by the Fort Worth Climate Safe Neighborhood Coalition
Historic Southside Neighborhood Association; TCU; Community Frontline; Tarrant County Public Health; City of Fort
Worth Community Engagement, Park & Recreation, & Police; RxPLORE; Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter

Volunteer Opportunity

Glenwood Park's Earth Day Event

Volunteers Needed for FW Glenwood Earth Day Park Cleanup, April 22, 2023

CTMN will host a table at Glenwood Park's Earth Day event. Earn volunteer hours while sharing your love of nature and telling visitors about the amazing Texas Master Naturalist program!

If you are able to participate as a volunteer;

Contact Bill Collins at whc6845@yahoo.com

or

Sharon Hamilton at president@ctmn.org

CTMN Board Members

- SHARON HAMILTON - PRESIDENT
- MARY BETH LAMPE - VICE PRESIDENT
- GLENDA WALKER - SECRETARY
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- SANDY THORNBURGH - HOSPITALITY
- THERESA THOMAS - RECORDS
- EVAN VAUGHN - NEWSLETTER
- FRANK KEENEY - WEBMASTER
- ERIKA SWYRYN - CLASS OF 2022 REPRESENTATIVE

Citations

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- "EARTH DAY CLEANUP" - PHOTO - TCU
- "ANNUAL PLANT SALE" - PHOTO - TEXAS MASTER GARDENERS