

CROSS TIMBERS MASTER NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

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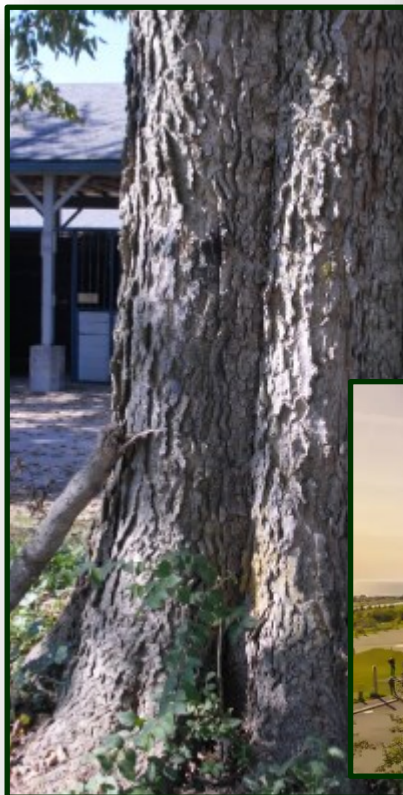
Master
Naturalist™



August 2023

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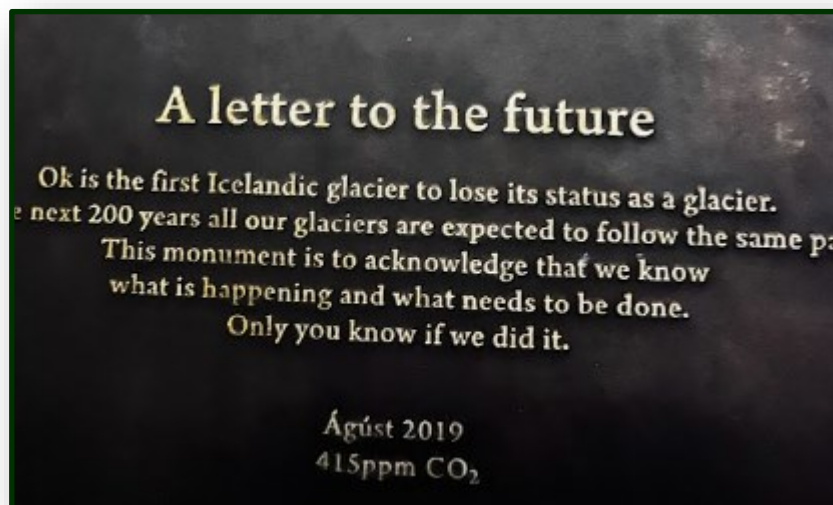
President's Pen - A Letter to the Future

Sharon Hamilton

The Perlan Museum, Iceland's premier Nature museum in Reykjavik, features an indoor, manmade ice cave, the first of its kind in the world. Visitors learn that the temperature inside is about 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Walking along the 100 meter (109 yards), visitors see various features of natural ice caves formed by meltwater inside glaciers.

Coming upon the sculpture and plaque posted in Icelandic and English, I was sincerely humbled and profoundly moved.

As Texas Master Naturalists, we are among many, many individuals, groups, and nations who spend time and energy preserving and restoring natural habitat, and by doing so work to heal the planet. May the Future smile on us; may our efforts be successful.



Immediate Opening for Newsletter Editor

Duties include collecting articles and photographs from chapter members, state announcements, and other relevant information and assembling a newsletter to be distributed online by Frank Keeney.

The editor may **use any software or template with which he or she is comfortable** to create the newsletter, and may set deadlines for submission and recommended dates for publication. This article was created in **MS Word** and the newsletter is **assembled in Canva (free) software**.

The editor is a member of the Board and **participates in monthly Board meetings via Zoom**. Meetings usually take place the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Hours participating in Board meetings and creating the newsletter qualify for Volunteer Hours in our VMS system.

If the newsletter editor is interested, he or she may take on several of the duties of Communication Director, including overseeing updates to the Member Handbook, maintaining the chapter website (using WordPress), and overseeing social media platforms and content.

If you are comfortable using the software, we need you!

Contact Sharon Hamilton at shamilton16@gmail.com as soon as possible.



August 2023

Monthly Announcements

August Chapter Meeting at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens:

Our upcoming meeting on August 21, 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 Patrick Newman. He will be leading our discussion, "The Master Plan, a 20-Year Planning Initiative to Improve and Optimize the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Campus". 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!

TMN 2023 Annual Meeting

Photo & Video Contest

Are you ready to share your best photographs? Did you capture a perfect image of a native prairie, bird, insect, or chapter member at work or play?

Photographers may submit one photograph per category, so it's time to start selecting your best to share with your fellow naturalists.

- **Photo, Art & Media Contest**

- Hosted by the Rio Grande Valley Chapter and South Texas Border Chapters of Texas Master Naturalists
- Entries to be submitted online (dates to be determined)
- Note: Photos & Media must be taken somewhere in Texas and within the current year: 2023.

- **Video Contest**

- Videos of 1 minute to 3 minutes

Photo Categories

- Plants
- Wildlife Birds
- Wildlife Insects
- Wildlife – Other
- Chapters at work/play
- Scenic

You do not need to be registered for the TMN Annual Meeting to enter any contest.

Pre-Annual Meeting Entries – all due by **5pm on Friday, September 15, 2023**

More contest details to follow in coming months or visit <http://txmn.org>

August Speaker - “The Master Plan ”

Patrick Newman

Patrick Newman brings more than 16 years of public gardens experience to his role as Chief Executive Officer and President of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Read about him here

Since he joined in May 2021, he led the recently merged organization – formerly Fort Worth Botanic Garden | Botanical Research Institute of Texas – through the completion of a three-year Strategic Plan and a comprehensive, 20-year Master Plan. In 2023, he began fundraising for the first phase of the master plan: the Baker Martin Family Garden.



Patrick served as Executive Director of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin for five years and prior to that role, was director of programs for the Red Butte Garden in Utah for nine years.

Earlier in his career, Patrick served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he taught English and Science. He is currently active with the American Public Gardens Association and serves as facilitator of the Directors of Large Gardens.

Patrick earned a Master of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Utah. In addition to being a self-identified plant nerd, Patrick is also an avid runner, having completed 49 marathons in 33 states. He enjoys reading, being outdoors, and spending time with his wife, two daughters and their dogs, Charlie and Milo.

Coming Soon...

Amy Martin

The Cross Timbers chapter is well represented in Amy Martin's new book, *Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature Around Dallas-Fort Worth*. A vignette by **Michael A. Smith** opens the book's first chapter. Quotes by **Rob Denkhaus** are throughout the Eastern Cross Timbers sections. In the book's 25 hiking adventures, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge gets a chapter with **Kate Morgan**. **Charley Amos** and **Zach Chapman** hold down the chapter on Village Creek Drying Beds and River Legacy Science Center. The chapter on Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve features **Jim Frisinger** and **Annabelle Corboy**, with photos by **Bob Brennan**. **Suzanne Tuttle** is showcased in the chapter on the Sid Richardson Tract prairie at Benbrook Lake with photos by **Chris Emory**, and **Don Young** leads the explorations and provides photos in the Tandy Hills Natural Area chapter.



Amy will be speaking at our Sept 18 meeting and re-creating her Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge hike on Sept 16 from 2 to 4 pm. During the Tandy Hills hike re-creation on Oct. 1 starting at 1 pm, attendees are invited to bring a picnic lunch at noon and engage in a conversation about what Amy, a life-long Dallasite, learned about Tarrant County and how it differs in history and ecology from Dallas. More details at Wild-DFW.com.

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.

July

Kate Morgan

Kay Sekio

Debbie Stilson

August

Morgan Chivers

Member Milestones

Dana Austin - 500 Hours (Silver Dragonfly Pin)

The Adventures of Hackberry Hinn

Stephonia Roberts

There are many nuisance plants including trees in which gardeners either compromise with mother nature or it gets eradicated out of the garden. Such as the story of the only hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) tree growing in the garden.



Long, long time ago and far, far away was a lonely hackberry

growing in a garden in a neighborhood in the USA. No one knew exactly when Hackberry appeared but, it was allowed to grow and grow and grow.

And before you knew Hackberry's branches and roots spread wide and deep. Hackberry grew so much the gardener saw her as a nuisance. It was decided by the garden that Hackberry needed cutting down because its trunk was so wide the wooden fence which separated the neighbors backyard began to buckle and its big, long branches stretched across the neighbor's roof.

Hackberry knew of the gardener's decision and wasn't happy at all. Hackberry had a quest to change the gardener's mind.

When the gardener slept in bed that night the Hackberry tree spoke to the gardener in a dream. She spoke to the gardener and asked questions, "Do you know my name?" and the next question was, "do you know what I do for the other plants in the garden?".

The Adventures of Hackberry Hinn

Stephonia Roberts

The gardener tossed and turned in her sleep and when she awakened, she ran outside to look at the hackberry tree. She noticed immediately when she looked up there were a few squirrels scurrying up and down the tree. Next, she saw a few birds perched way high and as she watched she saw a few of her favorite friendly butterflies flutter between the smaller branches. The gardener saw all the life tied to the tree and she quickly went to her desktop to do more research.

Upon her discovery she found out the Hackberry was called hackberry because of the little red miniature glassy like berries which hung off the trees. They were a food source for indigenous people of North America in which the natives would collect them to make small cakes. Next, she found Hackberry trees are the native host plants for the Hackberry Emperors caterpillars which turned into the friendly butterflies which fluttered in and around the tree. But, most importantly she realized the tree supplied shaded to the majority of the garden and its roots run deep providing nutrients to the other plants in the garden.



The gardener made a quick decision and tore the wooden fence down. The Hackberry was saved and now she lives happily ever after covered in bag worms.

According to Wikipedia, *Celtis occidentalis*, commonly known as the common hackberry, is a large deciduous tree native to North America. It is also known as the nettle tree, sugarberry, beaverwood, northern hackberry, and American hackberry.

It is a moderately long-lived hardwood with a light-colored wood, yellowish gray to light brown with yellow streaks.

IT'S ALMOST TIME!

FALL MIGRATION



...coming to a city near you...

LIGHTS OUT!



Lights Out Fort Worth surveys continue on Sept. 11.

Contact mariah@tcatexas.org to join.

Meet a Less Known Volunteer Group: The Wildscape Greenhouse Team

Kay Sekio



Greenhouse Team in July 2023



Josephine Keeney watering plants

Launch and Development of Team

The Molly Hollar Wildscape at the Veterans Park in Arlington is one of the oldest volunteer projects adopted both by our chapter and by Tarrant County Master Gardener Association. Probably, most of you have visited the Wildscape as part of the intern field trip, and many of you have volunteered there. Whether simply visiting or actively volunteering, have you ever wondered about where those native plants came from?

Most of the plants are from the greenhouse at the Randol Mill Park where the Wildscape greenhouse team has organically grown native plants from seeds and cuttings. The team's history at the greenhouse started in 2002 when Molly Hollar, the founder of the Wildscape, obtained permission from

Meet a Less Known Volunteer Group: The Wildscape Greenhouse Team

Kay Sekio

the City of Arlington to utilize the greenhouse for the Wildscape and moved the propagation operation from her residence to the greenhouse.

Retrospectively, the greenhouse opened a new era for the Wildscape project. Utilizing the greenhouse facilitated the growth and increased supply of plants, ultimately leading to the first plant sale in spring 2003. The Wildscape fall plant sale in 2022 at the Randol Mill Park was marked as its 23rd. The plant sale has provided the public with hard-to-find native plants, while simultaneously giving us an opportunity to reach out to the public. It is worth noting that the sales' proceeds serve as the primary source of revenue to support the Wildscape operation.

In the past two decades, more than 20 Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and community stewards in total became regular volunteers and devoted their time on a weekly basis. The current team consists of six, including the leader, Josephine Keeney. They are either Master Naturalists or Master Gardeners, or both. Three of them completed a Master Gardener's advanced propagation program, hoping to better serve the greenhouse task. The six members collectively possess a total of 92 years of experience working at the greenhouse. The team has grown tens of thousands of native plants for the Wildscape, several other public spaces, and the public.

Meet a Less Known Volunteer Group: The Wildscape Greenhouse Team

Kay Sekio

Over the years, the team has cultivated deep and lasting friendship. Celebrating each member's birthday is our cherished tradition initiated by Molly Hollar and further enriched by Josephine Keeney. We assemble at Josephine's residence for a delightful birthday gathering. It is followed by a tour of her lush and attractive native plant garden where we always learn something new.

The greenhouse team is presently unable to accommodate new members due to space limitation. For those who are interested in sustainable gardening, those who want to learn more about native plants, or those who simply want to enjoy the peaceful natural environment, please consider volunteering at the Wildscape at the Veterans Park. Your participation would be greatly appreciated, as the Wildscape consistently relies on dedicated volunteers like you. Regular workday is every Wednesday and the 1st Saturday (visit thewildscape.com for more details). *Last but not least, please mark your calendar for our 24th Wildscape plant sale at the Randol Mill Park on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Hope we can see you at the sale!*

Meet a Less Known Volunteer Group: The Wildscape Greenhouse Team

Kay Sekio

Team Members



Glenn Troutman, Community Steward, was a long-time dedicated regular who started working with Molly in the early days. He took care of a wide range of daily tasks requiring handiness.



Hester Schwarzer, Master Gardener/Master Naturalist, joined in 2005. An expert in collecting and growing native plant seeds successfully. She completed an advanced propagation program.



Kay Sekio, Master Gardener/Master Naturalist, joined in 2003. She is enthusiastic in making Plant Sales more attractive and profitable. She completed an advanced propagation program.



Jo Poppelreiter, Master Gardener, joined in 2007. She is in charge of a wide variety of plant care tasks with Kay. Her excellent culinary skills always make our parties special. She completed an advanced propagation program.

Meet a Less Known Volunteer Group: The Wildscape Greenhouse Team

Kay Sekio



Joe Martinez, Master Naturalist, joined in 2009. Our soil and compost specialist, preparing excellent soil mix for healthy plant growth. He also takes care of the heavy-duty tasks with Charley.



Larry Norris, Master Naturalist/Master Composter, retired in 2022 after more than a decade of faithful commitment to the greenhouse. He was a caretaker of various native vines.



Charley Amos, Master Naturalist, joined in 2016. Our second soil and compost specialist. On every workday, he arrives early and quietly tackles easily overlooked chores, making our operation smooth and efficient



Josephine Keeney, Master Naturalist and Native Plant Lover, joined and started leading the team in 2006. Making the long- and short-term plans, she organizes the workdays and Plant Sales, supervises daily works, and worries about everything.

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 - MUSUEM PHOTO - [HTTPS://VISITREYKJAVIK.IS/SERVICE/PERLAN-MUSEUM/](https://visitreykjavik.is/service/perlan-museum/); HACKBERRY PHOTO - [HTTPS://PLANTS.CES.NCSU.EDU/PLANTS/CELTIS-OCCIDENTALIS/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/celtis-occidentalis/); FWBG PHOTO - [HTTPS://WHATSUPFORTWORTH.COM/FORT-WORTH-BOTANIC-GARDENS-IS-OPEN/](https://whatsupfortworth.com/fort-worth-botanic-gardens-is-open/)
- "PRESIDENTS PEN" - PHOTOS BY SHARON HAMILTON
- "HELP WANTED" - SIGN PHOTO - [HTTPS://IMAGE.CNBCFM.COM/API/V1/IMAGE/102701564-95469860.JPG?V=1529468531&W=630&H=354&FFMT=WEBP&VRCROP=Y](https://image.cnbcfm.com/api/v1/image/102701564-95469860.jpg?v=1529468531&w=630&h=354&ffmt=webp&vrcrop=y)
- "AUGUST SPEAKER" - HEADSHOT PHOTO - [HTTPS://FWBG.ORG/ABOUT-US/STAFF/PATRICK-NEWMAN/](https://fwbg.org/about-us/staff/patrick-newman/)
- "COMING SOON" - PHOTO BY AMY MARTIN
- "THE ADVENTURES OF HACKBERRY HINN" - PHOTOS - [HTTPS://PLANTS.CES.NCSU.EDU/PLANTS/CELTIS-OCCIDENTALIS/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/celtis-occidentalis/)
- "WILDSCAPE GREEN HOUSE TEAM" - PHOTOS BY KEY SEKIO
- "ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL" - PHOTOS - [HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV](https://www.epa.gov)