

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™
Cross Timbers



Creepy & Crawly Issue!

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Month Speaker

Barney is Director of BRIT Press and Library and Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany. He will be doing a presentation called "Waltz Around Texas" on October 16th.

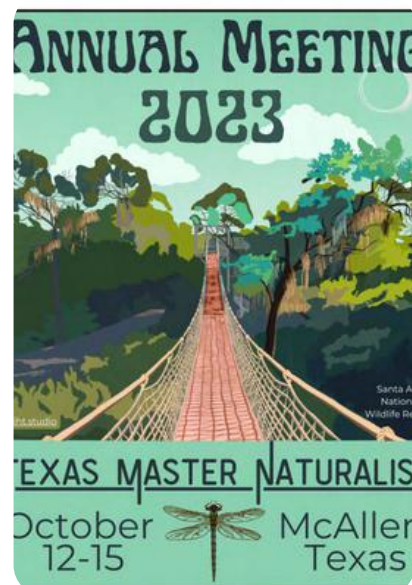
Class of 2023

The Training Class of 2023 is knee-deep in learning experiences. Come relive their memories that will remind you of how much fun it was to be in a training class.



Featured Project

We have multiple members of our chapter traveling to McAllen, Texas this weekend for the Annual Master Naturalist Meeting of 2023. Whether they are representing our chapter directly, or their job, lets recognize their hard work!





Volunteer Service Hours - What Counts?

Sharon Hamilton

Why do Texas Master Naturalist chapters require volunteer service?

The mission of the TMN program is “to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers.”

Chapters are built around that mission and are organized to provide a variety of rewarding volunteer service opportunities for their members. Requiring a minimum of 40 hours of VS each year for initial certification and recertification promotes continued involvement and helps to further the mission of the organization.

The TMN 2023 Chapter Management and Protocols (CMOP) defines the types of service acceptable for credit as **VMS hours**.

Projects and other volunteer activities must

- Represent the goals, practices, and teachings of the TMN Program
- Address a pressing naturalist or natural resource management issue need
- Be well defined: when it will be conducted, where, estimated time needed to complete or maintain per month, how many members needed, etc. (for proposed projects)
- Be located within the chapter's defined service area or ecological area.*
- Allow the chapter to create visibility, identity, or recruitment opportunities
- Not include fundraising for an organization other than the chapter or the state TMN Program
- Not include lobbying, which is not acceptable under the TMN mission Volunteer Service

*Consideration may be given to projects outside the chapter's service area if the service is compatible with the mission, goals, and training of the TMN Program.

Unacceptable	Better	Best
Be “on call” as a wildlife rescuer (no actual service time)	Transport injured native wildlife to licensed rehabilitation service	Provide outreach knowledge on the prevention of unnecessary wildlife captures or rescues
Plant exotic plants or a vegetable garden	Plant native plants or a wildscape at a local school	Lead students and school staff in implementing a native plant garden or wildscape
Monarch butterfly monitoring outside of Texas	Monarch monitoring in Texas	Monarch monitoring in our chapter’s area
Clean cages of non-native animals at a zoo	Caring for native animals at a local zoo	Lead interpretive programs about native animals at the zoo in partnership with our chapter
Maintain a private native plant nursery or garden	Maintain a demonstration garden at a local park or nature center; propagate native plants for a city botanical garden	Hold a workshop on how to install and maintain a wildscape or similar native habitat
Identify plants and animals on your private property and upload it to community science websites if not part of a chapter-approved project	Upload imperiled species observations into iNaturalist on public land with permissions set to “public”	Organize a public or private land “Bio Blitz” and upload data to sites such as eBird or iNaturalist, allowing anyone to learn from and use the data
Conduct wildlife management on your own property	Conduct wildlife management on public land	Teach or assist landowners to develop their own wildlife management plan



Advocating for hike or bike trails in sensitive nature areas	Conduct endangered species surveys; develop nature trails or brush piles at a park/nature center that partners with our chapter	Maintain a nature classroom/training area for a park/nature center that allows the chapter to hold meetings in this space
Hold a native plant sale that raises funds for a non-TMN organization	Answer phones/emails; do basic office work for our county natural resource agent	Serve as a docent—present programs, lead tours, organize outreach events on native wildlife and habitats
Serve as a board or committee member for a “for profit” organization or one whose mission is contrary to TMN	Serve as a Master Naturalist Representative or liaison for an organization that has developed such a position *Serve as a board/committee member for a non-profit organization devoted to education, conservation, and management of natural resources or the environment *With annual review and approval of the chapter	Serve as a TMN Board or committee member at any level within the TMN program Train other organizations to conduct natural resource management; provide natural resource technical guidance on/to a municipal advisory or land trust council Serve on a local government advisory committee making natural resource recommendations
Prepare food items for social activities of the chapter	Serve on the hospitality committee for chapter meetings or training classes	Plan and organize logistics for a chapter volunteer recognition event
Provide service that you are compensated for as part of your profession (ex. teaching; city environmental services)	Volunteer for service for which you are not paid (ex. clean up for a group for whom you do not work)	Organize and conduct a natural resource workshop for other master naturalists or the public that is not part of your professional compensation



CTMN Announcements



To ALL Members:

Your Hours Matter. Please record them within 45 days of service.

Hours qualify as \$74 worth of matching funds so that 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 <http://txmn.org/crosstimbers/events-calendar> for a readable, updated 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!

Speakers

October's Speaker

October 16, 2023

"Waltz Across Texas", by Barney Lipscomb, FWBG, Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany

[Monthly Meeting](#)
[Zoom Link Here](#)



Barney is Director of BRIT Press and Library and Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany. Barney serves on the Board of Consultants for the North Texas Poison Center in Dallas with interests in applying botany to forensic science. Barney's taxonomic specialty is the family **Cyperaceae**.

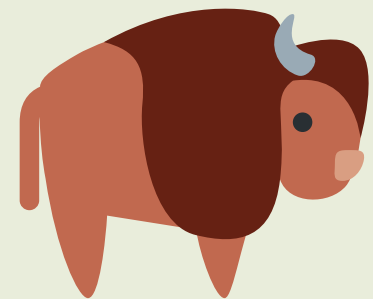
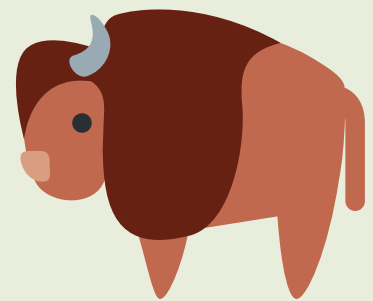
Next Month's Speakers

November 20, 2023

"Bison of the Fort Worth Nature Center" by Nature Center Staff

Learn all about the bison herd that lives at the Fort Worth Nature Center. For nearly 50 years, bison have roamed the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. As the only herd of its kind in North Texas, the bison can be viewed on their native land, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience and learn about this historic mammal.

<https://naturecenterfriends.org/what-we-do/bison-herd/>
[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[Email](#)[Share](#)



TMN Tuesdays

On the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00pm Central Standard Time, the TMN State Office offers an hour-long virtual advanced training event – with fantastic new and returning guest speakers.

This Month’s Speaker






During October 3rd’s #TMNTuesdays presentation, learn about the great work done by several Texas chapters! 20-minute presentations will include 5 minutes of Q&As. Learn about the great things that TXMN across the state are doing!




TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

2023
#TMNTuesdays

January 10	May 9	September 12
February 14	June 13	October 3* <small>*first week of month</small>
March 14	July 11	November 14
April 11	August 8	December 12

T E X A S



Master Naturalist™

[View Past #TMNTuesday Presentations Here for Advanced Training Hrs.](#)

[Register Here](#)

[Webex Guide](#)

[FAQ](#)

Member Milestones

Let's take a moment to help us congratulate members that have recertified in 2023 so far!

They have completed, logged, and had approved 40 volunteer hours and 8 advanced training hours. They will all receive the Texas Ecoregion Pin.



August Recertifications

John Cheney
James Frisinger
Jose Martinez

Dee Ann McGinnis
Denise Pederson
Glory Walker



September Recertifications

Fred Barton
Madison Gover
Cecily Rodgers
Sandy Thornburgh



Meet-a-Member

Meet CTMN-in-training Eleanor Pate!

What year did you become a master naturalist?

I'm a Master Naturalist in training, Class of 2023.

What is your work career?

For about 10 years I worked for the Nature Conservancy in Siberia (Snow Leopard Biosphere Preserve and National Park). I worked as a trained phenologist - a specialist, who studies periodic events in biological life cycles and how these are influenced by seasonal variations in climate.

I retired for family reasons (my little son Max was diagnosed with autism). Last Autumn, we moved to Texas because of the war. My husband Dr. Wayne Pate is from this area.

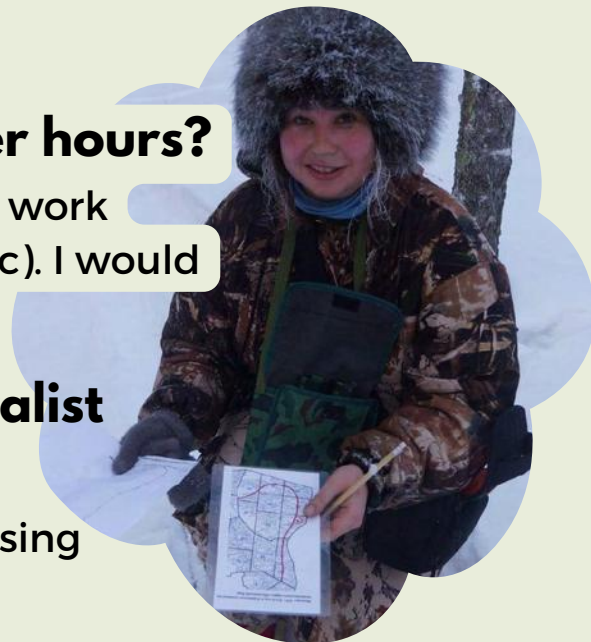
Now I'm learning about the local wildlife and publishing my photos and nature related essays in some magazines.

Where do you like to earn your volunteer hours?

Ecological education, researching, all kinds of field work (sampling, counting, trail cameras maintenance etc). I would also prefer week days rather, than weekends.

What are your interests outside of naturalist activities?

Photography, painting, writing, jewelry making, raising awareness for children with autism.



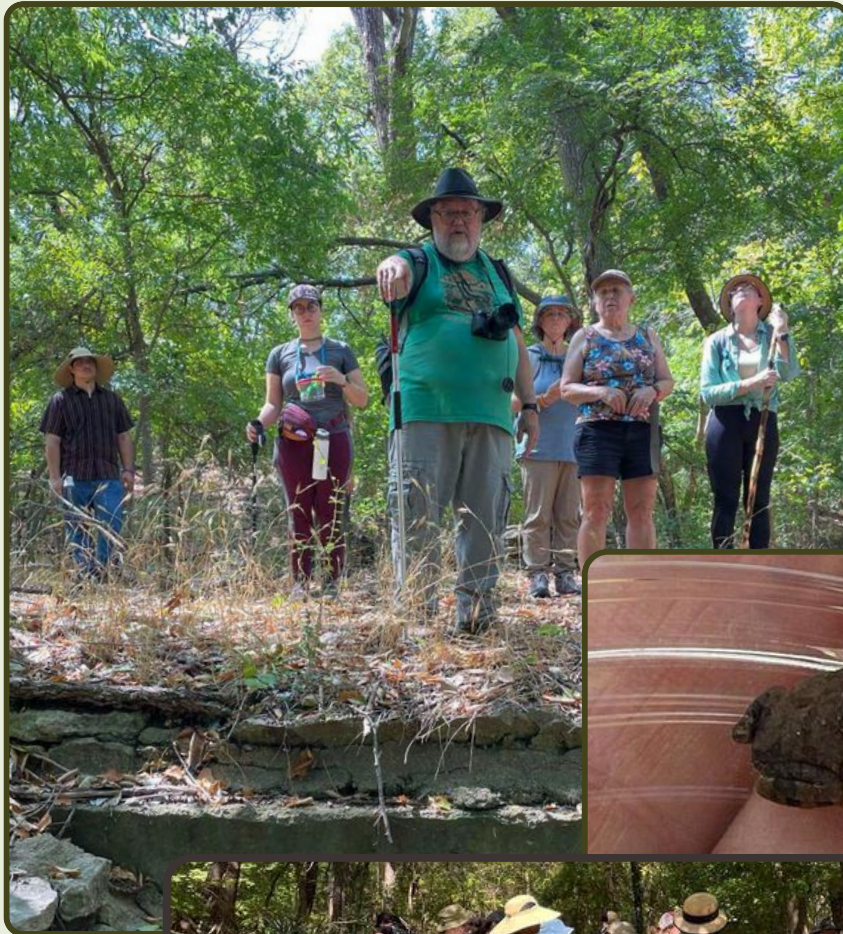


What's Up, Class of 2023!?

Field Trip #1 - Aquatics 9/9/23 by Ryan Wiggins

The first field trip of 5 for the class of 2023 was **Aquatics** at the **Fort Worth Nature Center**. The day the class divided into 2 groups. One group went with Michael Smith to look for herps. We got to be **some of the first** to explore the **new and improved** boardwalk and the bottomlands. We found a few critters like green tree frogs, a Texas spiny lizard, toadlets, jumping spiders, garden spiders, and fungi.

We did a lot of log flipping but not much luck on finding any snakes.



The other group went canoeing with **FWNC&R** employee **Kenneth Nalley**. They saw tons of green tree frogs!



After lunch we went **dip netting and seining** at Greer Island.

During dip netting, the class was ankle deep in the Trinity River looking for biodiversity in their nets. They found minnows, ghost shrimp, whirligig beetles, etc.



Anna Leone & I were in charge of the seining but the silt went as deep as our knees. Anna lost both of her shoes but we had an amazing class member go in and fetch both of them. We had to give up, but we had a few trainees that weren't afraid to get out there in that knee deep muck to explore! I'm so impressed by the passion and excitement of this class. I'm looking forward to our next friend trip of bird watching and forestry. - **Ryan Wiggins**

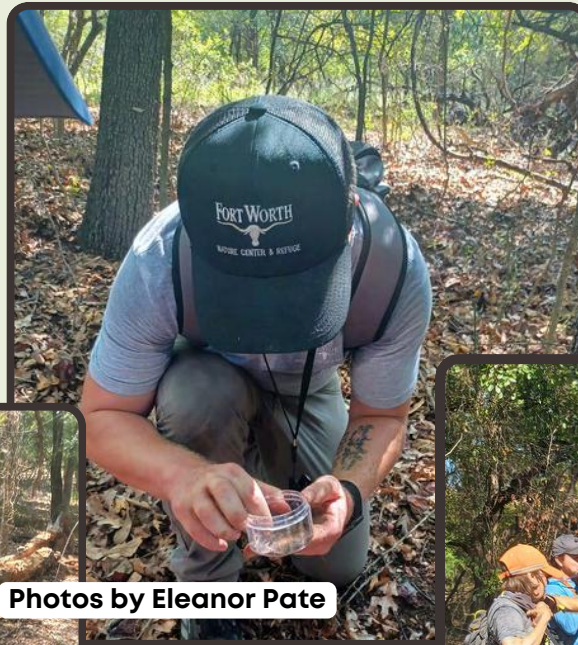
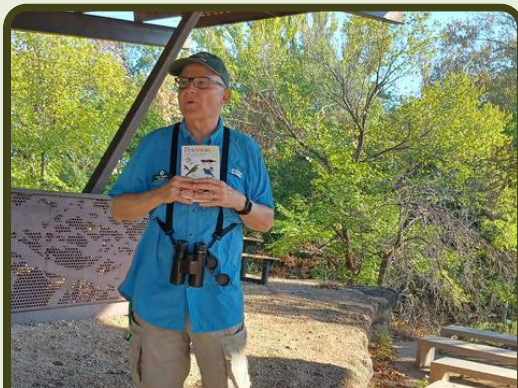


Photos by Ryan Wiggins

Field Trip #2 - Forest Ecology 9/23/23

“Today the class of 2023 had a second field trip to the Fort Worth Nature center. In focus were forest ecosystems. We did some birding, looked under rotten trees for xylophages and did some tree ID.

It was useful and interesting, but the heat was so intense, that it got almost intolerable at the end. I went to Braums and had TWO ice creams in order to cool down.” - **Eleanor Pate**



Photos by Eleanor Pate

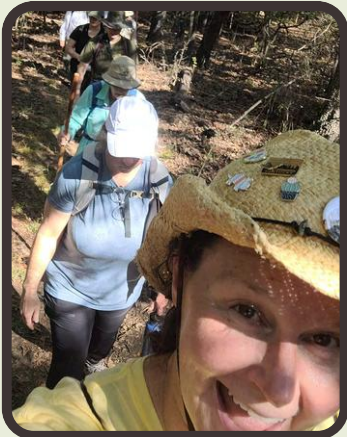


"Today we broke up into 3 groups birding with Bob Haase, forestry with Craig Fox, and discussing decomposers and flipping logs with Kenneth Nalley. I caught a few toads and held a sweet little deka's brown snake. We saw a giant heritage tree and looked at a lot of leaves and bark. We spotted 15 different species of birds, and uncovered scorpions, beetles, five lined skinks, and spiders!!" - **Ryan Wiggins**



Photos by Ryan Wiggins

"Checking under logs, tree ID and birding! We saw a Brown Recluse, frogs, Antlions, a Heritage tree (Green Ash) that is 150-300 years old and several birds. Super hot and humid, but, we had a blast!!" - **Teddi Zonker**



Photos by Teddi Zonker

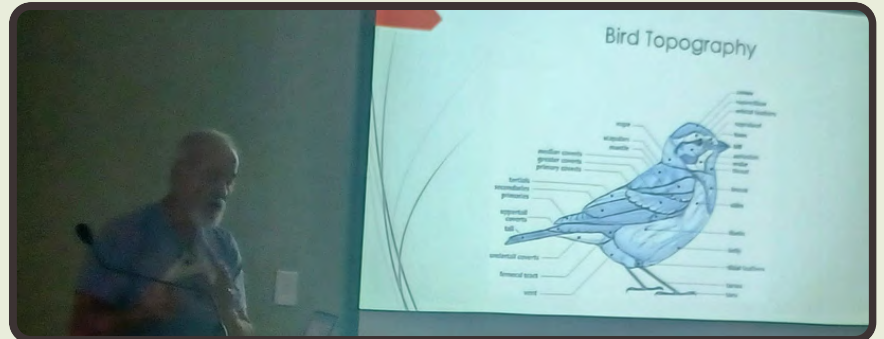


Birds & Mammals 9/19/23

“The 2023 intern class saw some spooky finds tonight during the mammal skull ID section of the birds/mammal class! Thanks to Charley Amos and Nicholas Griffin. Great class!” - **Teddi Zonker**



Photos by Teddi Zonker



Photos by Eleanor Pate



Prairie Ecosystems 9/26/23

Today our lecture was prairie ecosystems by Michelle Villafranca. I learned that there are 700 species of bees native to Texas and 65% of biomass in Tallgrass prairie is actually underground! - **Eleanor Pate**



Photo by Eleanor Pate



Photos by Teddi Zonker

If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.

-E. O. Wilson

Laura Veloz speaking about invertebrates. Laura has been a naturalist at the FWNCR for two decades!



Photo by Erika Swyrn



Photos by Ryan Wiggins



The Gruesome Hawk

by Madison Gover

It was like any other slow day working at Wild Birds Unlimited. Helping the occasional customer, tidying up and restocking the store, answering the phones. You would be surprised just by what comes out of the other end of that line. Anything from asking about pet birds, baby birds, and even once... for pistols. (Sir? I sell bird feeders...)



So I wasn't surprised that day when I picked up the phone and heard "How do I keep the hawks from my yard?" I semi-rolled my eyes. Here we go. Many people misunderstand the circle of life, the food web, and the intricacies of it all. So I explained, "Well ma'am, the hawks are just part of nature, and there's not much you can do. When you feed the songbirds, you inevitably may end up feeding the hawks, too. But it's okay!" This is my usual spiel. Believe it or not, it is a common question. People are... bird selective. "Well..." The lady said, "This is.. a different situation..."

"You see, the hawk is catching its rabbits and birds, and taking it up to my second story balcony. It is then ripping apart its meals ON MY BALCONY! I have grandchildren! There's blood, guts and feathers everywhere! They can't see that!"

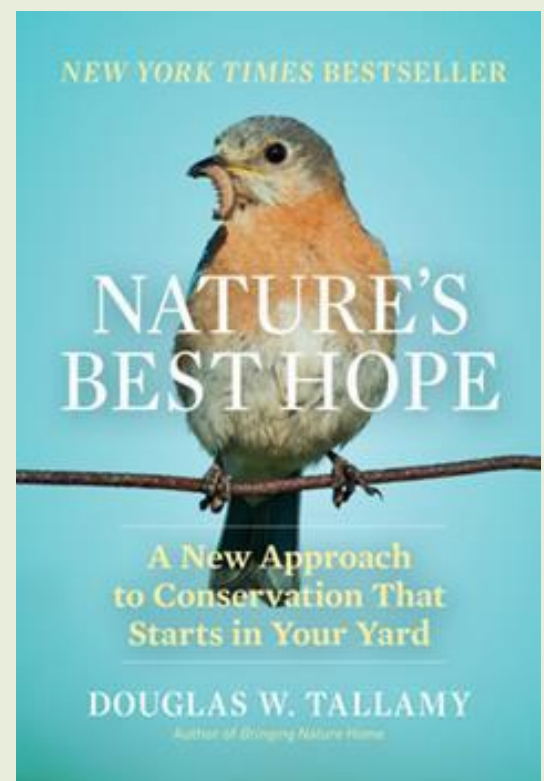
Oh. Yup. That's a new one. I started giggling and apologized. "I'm so sorry for laughing at your predicament. I know a few birders that would pay money for that experience. Regardless, here's my advice." I then told her of a few tactics that people try to use to deter raptors from their property. I usually hold off on advice that wards away birds just trying to live, but this Michael Meyers of a hawk made a reasonable excuse to help her out.

Ecological Landscaping

by Hollie Carron

As a long-term perennial gardener, I have always appreciated beautiful blooms that have a relatively predictable schedule. The focus is on the visual aesthetic appeal of the selection and placement of plants in your landscape. My entry into the Master Naturalist program opened my eyes to how gardening can actually enhance our environment. The creatures that inhabit a healthy ecosystem require **native plants** to create a **food web**. The combination of aesthetic native plantings to support the ecosystem on your property can be described as **ecological landscaping**.

My first step was to learn about the use of plants native to my own ecosystem. Most of these plants require different conditions, maintenance and water use than the imported species demonstrated in traditional landscapes. The seasonal extremes we have seen in Texas over the last few years left many homeowners looking for a better answer for their landscapes. There has been an increase in the number of local nurseries that sell **native plants**. The trend is even showing up on national online news consistently. **Doug Tallamy, entomologist**, wrote “**Nature’s Best Hope**”, a New York Times best seller about the importance of homeowners using native plants in their own yards. He also started an online movement at <https://Homegrownnationalpark.org> to inspire people.



P.S.: Wild Birds Unlimited in Arlington sells Nature’s Best Hope in-store.

When gardening for ecology, consider the timing of the spring emergence, bloom time, color, flower shape and host status of your plant choices. It is important to have flowers that provide nectar and pollen for the native bees. There are specialists and generalists when it comes to pollinators. The flower shape and size will determine which insects can effectively sip the nectar or pollinate it.

Hummingbirds are highly attracted to red, while **bumblebees** prefer blooms in the blue spectrum. Hummingbirds also serve as pollinators and feed on deep flower tubes. Their long beaks and longer tongues dictate their choices.

Butterflies are attracted to flat topped or clustered blooms with short flower tubes. They generally only feed in the sun. Providing blooms throughout the entire season is important for pollinators. There is something feeding on nectar from very early spring until the first frost of winter. Some species winter over in leaves and will even come out and feed during warm spells.



Most insects have become good at eating a few plants they have evolved with. These are their **host plants**. Almost 90% of our local insects can be categorized as “**host plant specialization**”. As an **ecological landscaper**, you choose plants to support the food web. The food web is a complex interconnection of multiple food chains within the ecosystem. It can start with the simple step of growing host plants for butterflies. Of course, the caterpillars (larval form of butterflies) will feed on the host plants, leaving a less than perfect landscape. Learn to rejoice when your passion vine seems a little bare or ragged looking. An emergence of Gulf Fritillary butterflies is in the making.

Almost everyone loves birds in their landscape. Supporting birds means inviting **invertebrates** first. The birdfeeder of seed you hang will not supply all their needs. Research determined that **50%** of a chickadee's diet in winter is still insects, not just granivorous feeding. Raising a nest of baby birds requires insects and lots of caterpillars. Invertebrates overwinter in dead leaves, stems and dormant grasses. Many moth caterpillars stop eating in the fall as the leaves turn brown and remain dormant on tree limbs or in crevasses of bark throughout the winter. Those that aren't consumed green up in spring and continue their instar progression. A caterpillar of any type is like a high-quality food bar for birds and mammals. So, if your caterpillars become groceries for the birds, you should appreciate that too.



Bur Oak Acorn - M.G.



Post Oak - M.G.

Oak trees are a significant source of invertebrates in our landscapes. They don't have to be tall mighty showcase specimens to be a good larval host. Oaks serve as the host plant for many more species than any other tree. Oaks, cherries, willows, birches, hickories, pines and maples are keystone plants in the tree genera. Any landscape without a keystone tree species is likely to lack the abundance of invertebrates that sustain a viable food web. A Doug Tallamy quote I love says, "A yard without oaks is a yard meeting only a fraction of its life support potential". Their acorns provide **significant nutrition** for the creatures living in our landscapes and parks. They are prepackaged bundles of proteins, fats and carbohydrates with calcium, phosphorus, potassium, and niacin.

Honeybees get a lot of publicity about their “significant decline”. This turns out not to be quite true. Honeybees are an agricultural animal. So many people and companies have turned to adding beehives as a way to “greenwashing” that we are now presented with a global challenge. Scott Hoffman Black, executive director of the **Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**, says there are now **more honeybees on the planet than at any previous time in human history**. The real concern is the decline of **wild bees, moths, and wasps**, which are indispensable pollinators of plants, flowers, and crops. **These** are the creatures we need to be supporting in our landscapes.

This is where **Doug Tallamy’s** program, **Homegrown National Park**, comes in. For those of you who aren’t familiar with him, look up his talks on YouTube. If anyone can inspire a change from the American monoculture green lawn, it will be him. His claim that our gardens can no longer just “be pretty” but must **support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water**.

The way Texans landscape the typical suburban lawn will be changing soon. The entities that plan our water needs for the next 50 years take the responsibility very seriously. I remain convinced the cost of water and the increasing need for our rapidly growing population will force homeowners to pay attention. Responsible stewardship is being pushed as we consider our hotter summers. Even adding native plants in a container is a significant contribution. **Please consider** starting the change to an ecological landscape instead of a lawn mower and lead your block into this culture change. **Even container gardening** of native plants is a significant contribution. Resources to help you are listed below.

[NPSOT](#)

[Container Gardening](#)

[North Central TX Wildflowers](#)

[Bird-Friendly Plants](#)

Texas Stream Team Training

by Eleanor Pate

On September 30th at the Fort Worth Nature Center, some of the CT Master naturalists took part in Texas Stream Team Core Water Quality Citizen Scientist Training. I attended the training because I wanted to know more about the quality of life for aquatic biota. And also, since childhood, I've believed that playing with water is fun. The training was open to volunteers interested in conducting water quality monitoring in the Fort Worth area. For quality control, it was limited to 10 participants, who registered online prior to the training. The morning session started with hands-on training in a classroom setting.

Kayla Miller, Senior Environmental Specialist at CRP/Texas Stream Team/Wet Weather Lead, guided us step by step on how to handle monitoring equipment and conduct the tests (conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, etc.) with chemical reagents. Then we conducted monitoring procedures in the field under supervised conditions. We took water samples from the Trinity River, learned how to use Secchi disks and Secchi tubes and when to use each of them, looked at the color, clarity and other important characteristics, made some field observations and filled in our first online observation forms.

The third phase of training was conducted as a one-on-one session with a trainer and each volunteer. We completed all tests under limited supervision from the trainer to earn our certificates and talked about our abilities to monitor water in the neighborhood once a month. We are looking forward to continuing river watching and helping to provide data for scientific and educational purposes. - **Ellie Pate, CTMN-in Training Class of 2023.**



Favorite Bats of the Cross Timbers

by Madison Gover



Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarina brasiliensis*) are the state flying mammal of Texas! They get their name from their tail that is “free” from their **uropatagium**, a membrane that extends between the wings, thighs and tails of most bats.

These gentle creatures have the largest maternal colony in the world outside San Antonio in **Bracken Cave**. Up to **15 million** ladies congregate there each year to raise their young.

Eastern Red Bat (*Lasirius borealis*) are one of our fluffy **arboreal species** of bats found nearby. Arboreal bats roost in **trees** instead of caves. They are **solitary** and do not roost in large colonies.

These insectivores consume many agricultural pests. They can use their **fully-furred** uropatagium to wrap themselves up like a blanket, or use it as a scoop to catch insects mid-flight.



Evening bats (*Nycterius humeralis*) are a **forest-dwelling** bat. Unlike the solitary bats, evening bats will form a colony. They tend to be found under **peeling bark** and in crevices of trees.

The Cross Timbers and Post Oak regions seem to be the edge of their range. Once the **post oak savannahs** blends into the prairies, they are not likely to be found.

They, along with other bat species, partake in **resource partitioning**.





Native of the Month

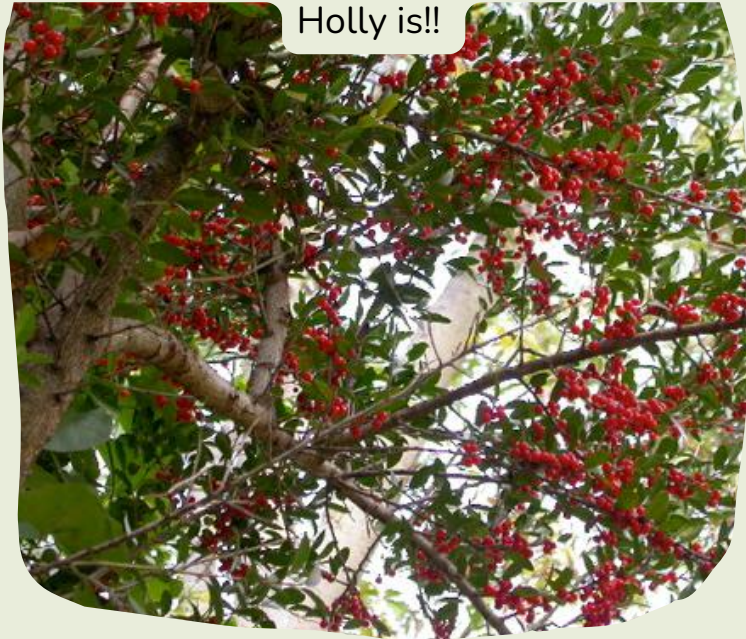


Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Flower of the Month by Josephine Keeney

What a wonderful and useful plant Yaupon

Holly is!!



This lovely shrub or small tree is one of the few **evergreen plants native to Texas**. It has an upright habit and grows up to 25 feet, but usually smaller.

It is not particular about soil or water and can tolerate **drought** as well as **sun or shade**.

This is a **monoecious** plant, so you need a male and a female plant to get berries. Luckily, there are many all around and usually not necessary to plant both of them.

However, if you want berries, make sure to purchase a female in the Fall. You can purchase a plant from a reputable nursery, or take and root a cutting from a female plant to be sure you get a female.

Yaupon will self seed, and these seedlings can be used to form an evergreen screen or fence row, which is very useful and a great bonus for birds as a shelter from weather and predators.

The berries are very beautiful and a favorite food of mockingbirds, cardinals, and blue jays. It is really fun to watch the mockingbirds try to defend their shrub from all the other birds.



Photos by Josephine Keeney

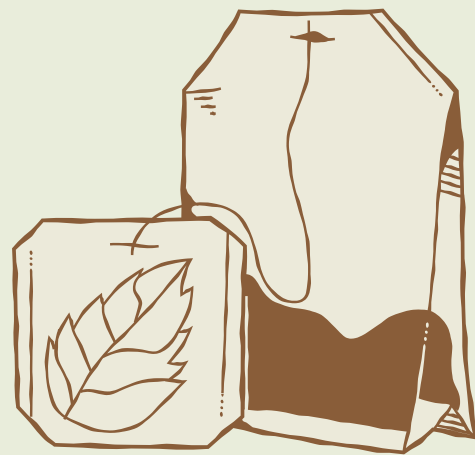
The name **'vomitoria'** refers to an old custom of native Americans who used the leaves to make a tea and drank it in great quantities until it caused them to vomit. This was done during ceremonies to cleanse the body of impurities and raise the mind to a higher level of consciousness.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/ PUBLIC DOMAIN



Photo - Yaupon Tea Co.



The leaves contain caffeine and a tea can be made by lightly toasting them in a 300 degree oven for about a half hour, then crushing about one tablespoon of leaves in a cup and pouring boiling water over them. They say it is quite good with a little honey added.

I must say I haven't tried it yet but I plan to get up the courage one of these days.

-Josephine



Featured Project

Annual Meeting Presenters



This October, many of our Cross Timbers Master Naturalists and naturalists from all over the region will come together in McAllen, TX for the TXMN Annual Meeting 2023!

Braving a solar eclipse during their stay, many of our chapter representatives will be presenting at the state meeting! This Featured Project of the Month will recognize their efforts.

Please do not forget to nominate your favorite volunteer project. Put the subject line as "Featured Project Nomination" and email to newsletter@ctmn.org

Meet the Team - State Presenters

by Madison G.



Kimberlie S.

Kimberlie is Class of 2017. She is representing Cross Timbers MN in a presentation about galls! She is also representing BRIT about collecting scientific botanical specimen.



Kakkie C.

Kakkie is representing Cross Timbers MN in a presentation about capturing, tagging, and releasing migratory monarchs.



Jimena V.

Jimena is Class of 2022 and is representing Texas Conservation Alliance for a presentation on Lights Out DFW!



Kate M.

Kate is Class of 2017. She is representing Native Prairie Association of Texas in a presentation about the Prairie Seekers training program.



Sam K.

Sam may be sponsor for NTMN, but lest he forget his roots! Sam is doing three field sessions about mothing/insects in the valley, including Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park and La Sal del Rey.

[Link to Long Agenda](#)

Editor's Note:

I am sorry if I missed anyone that is a CTMN or if my facts are not correct. I used word of mouth and the Master Naturalist long agenda to find my info. Corrections can be sent to newsletter@ctmn.org



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Each month we will have a challenge for our little junior naturalists to participate in. Have a parent help you complete the challenge and scan your entries to be published in the newsletter!

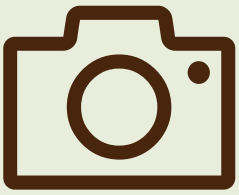
Nature Journal - Write and draw in your nature journal about a plant or animal that has scared you, or that looks plain weird! If that's too easy, try to create your own scary creatures based off one in Texas! **(For older kids)**



Bat Wings Craft

- Follow website for instructions.





Art & Photography Gallery



Orb weaver by Teddi Zonker



Green Lynx Spider by Nikki Aycock Slobodin



Texas Spiny Lizard by Teddi Zonker



Liatris & Butterfly by Eleanor Pate



Virginia Opossum by Eleanor Pate

iNaturalist Observation of the Month

Each month we will choose an iNaturalist observation made the previous month in Tarrant or Johnson County*. Make an observation on iNaturalist to be in the running for this achievement! Please go to the observation itself to congratulate the user, add your identification, or favorite (star) the observation.

Salt Marsh Moth (*Estigmene acrea*)

laurabanks



Time: 9:22PM

Date: October 5, 2023

Location: Grand Prairie, TX



*Observation copyright settings must not be set to full rights reserved so that the photo can be used for the newsletter.



Current Events

COME JOIN US THIS FALL!

LIGHTS OUT FORT WORTH

**PUMPKIN SPICE
UP YOUR
MORNING
ROUTINE**



STARTING SEPTEMBER 11TH IN DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH

EMAIL MARIAH@TCATEXAS.ORG FOR PARKING INFO



2023 Education Series

POLLINATORS AND MONARCH MIGRATION



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



ERIKA SWYRYN

Parker County
Master Gardener

\$15 Cash or Check

**COME LEARN HOW TO
SUPPORT MONARCHS AND
OTHER POLLINATORS IN
YOUR GARDEN**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in Extension sponsored meetings are encouraged to contact the County Extension office at 817-598-6168 at least 2 weeks in advance to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



604 North Main St., Weatherford, TX 76086

OCT 17, 2023

6-7:30 PM

Registration due by
October 15th Please call:

817-598-6168

This is OPEN to the Public! Come support Class of 2022 Representative Erika Swyryn!

Hosted by Texas Master Gardeners - Parker County



Nature Center & Refuge

TRAILS AND TREATS

Saturday, October 21
10am - 2pm

STROLL THE TREATS TRAIL

HAYRIDES \$5

FACE-PAINTING

WEAR A COSTUME

GAMES

COSTUME CONTEST

EXHIBITS

**FREE EVENT
WITH PAID ADMISSION**

For more information, visit www.fwnaturecenter.org
(817) 392-7410

HARVEST HERITAGE FESTIVAL

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

10:15AM-11:00AM

**BIRD WALK WITH THE TRINITY RIVER
AUDUBON CENTER**

MEET BY WELCOME TABLE

11:00AM-11:30AM

**9TH TEXAS
INFANTRY DRILL**

MEET AT DEMO FIELD

**TRAPP BALL
GAME**

MEET AT GAME FIELD

11:30AM-12:00AM

FRONTIER GAMES

MEET AT GAME FIELD

12:15PM-1:00PM

PENN FARM TOUR

MEET BY WELCOME TABLE

1:00PM-2:00PM

**NORTH TEXAS ROUND AND SQUARE
DANCING ASSOCIATION DEMO**

MEET AT GAME FIELD

2:00PM-2:30PM

ANTIQUE TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION

MEET AT DEMO FIELD

2:30PM-3:00PM

**9TH TEXAS
INFANTRY DRILL**

MEET AT DEMO FIELD

**TRAPP BALL
GAME**

MEET AT GAME FIELD

3:00PM-3:45PM

PENN FARM TOUR

MEET AT WELCOME TABLE

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL SARAH NORLIN
AT SARAH.NORLIN@TPWD.TEXAS.GOV

Hikes & Talks

Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve Hike

October 22, 2023

10AM - Noon

5201 Bowman Springs Rd, Arlington, TX 76017

Sponsored by [NPAT Fort Worth](#)

Hike Leader - Jim Frisinger

REGISTRATION ONLY - [CLICK HERE](#)

Bats of the Area and How to Find Them

October 14, 2023

10AM - Noon

5201 Bowman Springs Rd, Arlington, TX 76017

Sponsored by Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve

Walk Leader - Kate Rugroden and Dr. Ellen Ravkind

Lights Out Fort Worth

October 21, 2023

Wild Birds Unlimited Arlington

1660 W Randol Mill Rd, Arlington, TX 76012

Speaker - Madison Gover

Bioblitz & Field Trips

Burgundy Beef Ranch

October 18, 2023

7:30AM Start for checking small mammal traps

9:00AM Start for the non-early birds.

Grandview, Texas 76050

Sponsored by North Central Chapter of NPSOT

Coordinator Hollie Carron - holliec1@gmail.com

817/992-8468

RSVP ONLY - LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS

Email or Call Hollie to see if there's spots left.

Rock Creek Ranch Park Bioblitz

October 21, 2023

9:00AM - 1:00PM

Fort Worth, TX

Sponsored by [NPAT Fort Worth](#)

Led by Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

REGISTRATION ONLY - [CLICK HERE](#)

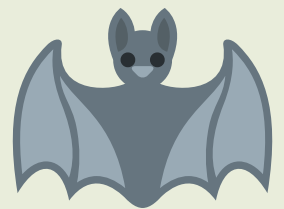
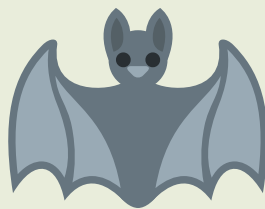
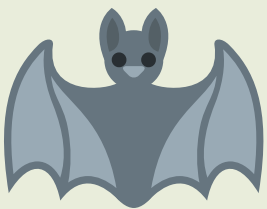
October is Bat Appreciation Month!

[Click Here](#)
[What To Do](#)
[If You've](#)
[Found A Bat](#)

Bat-Watching Sites of Texas

Texas happens to be the battiest state in the country. It is home to 32 of the 47 species of bats found in the United States.

 [texas.gov](https://www.texas.gov)





Board Members

CTMN Board Members

- Sharon Hamilton - President
- Mary Beth Lampe - Vice President
 - Glenda Walker - Secretary
- Dee Ann McGinnis- Treasurer

For submissions, nominations or announcements, please put the subject line as the newsletter category you are entering for and email to newsletter@ctmn.org

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
 - Madison Cover - Newsletter
 - Frank Keeney - Webmaster
- Erika Swyrn - Class of 2022 Rep.
- Theresa Posani - Class of 2023 Rep.

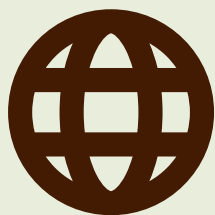


Inclusivity:

Together we can make the newsletter inclusive to the visually impaired. Consider providing a text description of your photos for screen-reader software.



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Facebook Group**



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Website**

CTMN Sponsors

- **Rachel Richter**, TPWD, Urban Biologist, Rachel.Richter@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jacklyn Jones Doyle**, Texas AgriLife, County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources, jacklyn.jones@ag.tamu.edu
- **Michael Perez**, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge michael.perez@fortworthtexas.gov