

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™  
Cross Timbers



# WATER N' WILDLIFE!



## Table of Contents

- CTMN Announcements **1**
- Speakers **3**
- TMN Tuesdays **4**
- Member Milestones **5**
- Member Highlight **6**
- Story Corner **7**
- Native-otM **10**
- Featured Project **11**
- Art&Photo Gallery **12**
- iNaturalist Obs.-otM **14**
- Current Events **15**
- Board Members **17**

## In this Issue:



### TMN Tuesdays

Did you know you can get advanced training by watching the TMN Tuesday Recordings? Listen to July's meeting to learn about all things 2024 Annual Meeting! This webinar will also cover various state program updates.

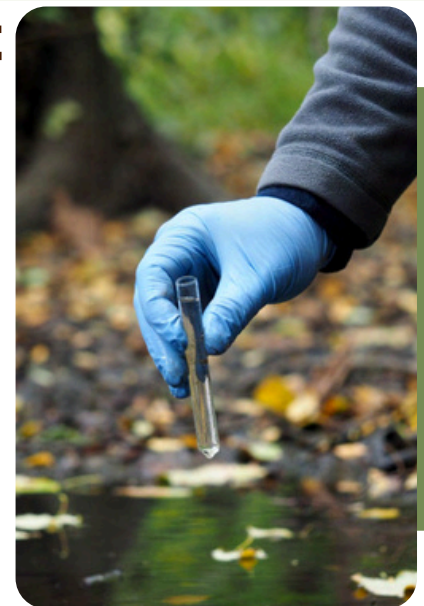
### Native of the Month

This month we're learning a little something about Flame Acanthus - a hardy native plant that requires little water, can tolerate the heat, and can survive a winter freeze.



### Featured Project

Through Texas Stream Team, citizen scientists are trained to collect and submit surface water and environmental quality data that can then be used to promote and protect the 191,000 miles of Texas waterways.



# CTMN Announcements



**We now have a Zoom Committee! Zachary Chapman, Jessica Dazey, Donna Honkomp, Chris Honkomp, Sally McCoy, Meredith O'Shea, and Theresa Posani** are now conducting the Zoom portion of our monthly meetings. They did a fantastic job for their first time zooming for our June meeting. Please thank them when you get a chance.

---

Due to the heat, the new summer hours for the Chandor Nature Trail Spruce-Up will be on the last Saturday of each month from 9:00 – 11:00 AM.

**See you on the trail!**

**~Christie Tull, trail coordinator**

---

**The Newsletter Editor is looking for newsletters that pre-date 2019 for an archive. Please let me know if you ever had access to these or were ever a newsletter editor at [newsletter@ctmn.org](mailto:newsletter@ctmn.org)**

**Newsletter submissions: Please title all newsletter submissions starting with “CTMN Newsletter Submission” so my mail filters it properly.**

*continued ->*



**OCTOBER 24-27**

[Annual Meeting Website](#)

**Registration opens the first week of August!**



# Speakers

## This Month's Speaker

### Sam Kieschnick

Sam will be doing the CTMN Presentations for both July and August.

**"JULY: Summer Adaptations for Texas Wildlife" by Sam Kieschnick, Urban Biologist, TPWD**

**"AUGUST: Comparison of the nature of Saudi Arabia and Texas" by Sam Kieschnick, Urban Biologist, TPWD.**  
Sam will present via Zoom.

Sam Kieschnick is an urban wildlife biologist with TPWD serving the east side of the DFW metroplex. He previously worked as a nature educator with the City of Mansfield at Oliver Nature Park, as a naturalist at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, as a science interpreter with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, as a botanist with BRIT, and as an instructor at Weatherford College. He has a master's degree from Tarleton State University studying the genetics of pocket gophers. As an urban wildlife biologist, Sam's focus will be on three a's: awareness, appreciation, and action.

Sam is a great speaker and everyone will be in for a treat to hear him speak two months in a row.

# 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.

## Annual Meeting 101 with the State Program Office



**Date:** July 9, 2024 at 12pm CT

**Speakers:** Texas Master Naturalist State Program Office

**Description:** Join us to learn about all things 2024 Annual Meeting! This webinar will also cover various state program updates.

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

[Slideshow](#)

[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 2024 so far!

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



## Recertifications



C/O 2017

Dee Ann McGinnis

C/O 2020

Megan McConnell  
Laura Smith

C/O 2022

Madison Gover  
Bob Siglin

## Member Milestone Achievements



**500 Hours (Silver Dragonfly Pin)**

Patsy Miller



**1000 Hours (Gold Dragonfly Pin)**

Sandy Thornburgh



# Member Highlight

## Meet CTMN Jeff Quayle!



### What year did you become a master naturalist?

I trained in the first DFW class in Dallas, back in 1998. Molly Hollar and Jan Miller were in the same class. In 1999, when CTMN was formed, we all transferred. I started volunteering back in 1985 at the Fort Worth Nature Center, when they formed the "Natural Guard". I was one of the first people to join, and I volunteered during the week, being mentored by Wayne Clark, who was on staff back then. He got me interested in the outdoors and my love of prairies. He taught me a lot and together we planned out a lot of the new trails that weren't in existence back then. Then on Saturdays, the Natural Guard crew went out and worked on creating the new trails.

### What is your work career?

Papa John's Pizza. Occasionally Door Dash. Part-time Botanical/Natural Resource consulting, doing baseline vegetation surveys.

### Where do you like to earn your volunteer hours?

Leading walks for the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) and collecting herbarium specimens for BRIT.

### What are your interests outside of naturalist activities?

Walking my 18-month-old Black German Shepherd/Lab mix, watching movies at home, going to the movie theater, compiling plant data on computer.

### Awards:

Walking my 18-month-old Black German Shepherd/Lab mix, watching movies at home, going to the movie theater, compiling plant data on computer.

NPSOT - President's Award (2001)

NPSOT - Shirley Lusk Award (2020) - For collecting 1069 voucher specimens for BRIT

NPAT Conclave Leadership Award (2023)

Articles about Jeff  
(Click):

[GreenSource DFW](#)

[NPAT Featured  
Member](#)

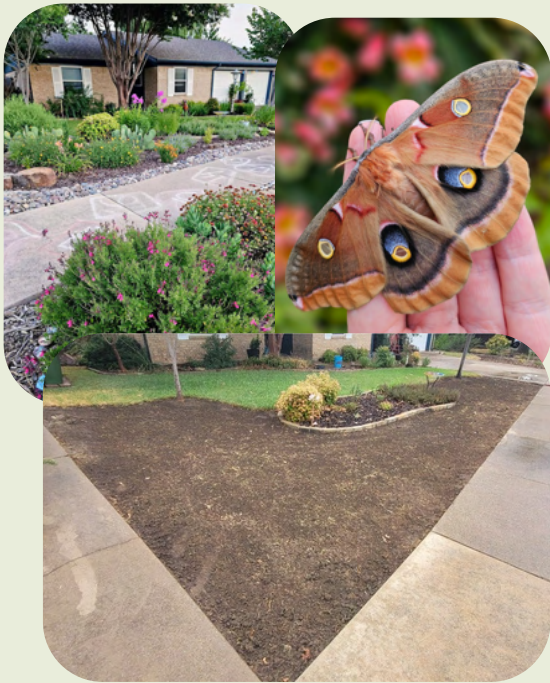
# Story Corner



## How the Master Naturalist program "Rocked" my World and Saves Water Daily

Teddi R. Zonker, CTMN 2023-VP, TCMG 2020,  
Monarch Conservation Specialist (Monarch Watch)

Rocks, boulders, native plants, way less water usage and an amazing amount of pollinators! This describes my suburban front yard since joining the CTMN program in 2023. By Fall 2023 and after hearing Doug Tallamy speak, I had stopped watering the front yard grass and happily watched half of it die off. One day while watering I thought, "I have to practice what I'm learning; this is a scam, I water grass...so it grows...so I can cut it."



I removed the grass (sod cutter) and covered the area with cardboard and mulch. I added river rock along the edge since it touches concrete and is very hot in the summer, added sunning locations for the lizards by using boulders and then I noticed immediately - life! Lizards, pillbugs and earthworms - oh my! When I added a rock walking path and watered in the area, I suddenly noticed a butterfly sipping some water from the stone. "It's working!"

Time to add the plants - Texas Sage, Henry Duelberg Salvia, Lantana, Zexmenia, Skullcap, Fall Aster, Flame Acanthus, Prickly Pear Cactus, Butterfly Weed, Big Red Sage and Green Milkweed. Immediately - butterflies, bees, wasps, flies, moths! Every morning and evening I was logging a new iNaturalist species for my location!



*continued ->*



Since last year, I've added more natives from prairie rescues and the Native Plant Society plant sale: Greenthread, Barbara's Buttons, Prairie Penstemon, Engelmann Daisy, Pitcher Sage and more milkweed. Also last year, the side yard bed was expanded with more natives and butterfly host plants: False Nettle (Red Admiral, Question Mark, Comma butterflies), Pipevine (Pipevine), Milkweed/Butterfly Weed (Monarch and Queen), Passionvine (Fritillary), Frog Fruit (Phaon Crescent, Common Buckeye) and Aster (Painted Ladies, Silvery Checkerspots).



The front has definitely been an extension of what has been underway in the backyard since 2012. Today the garden has the following certifications/recognition:

Certified Wildlife Habitat

Monarch Waystation

TDG Certified Butterfly Habitat

NABA Certified Butterfly Garden

TBR Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Habitat

Xerces Pollinator Habitat

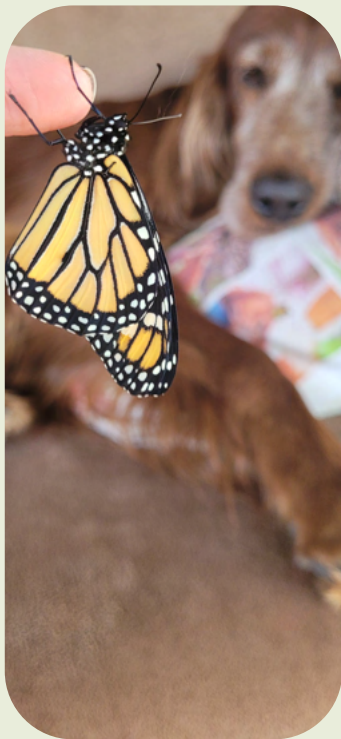
While visiting, one will also discover fun additions such as a giant giraffe, giant rooster, a praying mantis and a Tyrannosaurus Rex! Loads of color, life and some pieces and reminders from family, friends and personal travels. Other critters visit too: Toads, frogs, Texas Spiny Lizards, Anoles and many birds and squirrels - all benefitting from the established ecosystem.

*continued ->*

Also, several caterpillars on the variety of host plants can be seen munching away or searching for a spot to form it's chrysalis. People food is there too!



This is a hobby that heals my heart, brings joy and wonder to the neighborhood and it's a great place for Miss Frida, my 10yo Irish Setter, as she meets new nature friends and enjoys spring and fall patio time.



To transform your area, just start small and watch the amazing changes. I started with a lettuce mix seed package in a pot and some milkweed. Through my own research, my goal to attract more butterflies and use less water, my education as a Master Gardener and a member of the Native Plant Society, it has become quite the oasis! It is also a two-time winner of the City of Watauga Yard of the Month contest; 2015, 2019!

Happy planting,

Teddi | [tzonker@gmail.com](mailto:tzonker@gmail.com)



# Native of the Month



## Flame Acanthus - Hummingbird Bush (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*)

By Josephine Keeney



Photos by Josephine Keeney

This is the plant for you, if you are looking for a beautiful plant that can take the Texas heat and survive with very little water and care. It is also cold hardy during our normal cold winters but during the big freeze of 2021 it died to the ground and came back up from the roots. I have never seen it bothered by insects or disease in the many years that I have been growing native plants, that really means a lot, and it is something that can hardly be said about other hardy plants.

This shrub is deciduous and has light colored brittle wood, it is cold hardy in the DFW area and likes to wait for the weather to warm up before putting on new growth in the spring. The new stems are square and the leaves are small and light green, growing opposite to each other with no serration on the edges. The bloom period is from June to frost in this area of North Central Texas.

Flame Acanthus can be pruned or sheared to suit your desired size or shape, it bounces back quickly and rewards you with many bright tubular orange-red blooms that attract attention from far away. But if all these virtues weren't enough, the bright tubular flowers attract all the hummers and butterflies in the neighborhood, making it a delight to watch. It also happens to be a host plant for the Crimson Patch, Texan Crescent and Cyna Blue butterflies.





# Featured Project

## Texas Stream Team



Photo Credit: City of Arlington



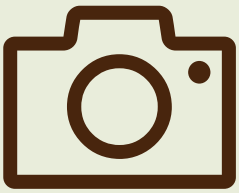
“Through Texas Stream Team, citizen scientists are trained to collect and submit surface water and environmental quality data that can then be used to promote and protect the 191,000 miles of Texas waterways. Texas Stream Team brings together community members, students, educators, academic researchers, environmental professionals, and both public and private sector partners to conduct scientific research and promote environmental stewardship.” - [Texas Stream Team Website](#)

### **Our Mission”**

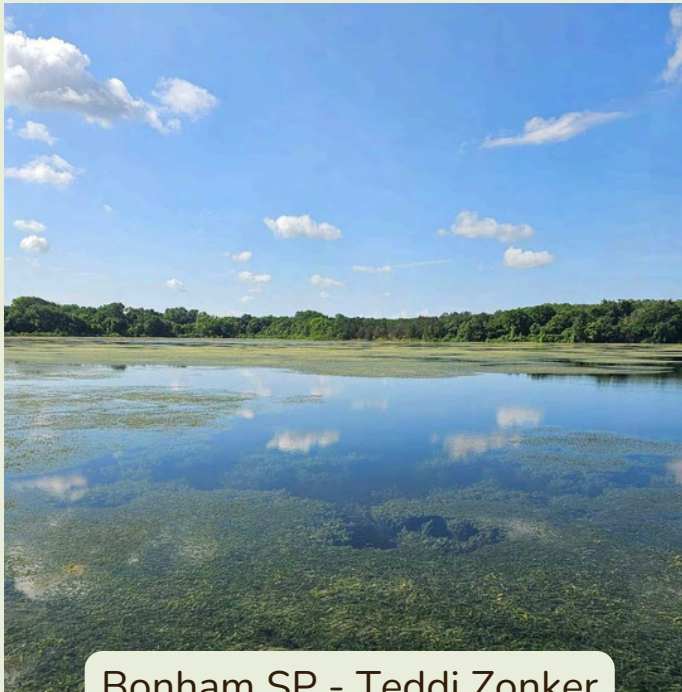
To facilitate environmental stewardship by empowering a statewide network of concerned citizen scientists, partners, and institutions in a collaborative effort to promote a healthy and safe environment through environmental education, data collection, and community action.

The next workshop for Arlington seems to be [August 24, 2024](#)

[LIST OF TRAINERS - CLICK ME](#)



# Art & Photography Gallery



Bonham SP - Teddi Zonker



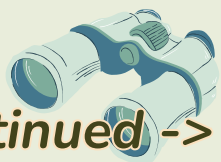
Baby Robin - Teddi Zonker



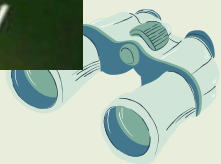
Dove - Teddi Zonker



Frog - Teddi Zonker



continued ->



# 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.

## Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

cnacree



**Time: 7:13 PM**

**Date: July 5, 2024**

**Location: Lake  
Benbrook**

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



# Current Events

## JULY

Prairie Sky/Star Party (sunset)  
Tandy Hills  
Saturday, July 13 8:38pm

Know Your Nature Neighbors  
Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve  
Saturday, July 13th, 8am

Blacklighting "8 to late" with Sam Kieschnick  
Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve  
Wednesday, July 24, 8pm

Mindfulness and Nature Journaling  
Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve  
Saturday, July 27, 8am

NPAT event  
Russell Fart Art Center (Burleson)  
Prairie Collage Art Workshop  
Saturday, July 27, 1-3pm

Big Bluestem Bash! Charity event (Houston zoo)  
NPAT  
Thursday, October 3, 630pm-930pm (25% off through July 31)  
[Details](#)

*continued ->*



# AUGUST

Fort Worth Audubon  
First Friday Feathers  
Friday, August 2, 7:30am-10am  
Kelley Park, Arlington

Fort Worth Audubon  
Birding  
Wednesday, August 14, 6:30am-10:30am  
Village Creek Drying Beds, North Arlington

Tandy Hills Natural Area  
Explore the Dark – Mothing event  
Saturday, August 10, 8am  
Texas Park & Wildlife Department's Urban Biologist – Sam  
Kieschnick  
[Register](#)

Prairie Sky/Star Party (sunset)  
Tandy Hills  
Saturday, August 12, 8-10pm

# SEPTEMBER

BioBlitz  
Camp Leroy Shuman  
Saturday, September 21, 8:45am-noon  
[Register](#)

Prairie Sky/Star Party (sunset)  
Tandy Hills  
Saturday, September 11, 7-9pm





# Board Members

## CTMN Board Members

- Mary Beth Lampe - President
- Teddi Zonker - Vice President
  - Bill Collins - Secretary
- Dee Ann McGinnis- Treasurer

## CTMN Chair Members

- Carol Marcotte - Membership
  - Sharon Hamilton - Past President
  - Melinda Wolfinbarger - Training
  - Theresa Thomas - VMS Admin & Vol and AT Hours
  - Sandy Thornburgh - Hospitality
    - Theresa Thomas - Records
    - Madison Gover - Newsletter
  - Frank Keeney - Announcement eblasts
- Mary Beth Lampe - Webmaster  
Theresa Posani - Class of 2023 Rep.

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

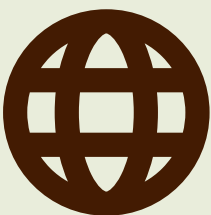


### Inclusivity:

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