

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™
Cross Timbers

Winter
2025/2026

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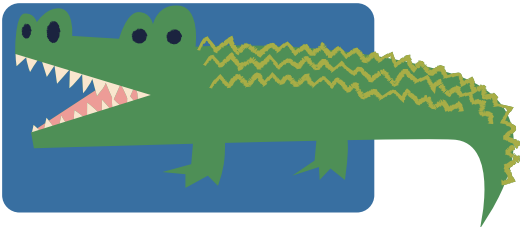
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In this Issue: **January Speaker**



Join us for an engaging presentation on the American alligator, featuring research and conservation efforts at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Dr. Jared Wood will share insights into alligator ecology.

CTMN Announcements

Sign up for the CTMN newsletter and explore the full events calendar on the Cross Timbers website, which can be added to your Google Calendar. The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting was a blast! Scroll to see where next year will be.



Featured Project

CTMN and NPSOT are collaborating with Hommel Elementary to build a native plant and pollinator garden that will serve as a living classroom. Volunteers are invited to support student activities, planning, and future garden expansion.





New Leadership for CTMN

Mary Beth Lampe

Several members have stepped up to help with CTMN leadership.

If you would like to serve on a committee or help with CTMN in any way, please let Mary Beth know at mblampe@gmail.com

Hospitality - Sandy Thornburgh is retiring after 5 years as a one person Hospitality Committee. She has been a dependable, gracious, and helpful coordinator for all our events and snacks. THANK YOU SANDY!

Here are the CTMN members who have stepped forward to help lead CTMN. Thank you to all of you.

Treasurer - Sarah Caldwell replaced Dee Ann Wiggins

Hospitality - Roseann Giambro and Eli Turner replaced Sandy Thornburgh

Outreach Committee - Lisa Gibson (Director), Mike Law, Alice Salazar, Eli Taylor, Annamarie Fresta, Michelle Cyr

2026 Outreach Events that will need volunteers:

Feb 21 at 9 am - City of North Richland Hills Spring Garden Seminar, CTMN will host a table

March 28 - 10 am to 3 pm - NatureCon at Fort Worth Nature Center. Last year there were food trucks, speakers, and activities. CTMN can have a table with our banner, handouts about CTMN, skulls, and a kid friendly craft activity.

April 25 - CTMN will lead a Bioblitz at the Fort Worth Nature Center. Sam has agreed to be there.

CTMN Announcements



New CTMN Newsletter Sign-Ups

Earn volunteer hours by contributing to the newsletter!



[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

Did you know? There's a full calendar of all events on the Cross Timbers website, both on the homepage and under the Calendar tab.

You can click the top right corner to view it by week, month, or list, and even add it to your own Google Calendar using the button on the bottom left. It'll show up as its own calendar, so you can easily check or uncheck it to toggle between your personal calendar and the CTMN events. - **Alice Miroslava**

Cross Timbers Master Naturalists Inc is a 501(c)(3).

Upcoming Events

Today
< >
Oct – Nov 2025 ▾

Schedule ▾

3	NOV, MON	9am – 12pm 7 – 8pm	Rotating Garden Workdays - More information in description CTMN Board Meeting
5	NOV, WED	9am – 12pm 9 – 11am	Molly Hollar Wildscape Volunteer Day The Molly Hollar Wildscape, 2866 Spanish Trail, Arlington, TX 76016, USA White Settlement Monarch Waystation Volunteer Day 8213 White Settlement Rd, White Settlement, TX 76108, USA
8	NOV, SAT	8 – 11am	Community Day at O.S. Gray O.S. Gray Natural Area, 2021 W Abram St, Arlington, TX 76013, USA
10	NOV, MON	9am – 12pm	Rotating Garden Workdays - More information in description
11	NOV, TUE	12 – 1pm	#TMNTuesdays
12	NOV, WED	9am – 12pm 9 – 11am	Molly Hollar Wildscape Volunteer Day The Molly Hollar Wildscape, 2866 Spanish Trail, Arlington, TX 76016, USA White Settlement Monarch Waystation Volunteer Day 8213 White Settlement Rd, White Settlement, TX 76108, USA
14	NOV, FRI	9am – 12pm	Fort Worth Zoo Demonstration Garden - See Notes 1989 Colonial Pkwy, Fort Worth, TX 76109, USA
15	NOV, SAT	9am – 12pm	Sheri Capehart Volunteer Days 5201 Bowman Springs Rd, Kennedale, TX 76060, USA
16	NOV, SUN	7:30 – 9:30am 1 – 4:30pm	Chisholm Trail Community Prairie/Park Trash Pick up Chisholm Trail Community Center, 4936 McPherson Blvd, Fort ... Fall 2025 Prairie Seekers: Urban Prairie Seekers Post Burn Review Tandy Hills Natural Area / Stratford Nature Area, 3...
17	NOV, MON	9am – 12pm 7 – 8:30pm	Rotating Garden Workdays - More information in description CTMN Monthly Meeting - Coyotes 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76107, USA

CTMN Events and Volunteering
Events shown in this zone: (GMT-05:00) Central Time - Chicago
[Add to Google Calendar](#)

Google Calendar

Thank you Timothy for taking the initiative to create a CTMN Chapter iNaturalist Project! Check it out!

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Cross Timbers Texas Master Naturalist Chapter

About

Leave 17

This Project is a collection of the observation from members of the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter. The Cross Timbers chapter encompasses Tarrant and Parker County, and includes Fort Worth, Weatherford, Azle, Arlington, Mansfield and many more.

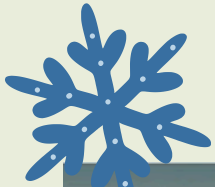
[Read More >](#)

Your Membership

Project Members Only

Project Journal

[Click Here](#)

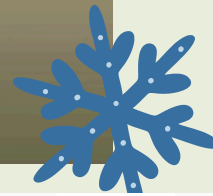
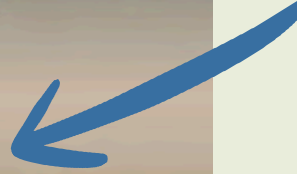


2026's TXMN Pin

AND THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2025
RECERTIFICATION PIN IS....



Bobcat
Lynx rufus



2026 Annual Meeting Location



Photography: Scenic



3rd Place

Caddy Lake
By Teddi Zonker
Cross Timbers

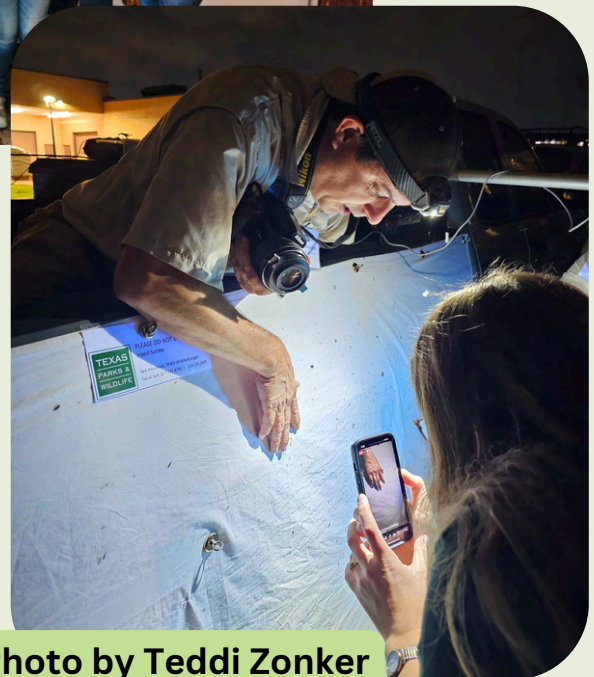
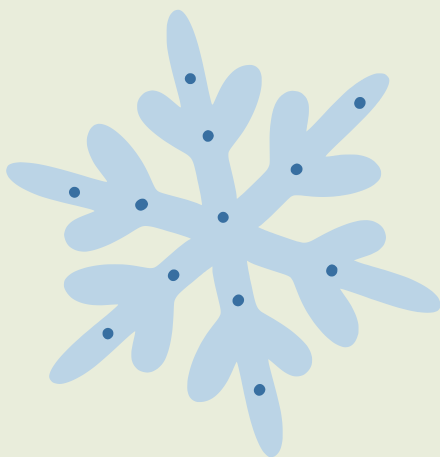
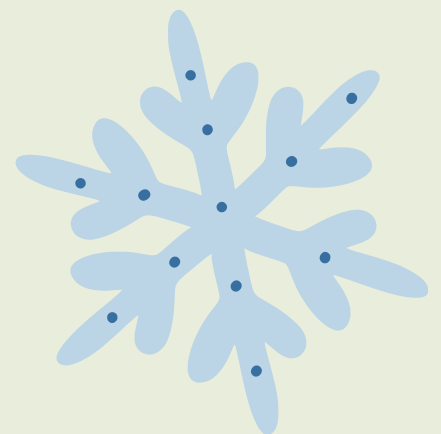


Photo by Teddi Zonker

- 569 registrants
 - 121 in the first hour!
 - 351 in the first day!
- 170 speakers
- 49 student poster presentations
- 130 class sessions; 25 field sessions
- 45 of 49 chapters (~93 %)
- 24 sponsors
- 20 vendors
- 517 Photo, Art & Media Contest entries
- 13 Video Contest entries
- 8 Project Fair entries





Current Events

Common Ground NRH
Presents

Spring Garden Seminar

21st Feb | SATURDAY | At 09 AM

**VENDORS. EDUCATION .
REFRESHMENTS. PRIZES**

NRH GRAND HALL

6000 Hawk Ave, North Richland Hills

www.nrhcommunitygarden.com





Speakers

January Speaker



**CTMN Chapter Meeting/Presentation –
January 19, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Jared Wood - Director of FWNC

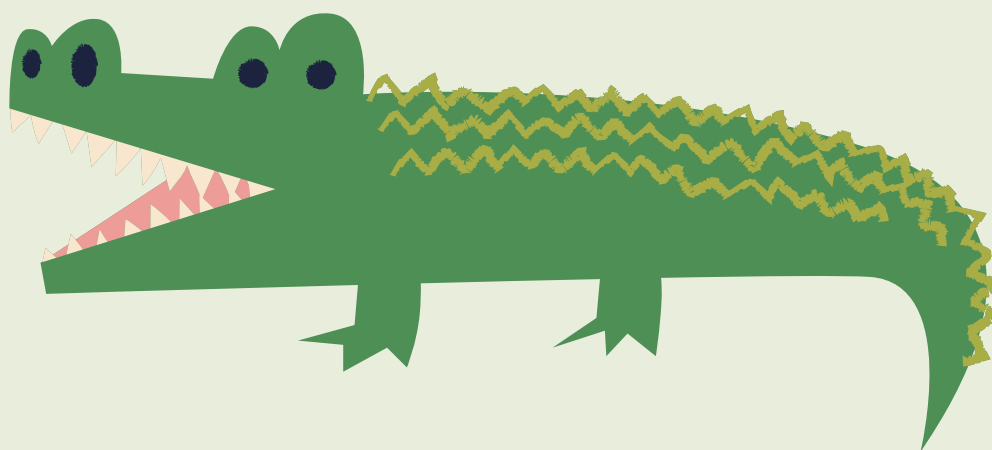
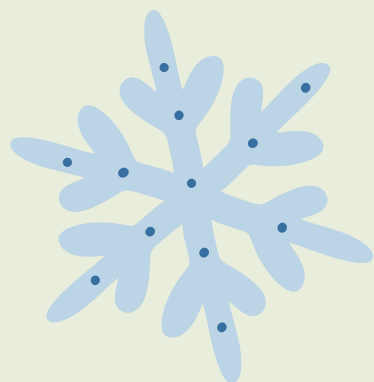
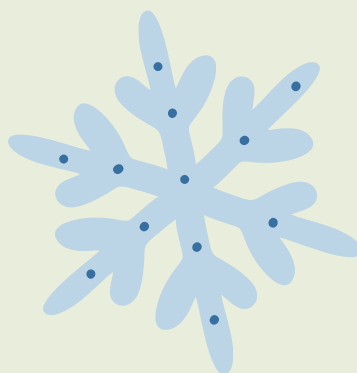
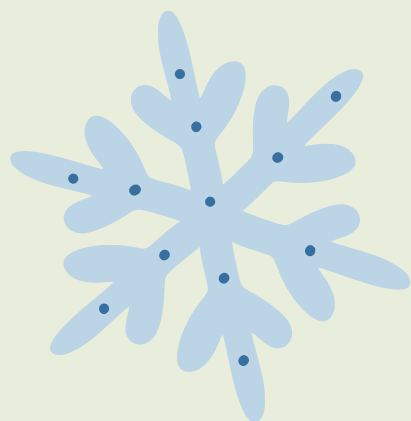
**Ecology and Conservation of
Alligators at the Fort Worth
Nature Center and Refuge**

[Zoom Link](#)

Join us for an exciting and informative presentation on the American alligator, one of Texas' most fascinating native reptiles! Learn about the ongoing research at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, where experts are studying alligator ecology, behavior, and conservation efforts. Discover how these incredible creatures thrive in local wetlands, their role in the ecosystem, and the challenges they face in an ever-changing environment. This presentation will offer insights into alligator population monitoring, habitat preservation, and human-wildlife coexistence.

Dr. Jared Wood is an accomplished natural resource professional from the Texoma area with over 15 years of experience in natural history education, wildlife conservation, and resource management. As Director of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, he leads habitat restoration efforts, wildlife research, and educational programs while driving strategic partnerships and expanding public engagement. Dr. Wood works collaboratively with government agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, and businesses to advance conservation efforts locally and nationwide.

With a Ph.D. in Ecology and Conservation from the University of Louisville and a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Dr. Wood has also led the Southwestern Adventist University Dinosaur Museum & Research Center and served as an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences. A passionate sportsman, he is dedicated to education, conservation, and community outreach. Dr. Wood and his wife, Heather, reside in Burleson, TX, and have three children, ranging in age from 1 to 18 (yes, that's not a typo).



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.

January's Speakers



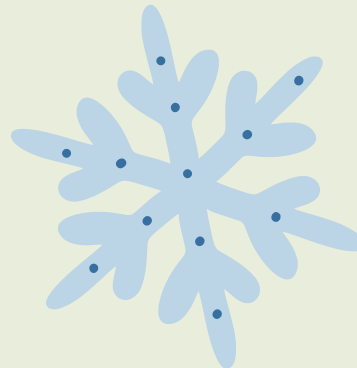
Title: State of the Program

Speakers: Michelle Haggerty, Mary Pearl Meuth, and Hannah Ferguson

Date: January 13, 2026 at 12pm CT

Description: Join the Texas Master Naturalist Program staff, Michelle Haggerty, Mary Pearl Meuth, and Hannah Ferguson, for a State of the Program!

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



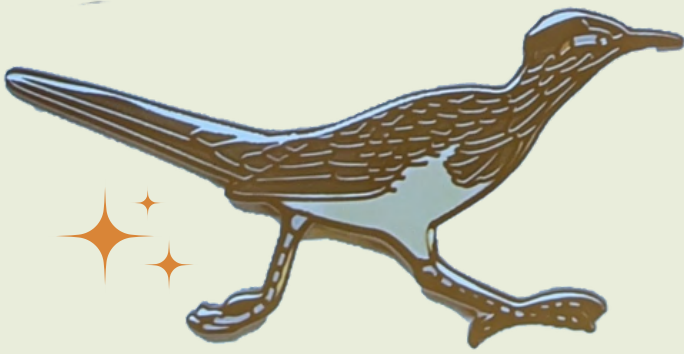
[View Past #TMNTuesday
Presentations Here for
Advanced Training Hrs.](#)

[Register Here](#)

[Webex Guide](#)

[FAQ](#)

Member Milestones



**Let's take a moment to help us
congratulate members that recertified
this year!**

They have completed, logged, and had approved 40 volunteer hours and 8 advanced training hours. They will all receive the Greater Roadrunner pin.

C/O 1998

Marian Hiler

C/O 2011

Terry Austin

C/O 2014

Kim Conrow

C/O 2016

Zachary Chapman

C/O 2020

Megan McConnell

C/O 2021

Linda Little

C/O 2022

Madison Gover
Erika Swyryn

C/O 2023

Karen Brown

C/O 2024

Kelvin Deupree
Frankie Simmons

Julio Corralejo
Shana Wilkerson

250 Hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)

Eleanor Pate
Annamarie Fresta



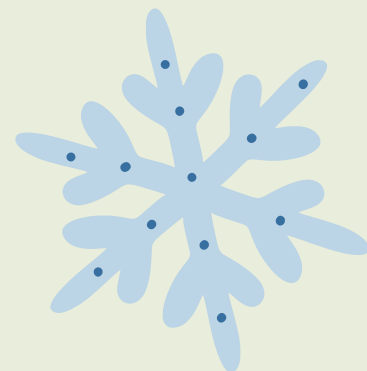
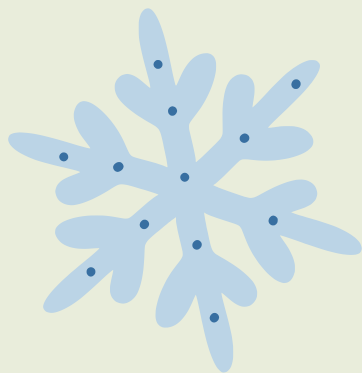
500 Hours (Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Dee Ann McGinnis



2,500 Hours (Polished Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Brent Franklin





Featured Project

Historic Everman School Native Plant Demo



The Cross Timbers Master Naturalists and the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas have teamed up with the Hommel Elementary Gardening Club to bring new life—and native plants—to the front entrance of the school. The project is just beginning to take shape, and we're currently seeking a co-lead to help guide its next steps.

Our vision starts with a native plant demonstration garden that welcomes students, families, and visitors as they arrive on campus. Over time, we hope to grow this effort into a full pollinator garden and a pocket prairie that teachers can use as living classrooms.

Right now, our work happens on Friday mornings from **7:45 to 8:30 a.m.**, when students gather to get their hands dirty, learn, and care for the plants. We also **meet occasionally on Saturday mornings** to water and check the beds. Looking ahead to **Spring 2026**, we hope to offer additional volunteer days so we can install more plants, add educational signage, and continue building out the space.

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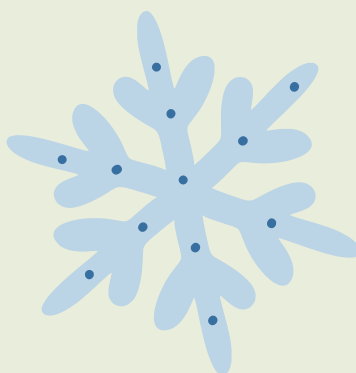


The project is rooted—literally and figuratively—at the historic Everman School building, completed in 1910 when Everman was still a bustling railroad company town. Today, that building houses Hommel Elementary School in Everman ISD. With 258 students, Hommel is a Title I campus, meaning the majority of its students come from low-income families. In fact, 98% of students qualify under that designation. The school community is 73% Hispanic, 20% Black, 4% White, and 3% other, and it currently ranks in the bottom half of Texas schools for statewide testing.

Volunteers can contribute in many ways: helping plan lessons for the Gardening Club, assisting with student activities (after completing a background check), brainstorming future improvements, and helping secure grants that will fund new plants and signage for the spring.

This project is more than a garden—it's an opportunity to build a resilient outdoor learning space for a school that deserves the support of its wider community.

Please contact the project lead, Nikki Slobodin, for more information and to coordinate volunteering at **nikki.slobodin@gmail.com** or **512-299-2530**





Actions we can take now for climate change:

by Karen A. Knight

1. **Talk about it!** Talk to any and every one that will listen. Connect with shared values and shared experiences. Science and facts don't win over skeptics. "Dismissives" only make up 7-10% of Americans, so avoid talking to them.
2. Get involved legislatively because your voice matters. Email your congressional representatives and senators. Join **Citizens Climate Lobby**, DFW Chapter. CCL makes it easy to participate and let your voice be counted with Congress.
3. Get active in local conservation organizations. Lobby City Councils to join **wearestillin.com**.
4. **Avoid food waste.** U.S. wastes 20 million tons per year or 59 kg per capita. This produces enormous amounts of greenhouse gases (GHG).
5. **Change your electric provider** to one based on 100% Renewable Energy Credits. This drives demand for renewable energy projects. Examples include Chariot Energy. 95% of all energy projects waiting for permits in the U.S. are renewables: solar, wind, battery storage, green hydrogen, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biomass.

6. Unfortunately, our personal choices do not make much difference for climate change. The problem is structural. But some ideas for reducing your carbon footprint are:

a. Vehicles- keep your car well-maintained and drive it as long as possible. When the time to replace it approaches, get an EV.

b. Home heating/cooling – Get an electric heat pump system. Heat pumps are more efficient and do not rely on fossil fuel.

c. Choose all electric appliances. Induction cooktops are most efficient. Heat pump hot water heaters are 2-3x more efficient. Use a clothesline.

d. LED light bulbs

e. Avoid fossil fuel by-products like plastics, pesticides, fertilizers. Plastic is NOT 100% recyclable.

i. Reusable shopping bags, produce bags.
Recycle bags at grocery stores.

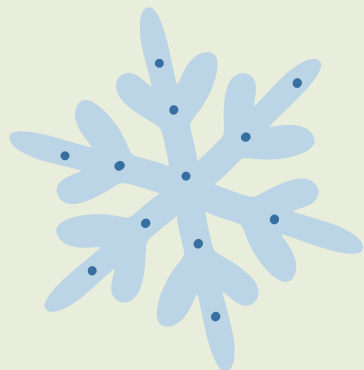
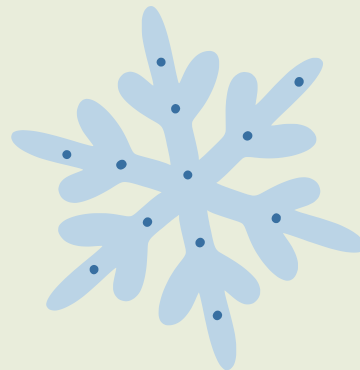
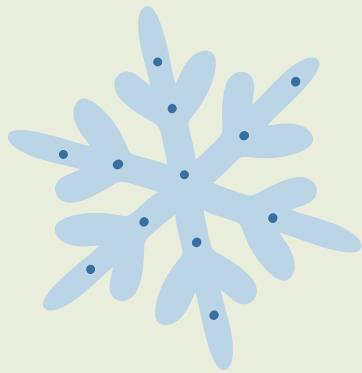
ii. Avoid buying bottled drinks, sodas, detergent, dishwasher pod tubs, cat litter in plastic, etc.

iii. Avoid buying plastic clothes like polyester, acrylic, nylon, spandex. Purchase organic cotton, organic hemp, organic linen, silk,

f. Plant trees and native plants in your landscape. They sequester much more carbon than non-native lawns, use significantly less water, and support the food chain for native fauna.

g. Say no to AI on your computers.

h. Eat lower on the food chain.



Wildlife Rehabilitation Adventure

by Linda Little

Boxes and boxes of orphaned babies! Fall and Spring and in between, people find them on the ground, by the road or in their pets' mouths and bring them to Wildlife Rehabilitators to be rescued. It's amazing how many squirrels fall from nests, raccoons lose their mamas, possums fall from backs, rabbits wander from holes to be met by dogs, add to that skunks and armadillos; all orphans in urban settings that need help to make it to adulthood.



Beverly Godbey has dedicated nine years of her life on a 24/7 schedule, to helping them and though advancing in years, she's not slowing down, she is both fierce and kind-hearted; a champion of all the hopeless, tiny creatures. I met her a year ago and started volunteering by helping her bottle feed the orphans and clean enclosures on a trial basis.

I had raised rabbits and squirrels in the past and was approved by her for more training. She is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator through Texas Parks and Wildlife. It's a lot of work to tend to all their needs, bottle feeding by the clock at all hours and attending wounds, removing parasites, among a myriad of other problems and maladies. She relies on volunteers to help it happen and to clean and maintain the facilities. There is so much to do.



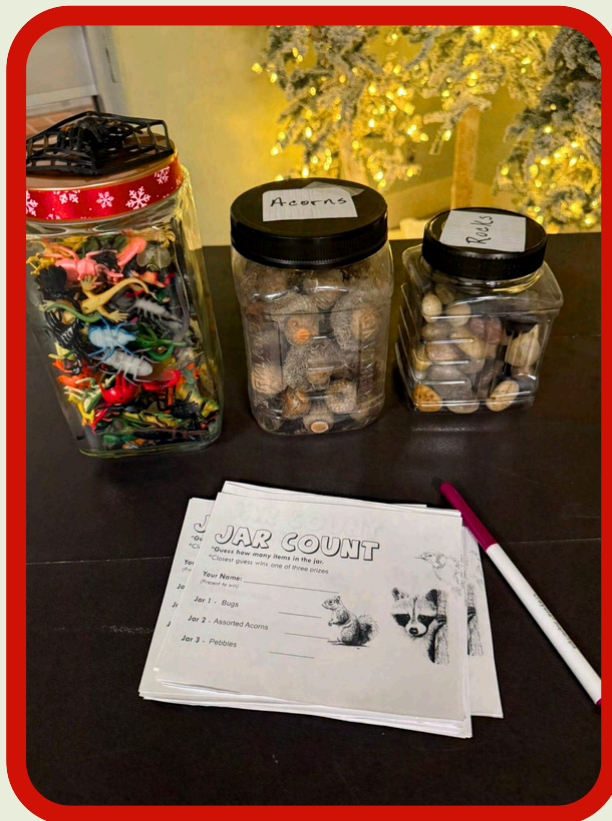
I find it very rewarding to see these babies grow and thrive. Sometimes we have to make hard choices as to their welfare and what is most humane but kindness doesn't exist just for us to feel good about ourselves, we have to do what's best.

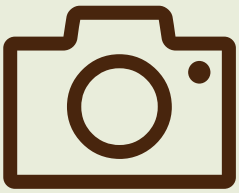
All in all, we're making sure the world never runs out of little creatures... one baby at a time.



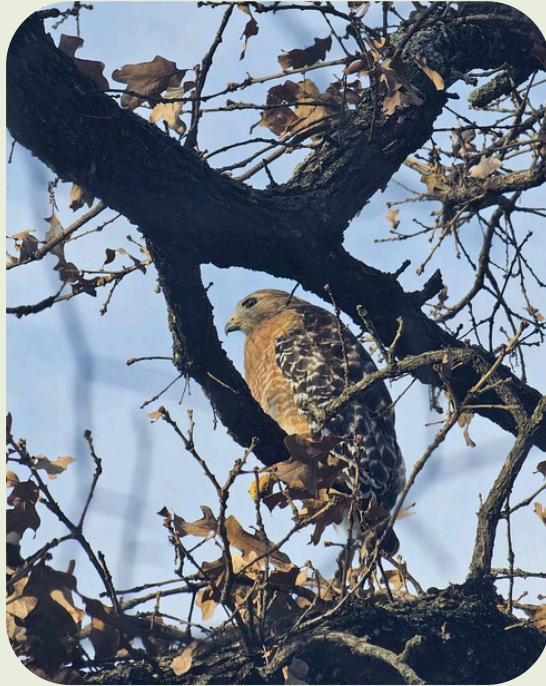
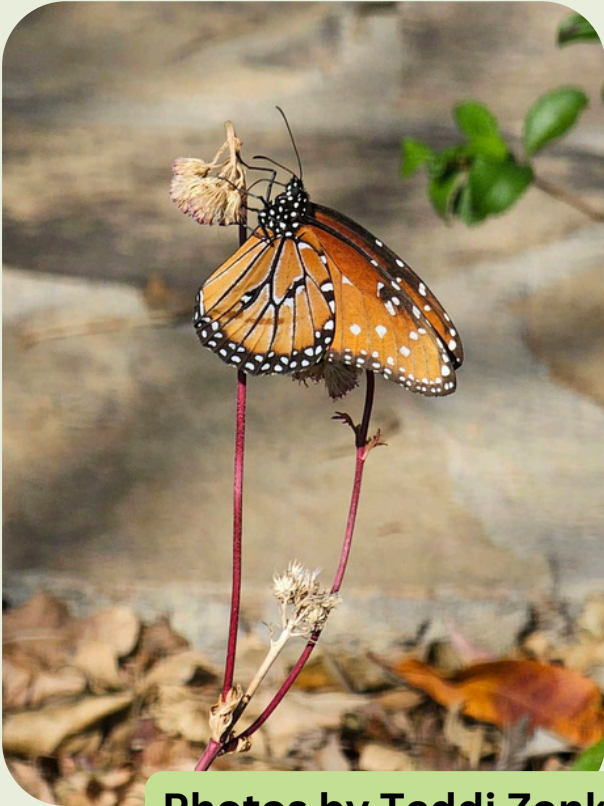
CTMN Holiday Party

Thank you everyone for coming out to the CTMN Holiday Party. We had 82 people at the CTMN Holiday Party. Game camera name the animal game, trivia quiz, and guess how many bugs, acorns, and rocks in the jars.

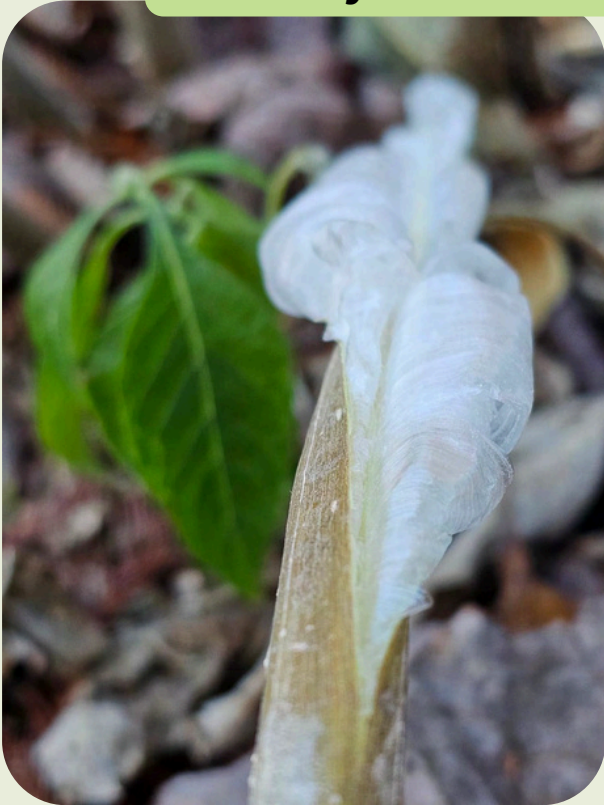


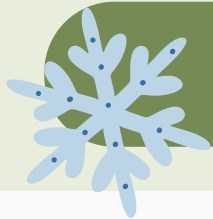


Art & Photography Gallery



Photos by Teddi Zonker





Board Members

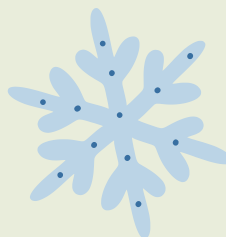
CTMN Board Members

- Mary Beth Lampe - **President**
- Teddi Zonker - **Vice President**
 - Bill Collins - **Secretary**
- Sarah Caldwell - **Treasurer**

CTMN Directors

- Annamarie Fresta - **Membership**
- Sharon Hamilton - **Past President**
 - Erika Swyryn - **Training**
- Theresa Thomas, Hester Swartzner, Sandy Milfeld - **VMS Approvals**
- Roseann Giambro and Eli Turner - **Hospitality**
 - Madison Gover - **Newsletter**
 - Mary Beth Lampe - **Webmaster**
 - Chelsea Self - **Class of 2025 Rep**
- Lisa Gibson (Director), Mike Law, Alice Salazar, Eli Taylor, Annamarie Fresta, Michelle Cyr - **Outreach Committee**

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

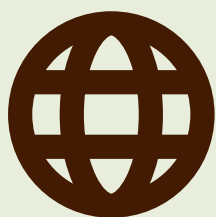


Inclusivity:

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
- **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