

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Cross Timbers



August Heat Issue!



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Month Speaker

Join Jack Cearley, North Texas Program Director for the Texas Land Conservancy, for an engaging overview of the common tree species found throughout North Texas.

Current Events

Check out all the events that are going on this month! If you like connecting with the public you might consider signing up to represent CTMN at the outreach event at the Fall Vegetable Gardening Seminar in NRH. You can talk to Lisa Gibson for more info.



Short Stories

MaryBeth shares some very interesting information about our water sources in Tarrant and Parker County. Check it out on pp. 10-11!

Also, Ruth shared her experience with one of the mothing events during Moth week last month. If you have wondered about "mothing", she can get you started. Check it out on p. 8!



CTMN Announcements



CLASS OF 2026!

Mentors are gearing up to help the 2026 class. Their first day will be Tuesday, August 11 at the Ft. Worth Zoo. There are 33 people pursuing their certification. Start looking for new faces!



Registration is now open
Click [link](#) and scroll down



Speakers

August Speaker



**CTMN Chapter Meeting/Presentation –
August 17- 7pm - 8:30 pm**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Jack Cearley - Texas Land Conservancy

Trees of North Texas

[Zoom Link](#)

Join Jack Cearley, North Texas Program Director for the Texas Land Conservancy, for an engaging overview of the common tree species found throughout North Texas. This talk will highlight key identification features, ecological roles, and interesting facts about native trees, with insights drawn from years of field experience in land management and habitat restoration.

Jack Early grew up exploring the beaches and marshes east of Galveston Bay, where a deep love for the natural world took root early in life. He went on to study forestry at Southern Illinois University, surrounded by the Shawnee National Forest. After earning his degree, Jack managed natural resources on a 9,000-acre state forest in southwest Indiana before returning to Texas in 2020 to work with Texas State Parks as a Resource Specialist. There, he led restoration efforts across diverse habitats including the Blackland Prairie, post oak savanna, and Pineywoods, and also served as a wildland firefighter. In 2024, Jack joined the Texas Land Conservancy as the North Texas Program Director, where he now applies his extensive land management experience to conserve and restore even more acres across the region.

- B.S. in Forestry, Southern Illinois University
- 2017-2020: Resource Specialist, Indiana Division of Forestry
- 2020-2024: Resource Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife – State Parks Division
- 2024-Present: North Texas Program Director, Texas Land Conservancy

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 Speakers



Title: State Wildlife Action Plan: How you Can Shape Wildlife and Habitat Conservation in Texas

Description: Texas Parks & Wildlife has launched a fully online State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) app that helps turn complex species and habitat data into clear next steps for research and on-the-ground implementation. Key features of the app are the Species Explorer, Knowledge Gap Analysis (KGA) Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) geospatial model, and the SWAP Workbench.

The COA maps and highlights places where multiple rare species overlap and where study or conservation work can be most beneficial, and the SWAP Workbench gives valued partners and staff the ability to fill in data gaps and update existing information.

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
recently!**

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

C/O 2006

Josephine Keeney

C/O 2007

Kay Sekio

C/O 2010

Jose Martinez

C/O 2014

Donna Piercy

C/O 2015

Charley Amos

C/O 2017

Kate Morgan

C/O 2018

Glenn Butler

C/O 2020

Denise Pederson

C/O 2021

Dana Austin
Peggy Carr
Annabelle Corboy
Marcie Delgado
Teresa Landfield
Patsy Miller
Kristine Smathers

C/O 2022

Annamarie Fresta
Roseann Giambro

C/O 2023

Karen Harden
Tina Olivas
Teddi Zonker

C/O 2024

Amanda Brinkley
Lisa Gibson
David Haury
Vickie Nelms
Shelby Thompson

C/O 2025

Lynn Chen
Mike Law
Kim Lufkin
Ruth Mauppin
Josh Parkerson
Chelsee Self



250 Hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)

Bob Siglin



500 Hours (Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Lisa Gibson

Wendy Elias

Megan McConnell

David Vestal

Jo Williams



2500 Hours (Polished Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Sandy Fountain



Member Highlight

Meet CTMN Madison Gover!

What year did you become a master naturalist?

I heard about it in college and they had a dual credit class that would end with a certification but I didn't want to be certified in Stephenville. Then I was an intern at the FWNC in 2019. Everything went online and so I decided to wait until it was in person again. I got certified in 2022.

What sparked your passion for nature and conservation?

I have always loved animals. In fact, I can't remember a time that I didn't. At one time I wanted to be a wildlife vet. I would spend summers as a kid "protecting ducks" at Lake Arlington. At 8 years old my grandparents took me to Bracken Cave outside of San Antonio. They have the largest population of Mexican Free-Tailed Bats in the world. I, also, got to see a hyena give birth at the Brooklyn, NY zoo. My first week of college, my professor told us the story of the passenger pigeon and I was hooked.



Which local natural spot has left a lasting impression on you and why?

The Fort Worth Nature Center has left a lasting impression because I learned a lot while I was there. I got to spend a lot of time with the bison which helped me with my Master's thesis, The Effects of Bison and Prairie Dogs on Small Mammal Communities at Cap Rock Canyon in the Panhandle just a few hours away from Palo Duro Canyon.

What unique hobbies or creative pursuits do you enjoy when you're not volunteering with CTMN?

I like to do Dog Sporting. I have two Bassett Hounds that are trained. One of them as a therapy dog and the other for sniffing sports.

I take my therapy dog to hospitals, schools, and retirement homes.

I enter my other in the American Kennel Club events. We compete for tracking scents in many different ways. Sometimes for sniffing out a particular scent or sometimes tracking rabbits like pretend hunting.

I also, consider myself an artist. I like to do acrylic painting, multimedia, and Modge Podge of animals of course. I did a drawing of a bison and donated it to the FWNC. I also like to sew.

What do you like about doing the newsletter for our chapter?

I love to take a variety of people and various things and draw it all together in a creative visual. It's kind of like creating a quilt. I really like collaborating with people and getting different perspectives apart from my own. This is why I really like to feature other peoples activities and passions.

My mom is a graphic designer so I grew up learning how to work a computer. This helps me use my artistic ability in digital format through the newsletter.



Madison's Dog a sporting event

Madison's drawing of the buffalo that she donated to the Ft. Worth Nature Center



Adventurous Anecdotes



by Ruth Mauppin

Last August, as a 2025 Training Class member, I saw that there was an evening mothing event in Arlington at Molly Hollar hosted by Sam Kieschnick. Trainees could get hours towards their certification for attending so I was excited to go and learn what mothing was. Prior to the event, I had never heard of mothing and had zero expectations or any clue what we were going to be doing. When I arrived I was happy to notice that several of our training class members were there, my 2025 mentor and friend was there, along with several familiar faces from our chapter.



“Mothing” is the act of vertically hanging a white sheet (any white fabric will do, even a pillowcase), attaching a blacklight and then patiently waiting to see what kind of nature will arrive. Going into this event, I had no idea that my knowledge and perception of the nature world was about to open in the coolest way possible. There is something so special about being in nature after dark, we must open our other senses and be more patient. On this evening, Sam taught us to always look up—cool stuff is up, too—and I almost immediately found a tree snake—thus cementing in my brain that looking up is equally important to looking down. Mothing was my first CTMN sanctioned event, and I am forever grateful for the jump start it gave me into this world. I bought some very inexpensive supplies and now moth on my own at home.

If you'd like more information on how to do this at home or want to organize a mothing event—let me know. I'm happy to share what I use and/or help organize an event.

Plant of the Month



Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)

by Kim Lufkin



Shumard Oak

The Shumard Oak is one of the largest red oaks. They are in the same family as beech and chestnuts trees. It is found in many areas including Tarrant and Parker County. It is very adaptable in Clay, loam and alkaline limestone soils.

They make great shade trees because of their symmetrical crowns can spread out 50 to 80 feet. A mature tree can reach up to 100 feet in height.

Their acorns are food for the wildlife.

One way to tell a red oak from a white oak is that, on a red oak, the tips of the leaves are very pointed almost like small needle like points. Where white oaks have more rounded tips. So, one way to remember that is, if the tip pricks your finger, you will bleed red.

Part of the beauty of this tree is that, in the fall, the leaves can turn crimson red, burgundy, orange or bright yellow. Fall is coming! If you're looking for a good place to see beautiful fall colors, you might try Tandy Hills or Marion Samsom Park.



Photo by Wesley Gentle at Snsome Park

Continued Education



Water Sources and Usage

by MaryBeth Lampe

Water usage by data centers and residential irrigation are concerning when faced with increasing population and development in Parker and Tarrant Counties. Understanding the water supply for our area brings insight to the scale of water usage.

The City of Fort Worth **2025** Water Utility Annual Report states an average use of **79 gallons per person per day** compared to **177 gallons in 2000**. Fewer lawns, more apartment dwellers, more efficient appliances and toilets, and conservation efforts most likely caused this decrease in water usage.

Data centers (Computer Servers)

Existing data centers in Texas consume an estimated 25 billion gallons of water annually (combining direct on-site cooling and indirect power generation). Individual facility usage varies widely by size and cooling design: **midsize data centers** use about 300,000 gallons daily, equal to roughly 1,000 typical households. **Large-scale operations** consume up to 4.5 - 5 million gallons daily, comparable to the water use of a small town, and initial facility fill-ups can require 8 million gallons of municipal water.

Where does Parker County's water come from?

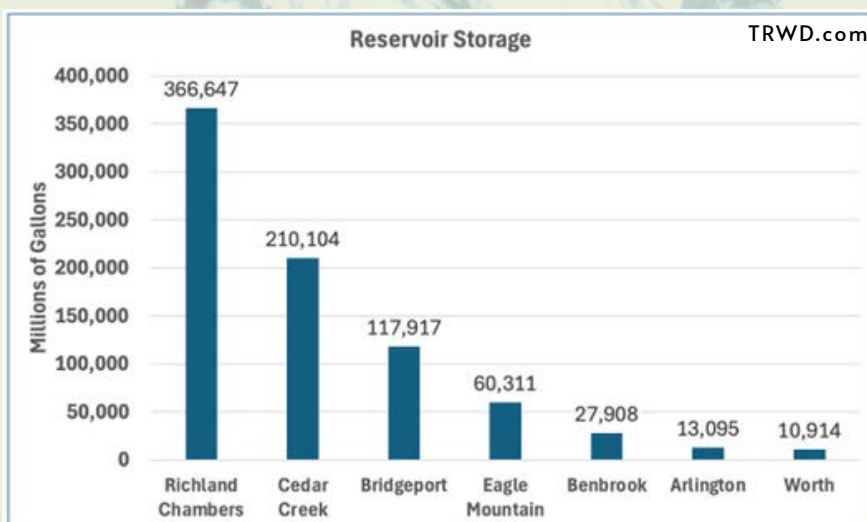
Parker County, Texas has an estimated population of 189,860 people and is **growing** by about **5,000 people per year**.

Parker County sits over the Trinity Aquifer, which is the backbone groundwater source for the smaller/rural systems, while the larger cities and growing suburbs (Weatherford, Azle, Walnut Creek SUD) lean heavily on imported surface water via TRWD, plus Palo Pinto Lake/Reservoir for the western part of the county.

Where does Tarrant County's water come from

Tarrant County has an estimated population of 2,248,466 people and is **increasing** by about **18,000 people per year**.

Tarrant Regional Water District supplies raw water to 2.4 million people in 11 counties. Raw water is sourced from a reservoir or river and is delivered to cities or utility districts. Cities or utility districts treat the raw water and deliver it to homes and businesses. TRWD customers receive water from a TRWD pipeline or pump it from a reservoir.



During a typical year, 80 to 85 percent of the water TRWD provides to its primary wholesale customers comes from Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers lakes. Cedar Creek and Richland Chambers are about 100 miles southeast of Tarrant County and about 300 feet below in elevation. Electricity costs to pump water 100 miles and up 300 feet in elevation to Tarrant County are significant. Water pumped from CC and RC ranges from a low of about 100 MGD (million gallons per day) to over 400 MGD. The other 15 to 20 percent comes from Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake and Benbrook Lake. (Benbrook Lake is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). The storage sizes in MG of each reservoir are shown to the left.

Continued Education



Wetlands Water Reuse Projects

TRWD operates the **George W. Shannon Wetlands Water Reuse Project** which is a source of water primarily during high water usage in the summer. It is a 2,200-acre man-made natural filtration system located adjacent to the Richland-Chambers Reservoir near Streetman, Texas. Effluent, treated wastewater, is discharged into the Trinity River at the City of Fort Worth Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility. At the RC Wetlands, water is diverted from the nearby Trinity River and channeled through the wetlands. The wetlands use sedimentation ponds and 20 vegetated wetland cells to filter nutrients and sediments before pumping the polished water into the Richland Chambers Reservoir.

The **Cedar Creek Wetlands project (officially named the Marty Leonard Wetlands)** is a massive 3,000-acre water reuse initiative by the Tarrant Regional Water District located near the Cedar Creek Reservoir southeast of Dallas, aiming to expand North Texas's drinking water supply. It is projected for completion by 2032 with a budget upwards of \$846 million.

Planned Water Reuse at Mary's Creek Water Reclamation Facility to meet the needs of the growing western part of the city, Fort Worth is constructing a **new water reclamation project on Mary's Creek**, north of I-30 and west of Loop 820.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved \$55 million in financial assistance on July 23, 2026, for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) to design and construct an indirect potable water reclamation project on Mary's Creek. The joint project between the City of Fort Worth and TRWD is projected to be completed in 2028. The Indirect Water Reclamation Project will divert treated wastewater return flows into Eagle Mountain Lake, creating a new water supply source for the lake.

Conservation – What can we do?

- Smart water usage involves using water saving household appliances such as toilets and plumbing fixtures, replacing lawns and flower beds with native plants, limiting outdoor watering, and installing and using a rain barrel. TRWD, Tarrant County Master Gardeners and the Native Plant Society sponsor various classes about conservation. View and enroll in upcoming classes at savetarrantwater.com.
- A detailed list of ways to save water inside and outside is found at <https://savetarrantwater.com/how-to-conserve>.
- A free sprinkler/irrigation system check can be scheduled at savetarrantwater.com. The free evaluation program provides a comprehensive look at your sprinkler system including components, controller, and current watering schedule. This free residential program provides a valuable, detailed report with recommended changes to help increase efficiency and reduce water waste.
- Skip the sprinkler run or watering after a recent rain.
- Native plants develop deep root systems that reach moisture far below the surface, surviving dry periods with little supplemental irrigation.
- Feed the compost pile, not the garbage disposal. Plant waste can be composted in a container or outdoor bin.
- Only run washing machine and dishwasher with a full load.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.

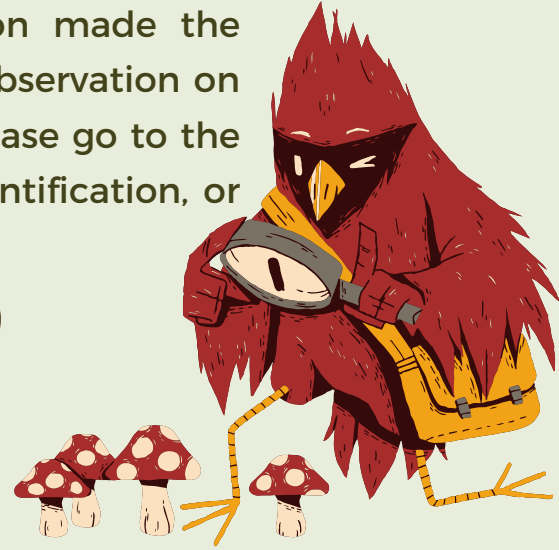
Francis Bacon wrote "knowledge itself is power". Ruth Bader Ginsburg is famous for saying, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." By being informed and aware of water supply and water usage, we can impact water conservation.

iNaturalist Observation of the Month

Each month we will choose an iNaturalist observation made the previous month in Tarrant or Parker 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.

Halloween Pennant (*Celithemis eponina*)

LynnWChen



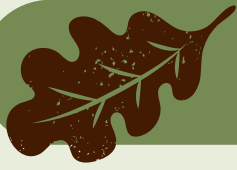
Time: 8:52 pm

Date: July 28, 2026

Location: Tarrant County



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



Current Events



To find more details on these events, you can visit the [CTMN website](#)

White Settlement Monarch Waystation Volunteer Day
Wednesdays

Molly Hollar Wildscape Volunteer Day
Wednesdays and 1st Saturdays

Community Day at O.S. Gray
August 8

Sheri Capehart Volunteer Days
August 15

Bob Jones Nature Center Workdays
August 19

Chandor Gardens Nature Trail
Spruce Up
August 22 & 23

Randol Mill Park Volunteer Day
August 27



Monarch Blitz began July 31

The 10th annual International Monarch from Friday, July 31, to Sunday, Aug. 9, help search for monarchs and milkweed plants in your area and report your observations to Journey North. At the end of the Blitz, all sightings will be shared with our Blitz partners to provide a snapshot of monarch and milkweed distribution across North America.

Learn more about the Blitz [here](#) and submit your sightings to help us make this the best Blitz yet. Whether you submit one sighting or search for monarchs each day of the Blitz, we appreciate your participation!





Current Events



Fall Vegetable Gardening Seminar 8-8-2026 9-12:30pm @ NRH Event Center,...

Outreach at NRH Fall Garden Seminar handing out material and talking about soils...

 signupgenius.com

[Click](#) to sign up!



VOLUNTEER IN THE VISITOR CENTER



 **SHARE**
 **INSPIRE**
 **EXPLORE**

 **Contact Addy France**
AFrance@cityoflewisville.com

 **Learn More**
llefia.org/about/volunteering



Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area



Birding with Texas A&M Agri-Life EXTENSION FLYCATCHER WEEK

A virtual seminar series
August 10-14

 Starting at 12 pm CST daily. Bonus session on August 10th at 1:00pm

 All live sessions will be recorded and registered participants will be able to view the seminars at a later date if they are unable to attend any live sessions.

100% ONLINE Zoom links will be sent out to participants in advance with instructions to access. Automated captions will be optional during live sessions.

Register & learn more now at:
wildlife.tamu.edu/birding/virtual

 **All-access pass: \$45 for the week**
More details about each seminar can also be found at this site!

THE SEMINAR LINEUP

Monday, August 10
Intro to Flycatchers: A Continental Perspective
Presented by Gautam Apte
Bonus Session
Introduction to the Art of Flycatcher Identification
Presented by Cin-Ty Lee

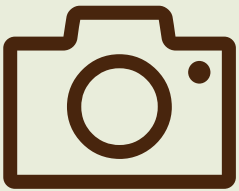
Tuesday, August 11
Vocalization of Flycatchers
Presented by Nathan Pieplow

Wednesday, August 12
The Secret Lives of Tyrant Flycatchers
Presented by Dr. Mike Husak

Thursday, August 13
How You Can Become a Better Flycatcher Photographer in the Field
Presented by Mitch Barry

Friday, August 14
Eastern Phoebe Found at Nest Sites Previously Used by Say's Phoebe
Presented by John Schukman

Link to register should be coming soon.
Website has not updated it yet.



Art & Photography Gallery



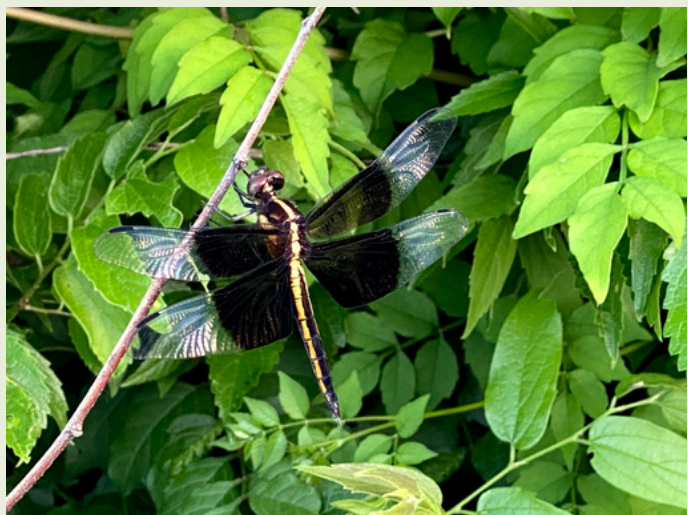
Road Runner - Cap Rock Canyon



Cope's Gray Tree Frog



Mosquito caught in a spider web



Widow Skimmer



Racer FWNC



Board Members

CTMN Board Members

- Chelsea Self - **President**
- Ruth Mauppin - **Vice President**
 - Bill Collins - **Secretary**
- Sarah Caldwell - **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 Directors

- Annamarie Fresta - **Membership**
- Mary Beth Lampe - **Past President**
 - Erika Swyryn - **Training**
- Theresa Thomas, Hester Schwarzer, Sandy Milfeld - **VMS Approvals**
- Roseann Giambro and Eli Turner - **Hospitality**
- Madison Gover (Kim Lufkin stepping in for June - August) - **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**

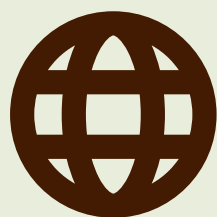


Inclusivity:

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