

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Cross TimbersJuly Mothing
Issue!

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In this Issue:



Month Speaker

Kyle Saner, MPA, an Urban Forester with the City of Lewisville Parks and Recreation Dept. He will be sharing conservation and community engagement efforts, including Lewisville's award-winning Roots for Wings initiative.

Current Events

National Moth week is July 18 - 26. Check out the Current Events page for a listing of come of the mothing events that you can participate in as a citizen scientist. Speaking of which, check out the leadership opportunities in our chapter. Now is your chance to get involved!



Short Stories

Do you like gardening and pollinators? Check out the Wild Ones on pages 10 - 11. You will find out how they got started and how they connect to Master Naturalists like you. Check out their AT and volunteer opportunities!

<https://wildones.org/>



CTMN Announcements



2026 Annual meeting - Waco Oct 22 - Oct 25

1. The scholarship application for the annual meeting in Waco is **now open**. The deadline to complete the form is **July 19th**.
2. The photo, art and media contest rules have been announced. The entry window is from **August 1st - September 1st**. Any current CTMN member can submit entries (you do not have to be in attendance to enter)
3. Early registration will open on Saturday, **August 1st**. All details about the 2026 Annual Meeting can be found at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2026-annual-meeting/>



CTMN Announcements



Are you looking to take a role in our chapter?

We are still looking for volunteers in the following area:

Citizen Science - we are getting numerous requests to hold Bioblitz's at different locations. We need volunteers to help set up the projects in iNaturalist, organize the details at the site, help the public (if a public event) and provide results once the event is over.

Communications - we need volunteers to assist with Constant Contact emails, gather all the volunteer opportunities (dates, times & locations), upload videos to the website and field inquiries.

Outreach - We need two or three more volunteers to look for events to attend, plan activities at the table, set up, break down and report on the event.

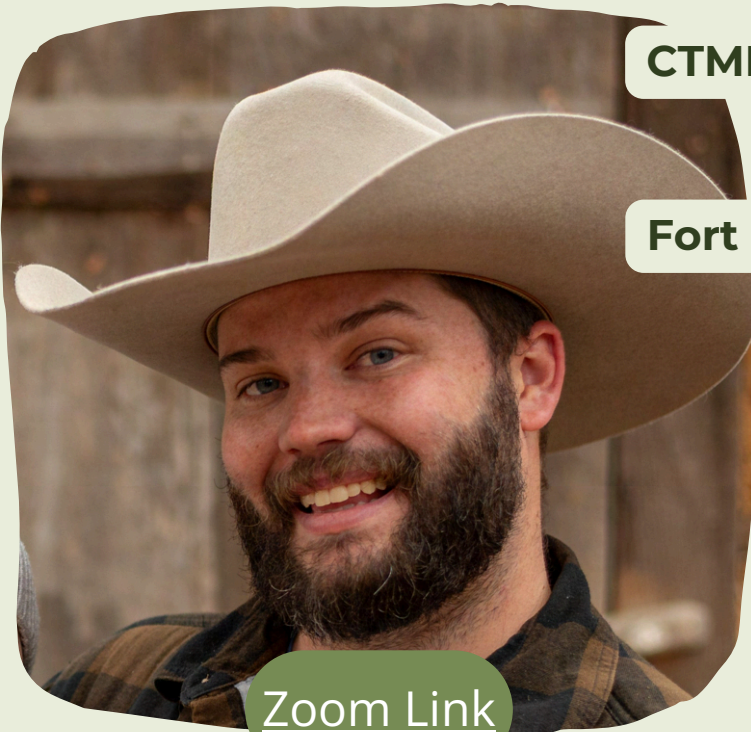
If you are interested please send an email to chelseeself13@gmail.com.





Speakers

Month Speaker



**CTMN Chapter Meeting/Presentation –
July 20th - 7:00 pm.**

**Fort Worth Botanic Garden Rose Room
Guests Welcome!**

**Kyle Saner - Urban Forester
Roots for Wings**

[Zoom Link](#)

Kyle Saner, MPA, has served with the City of Lewisville Parks and Recreation Department since 2020 and currently serves as Urban Forester. He leads urban forestry initiatives that strengthen the community's tree canopy and natural resources while supporting innovative conservation and community engagement efforts, including Lewisville's award-winning Roots for Wings initiative.



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



Title: True Bugs: A Look at the Order Hemiptera

Description: All bugs are insects, but not all insects are bugs! This webinar will discuss what makes a true bug and give tips on identification of common families.
Speaker - Wizzie Brown

TEXAS A&M
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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 2014

Donna Piercy

C/O 2017

Kate Morgan

C/O 2020

Denise Pederson

C/O 2021

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

C/O 2022

Annamarie Fresta

C/O 2023

Karen Harden
Tina Olivas

C/O 2024

David Haury
Vickie Nelms
Amanda Brinkley

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)

Wendy Elias

Megan McConnell

Jo Williams



2500 Hours (Polished Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Sandy Fountain



Member Highlight

Meet CTMN MaryBeth Lampe!

What year did you become a master naturalist?

I took the training class in 2016. I told a friend that I wanted to be a master gardener and she told me that I would learn so much more from the master naturalist program, which I had never heard of. The public is increasingly aware of what is required to conserve our environment and this has increased interest in joining CTMN.

What sparked your passion for nature and conservation?

I grew up outside since my mom told me to go outside and locked the door in the morning (not really). My parents grew up in the country and loved nature. My family lived both on the coast and in the hill country and I wandered those areas and our neighborhood constantly. Since childhood, I have loved all nature such as insects, bugs, reptiles, fish, crabs, mammals, birds, plants - you name it. I can call wild turkeys and gobble with them. I can swim in a creek with water moccasins or in salt water with Portuguese man o' war jellyfish. I've done both and was stung but not bitten.



"I am very encouraged by the broad interest in conservation and the increase in younger people that have that interest."

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

1. The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. As I drive into the property, I feel such a sense of peace and joy from the beauty of all the ecosystems. We are so fortunate to have this well maintained treasure in Fort Worth.
2. Airfield Falls on the Trinity River with the gorgeous trees, native flowering plants, and natural waterfall on the layered limestone outcropping.

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

My husband and I take care of our two granddaughters, 6 years and 2 years, three days a week while our daughter works as a nurse. The girls and I explore our backyard observing bugs, snails, worms, roly pollies, lizards, birds, and native plants. They know that I will hold any bug that they are leery of and I encourage them to do the same.

I am a Master Gardener, an Election Judge, and belong to the TCU senior education program called "Silver Frogs". I teach two classes for Silver Frogs.

I like to exercise. I ran my first marathon at age 60 and have run 7 marathons, walked 3 marathons, run numerous half marathons, 10ks, and 5ks.

I have completed almost 700 pilates classes in the past 5 years.

We have traveled and will continue to travel to the US, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Travel changes my life for the better.

What has being the President of CTMN taught you?

It was my honor to serve as president for the past two years. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the members of our chapter. We have the best group of nature loving people who volunteer in so many interesting and valuable opportunities. I learned about the state guidelines for master naturalists and how other chapters operate. It was a treat to get to know Rachel Richter, our TPWD sponsor, Jared Wood, FWNC director, and the Texas Master Naturalist leaders - Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth.

I have been on the board since 2019. I was vice president with Sharon Hamilton for 3 years, then president for 2 years. During that time we created or accomplished:

- Created a yearly budget
- Established annual meeting scholarships
- Established training class scholarships
- Moved the training classes from the FWNC to the Botanic Garden
- Established the mentor program for trainees
- Created CTMN Handbook
- Created new website hosted by Texas Agrilife
- Created Facebook group and Instagram group
- Established catered meal for holiday dinner
- Created several google forms for membership and scholarship applications, and RSVPs
- Reduced the hours required for training classes



Featured Project

National Moth Week



When: July 18 - 26

Where: Participate through iNaturalist

What: Mothing is the practice of attracting, observing, photographing, identifying, and documenting moths for enjoyment or scientific study.

Description: National Moth Week is an annual, global event that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the mothing hobby, by sharing photos of moths they find for citizen science. These contributions help researchers study moth diversity, distribution, and ecology worldwide!



Wild Ones DFW: Connecting People and Native Plants

Wild Ones is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting native landscapes through education, advocacy, and collaborative action. The organization traces its roots to 1979, when a small group of individuals in Wisconsin became inspired by the work of natural landscaping pioneer Lorrie Otto. What began as the "Wild Ones Garden Club" has grown into a nationwide network of chapters working to restore biodiversity and encourage the use of native plants in home landscapes, schools, parks, and communities. Today, Wild Ones supports more than 100 chapters across the United States and continues to advance the vision of native plants and natural landscapes thriving in every community.

The Dallas-Fort Worth chapter, Wild Ones DFW, was established as the first Wild Ones chapter in Texas. Serving Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Collin, Ellis, Johnson, and Kaufman counties, the chapter provides educational programs, field trips, native plant tours, volunteer opportunities, conservation projects, and community outreach focused on increasing the use and understanding of native plants. The chapter brings together gardeners, naturalists, conservationists, educators, and community members who share a passion for creating healthier habitats for wildlife and people.

For Texas Master Naturalists, Wild Ones DFW offers a natural extension of our mission to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers dedicated to the conservation of Texas' natural resources. Members have opportunities to deepen their knowledge of native plants, pollinators, habitat restoration, and ecological landscaping while connecting with others who are actively working to improve local ecosystems. Many Master Naturalists already participate in both organizations, creating valuable partnerships that strengthen conservation efforts throughout the region.



Wild Ones DFW: Connecting People and Native Plants Continued . . .

An additional benefit for Master Naturalists is that participation in Wild Ones DFW programs can often qualify for both Advanced Training (AT) and Volunteer Service hours when approved by your chapter.

Educational presentations, workshops, field trips, native plant installations, outreach events, and chapter leadership activities frequently provide opportunities to earn recertification hours while supporting the native plant movement.

Whether you are interested in learning more about native plants, volunteering in your community, or helping restore biodiversity one landscape at a time, Wild Ones DFW offers an excellent opportunity to make a meaningful impact. Together, Wild Ones and Texas Master Naturalists are helping create healthier habitats, stronger communities, and a more resilient future for Texas.

To learn more about Wild Ones DFW, visit <https://dfw.wildones.org/>.



Plant of the Month



American Beautiberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

by Jim and Lynn Weber

Book - Native Host Plants for Texas Moths

Even though this plant not native to this area, this also connects with mosquitos and it has American in its name so I wanted to feature it in this issue.

It is an understory shrub with large leaves and striking clusters of magenta berries in the fall.

Its leaves contain three different molecules with mosquito-repelling properties chemically similar to DEET.

It is a host plant to a large dark Sphinx moth, the Rustic occurs in central and east Texas, commonly from April to November.

Pustic Sphinx larva have an extrememly franulated posterior or caudal horm.

It is a low maintenance ornamental plant that's berries are edible and often cooked into jellies, jams and wines.



Continued Education



Mosquito Season!

by Kim Lufkin



Did you know that there are about 3500 species of mosquitoes? No wonder we encounter them so much! I have always heard that they like type O blood the best. This is even highlighted in the movie, “A Bug’s Life”, when the mosquito comes into the bar and orders a Bloody Mary, O+. According to a study published in the American Journal of Entomology, 2019 mosquitoes do prefer Type O Blood far more than any other blood type! They also found that the blood type they seem to least like is Type A. While this is true, there are also many other factors involved as well such as body odor/sweat, breath, body heat, and clothing color.

It is only the females that bite you to feed their larvae. Males don’t bite but they do act as pollinators like butterflies and bees. The pollinium sticks to the mosquito’s eye even when it flies away. Thus, when it eats from another flower, the pollinium touches the stigma of that flower, and the flower is pollinated! So many of my students ask me what is the point of mosquitoes? I had to find an answer that was more specific than they are part of the food chain. I found out a couple of things that they can connect to.

Do you like chocolate? Well then you don’t want to eradicate the mosquito. Cacao flowers are so tiny that only tiny insects can pollinate them. In fact, only 10-20% of the blossoms are pollinated. That makes the mosquitoes a critical part of the cacao bean harvest.

Do you like Orchids? You guessed it! Mosquitoes are also pollinators of many tiny flowers in wet environments like the orchids. So, before you try to kill them all with pesticides, consider some of these options to keep from being bitten.

Methods to reduce the mosquito bites:

1. Eliminate breeding spots of still water ([Check out Homegrown National Park](#))
2. Create Gardens that support wildlife, including some species of birds, dragonflies, bats, salamanders, lizards, frogs and spiders.
3. Try using a fan. Mosquitoes are not strong flyers
4. Repellents applied to the skin or clothing that use Picaridin and DEET are most effective, as are those with the oil of lemon eucalyptus if you’re looking for a more natural option.
5. Mosquito repellent stickers are great for kids as well as adults. You just might need more than one sticker if you are an adult. Patch Please No Bite Please or Squito by BugMD.

Peak activity is dawn or dusk. Although it depends on the mosquito species. Some are active during the day and some are active at night.

Continued Education



Happy 250th Birthday America the Beautiful!

by Kim Lufkin



America celebrates 250 years of freedom this year! I can't help but think of the song America the Beautiful and the phrase "amber waves of grain". I have seen the beauty of the waves of wind blowing across the amber colored wheat. It is quite beautiful! This was what Kathryn Lee Bates saw as she was at the top of Pike's Peak in Colorado. In fact, July 4, 1895, when the poem was first published it was titled "Pike's Peak". It wasn't until Samuel A. Ward put a melody to the lyrics that it was published as "America the Beautiful" in 1910.

There is a history professor at TCU that did some research on Texas and her surprising find was that Anglo settlers introduced wheat to the Blackland Prairie in the 1840s, and it quickly became a primary cash crop. The booming milling industry in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Sherman corridor laid the groundwork for the area's early economic development. Not cotton. Not oil and gas.

Wheat was originally a native grass that has been cultivated to have larger kernels and hold on longer. There have been other changes to the wheat over the years. The original Einkorn looks nothing like the wheat we see today. Below is a table showing the history of these changes.

Wheat Evolution Through Human History

Date Time	Wheat Type(s) Dominant	Region / Culture	Historical Significance
9,000 BCE	Wild einkorn, wild emmer	Fertile Crescent (modern Turkey, Syria, Iraq)	Earliest domestication of wheat during the Neolithic Agricultural Revolution
7,000 BCE	Einkorn	Early Anatolian farming cultures	One of the first cultivated grains; simple diploid wheat
6,000 BCE	Emmer wheat	Ancient Mesopotamia and Levant	Major bread and porridge grain of early civilization
5,000 BCE	Emmer and early durum ancestors	Ancient Egypt	Supported Nile agricultural economy; used for bread and beer
4,000 BCE	Emmer, spelt	Europe (Neolithic farmers)	Spread across Europe with migrating agricultural societies
3,000 BCE	Durum wheat	Mediterranean civilizations	Became important in Greek and Roman agriculture
2,000 BCE	Spelt	Central Europe, Celtic and Germanic cultures	Hardy wheat adapted to colder, wetter climates
CE-500 CE	Bread wheat (hexaploid) expands	Roman Empire	Higher gluten content improved leavened bread production
500 CE-1000 CE	Rye, spelt, bread wheat	Medieval Europe	Wheat associated with wealth; peasants often relied on rye/barley
1000 CE-1500 CE	Bread wheat and durum	Europe and Middle East	Expansion through trade and colonial agriculture
1500 CE-1800 CE	Hard red wheats	North American Great Plains	Mechanized farming and prairie agriculture transformed wheat production
1800s-1900s	Hard red spring/winter wheats	United States and Canada	Became major industrial bread wheats due to protein strength
1900s-Present	Modern dwarf bread wheats	Global Green Revolution	Norman Borlaug's high-yield hybrids dramatically increased food production
2000s-Present	Specialized wheat classes	Worldwide	Breeding optimized for bread, pasta, pastries, disease resistance, and yield
Health-food movement	Einkorn, emmer, spelt revival	Europe and North America	Renewed interest in ancient grains for flavor, nutrition, and digestibility

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.

Superb Dog-day Cicada (*Neotibicen superbus*)

Themoth



Time: 9:33 pm

Date: June 27, 2026

Location: Colleyville
Nature Center



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



Current Events

iNaturlaist Mothing Events for National Moth Week

July 19 - 27: Moth week! Events listed here:

July 19, Saturday: blacklighting at **Spring Creek Forest, Garland***

July 20, Sunday: blacklighting at **Twelve Hills Nature Center, Dallas***

July 23, Wednesday: blacklighting in **Webb Community Park, Arlington***

July 24, Thursday: blacklighting at **Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, Cedar Hill**

July 25, Friday: blacklighting at **John Bunker Sands, Seagoville***

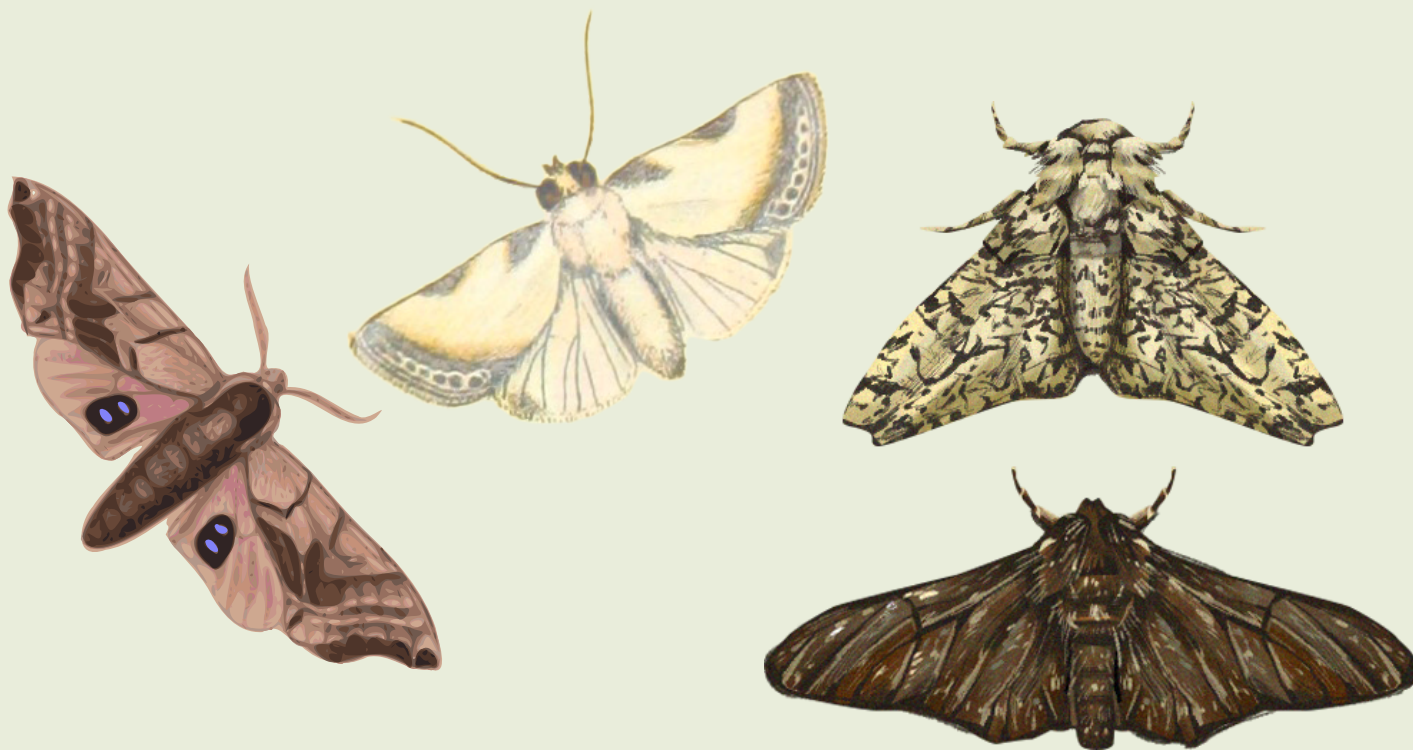
July 25, Friday: blacklighting at **Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, Denton**

July 26, Saturday: blacklighting at **Acton Nature Center***

July 26, Saturday: blacklighting at **Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, McKinney**

July 26, Saturday: blacklighting at **Tandy Hills, Fort Worth**

July 26, Saturday: blacklighting at **City Park, Dallas (1515 South Harwood Street)** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moth-night-at-city-park-tickets-1455027188489>





Current Events

[Click here to sign up
to work our booth](#)

THE LINK
EVENT + RECREATION CENTER

**CREEK TRAIL PARK
BIOBLITZ AND
STARGAZING PARTY**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF NOTHING, PLANT
IDENTIFICATION, STARGAZING,
CONSTELLATIONS AND COSMIC WONDERS.

JULY 17TH 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Creek Trail Park, 3925 Airline Drive
Richland Hills, TX 76118
Phone: 817-616-3743
www.thelinkrec.com

RH
Richland
Hills

**THE
POWER
OF NATURE**

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

YOU'RE INVITED TO

**WATER
WEDNESDAYS**

The Human Water Cycle- The
Biology of Wastewater

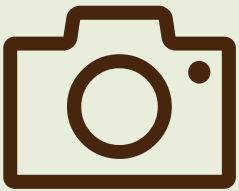
Presented by:
Caitlin Pienaar, Water & Waste Water
Professional

**Wednesday, July 15, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Educational Series via Teams

Free to attend
Pre-registration required
through TEAMS. Scan the
QR Code to register.

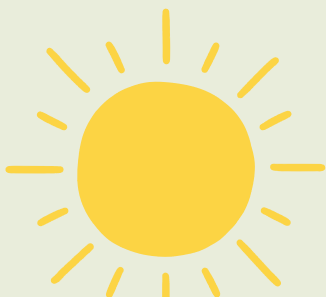




Art & Photography Gallery



Summer Has Arrived!



Cottonwood Borer

Nutmeg Underwing



Caterpillar

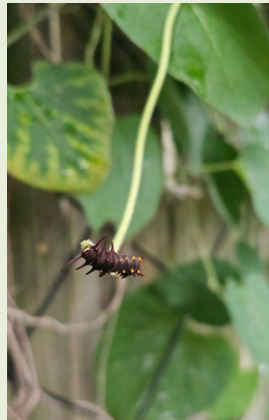


Racerunner FWNC

Bird Collision Rescue Titmouse



Asp



Pipevine Swallowtail Caterpillar



Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly



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 Swartzner, 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**

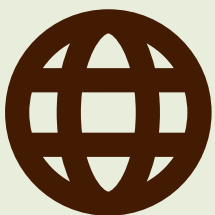


Inclusivity:

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