

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Cross Timbers



In Love
With Nature

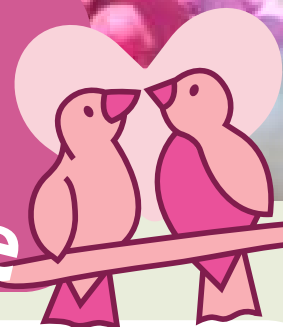


Table of Contents

CTMN Announcements....1

Speakers.....4

TMN Tuesdays.....5

Member Milestones.....6

Member Highlight.....8

Featured Project.....9

Plant-otM.....12

iNaturalist Obs.-otM.....13

Current Events.....14

Art&Photo Gallery.....18

Board Members.....19



In this Issue:



April Speaker

Rodenticides don't just kill rodents. Speaker Tracy Cassidy reveals how common poisons harm pets and wildlife, how to recognize exposure, and safer alternatives that protect ecosystems without picking poison.

Current Events

We're going big this spring! Follow our new Instagram page for chapter updates and member highlights, then jump into the City Nature Challenge April 24–27 to help DFW and CTMN lead the way in documenting biodiversity.



Featured Project

Time to Restore is a Texas Master Naturalist project that uses simple weekly plant observations to help researchers understand climate-driven changes in pollinator timing while earning AT Time to Restore volunteer hours.



CTMN Annual Awards Ceremony

March 16, 2026 at 7 pm

Rose Room at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Celebrating and Recognizing the 2025
Achievements of Members who

- Certified
- Reached a Volunteer Hour Milestone
- Completed Training in 2025

In-person attendance only, no Zoom attendance.

Contact Annamarie Fresta, Membership Director,
at membership@ctmn.org if you have any
questions about your achievements.

CTMN Announcements



Our Cross Timbers Chapter now has an Instagram page, and we'd love your help making it a success. Members are welcome to assist by proofreading posts, taking turns posting, or contributing photos and content. The goal is to use newsletter content as a guide for Instagram posts. If you're interested in helping or have ideas for what you'd like to see featured, please reach out with content to both newsletter@ctmn.org and amsalazar.mph@gmail.com

We're also launching a CTMN Member Spotlight series and would love to feature you. Share your story, favorite projects, and a few fun facts by filling out the short form below. It only takes a few minutes and is open to CTMN members only.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/crosstimbers_txmn

Member Spotlight Form: <https://forms.gle/V42EVnqLeK1gGAJPA>

Go follow, get involved, and help us showcase the amazing people who make CTMN special!

CTMN City Nature Challenge 2026 iNat Competition

When: April 24–27, 2026

(Observations and ID submissions accepted through May 10)

Where: Dallas–Fort Worth Metropolitan Area

What: Document as many species as possible to help DFW win the City Nature Challenge and lead Texas.

Description:

Join the iNat City Nature Challenge and help put DFW back on top. Use the iNaturalist app to photograph plants, animals, and fungi anywhere in the metro area, from your backyard to local parks. This year includes friendly rivalry between DFW TXMN chapters, with chapter-specific projects you can join manually, plus upcoming opportunities to compete in small teams. You can contribute by making observations, identifying others' finds, joining a bioblitz, or exploring on your own. Let's show what DFW and CTMN can do!

Project Link: [CTMN CNC LINK](#)

[Some Activities Listed Here](#)

WE NEED YOU!!

The Original YWLA 10th Annual Savage Cabbage Bash

9a-12p, Saturday, March 7, 2026

Different Location: Fort Worth Rowing Club at 775 Beach
Street Walk to the river turn right and look for us!

Sponsored by:

Native Prairies Association of Texas

Tarrant Regional Water District

Collins' Environmental Community Service

Young Women's Leadership Academy

Join us as we rid the river of an invasive species!

Sign up for Remind: Text @npat22 to 81010



FAMILIES INVITED!

Middle school
students need
a parent there.
Bring water
Closed toed
shoes, small
weeder or shovel
for digging, dress
for weather.
Bring a case of
water for extra
hour.
?'s- JoAnn Collins
817.689.0098
Or message on
Remind



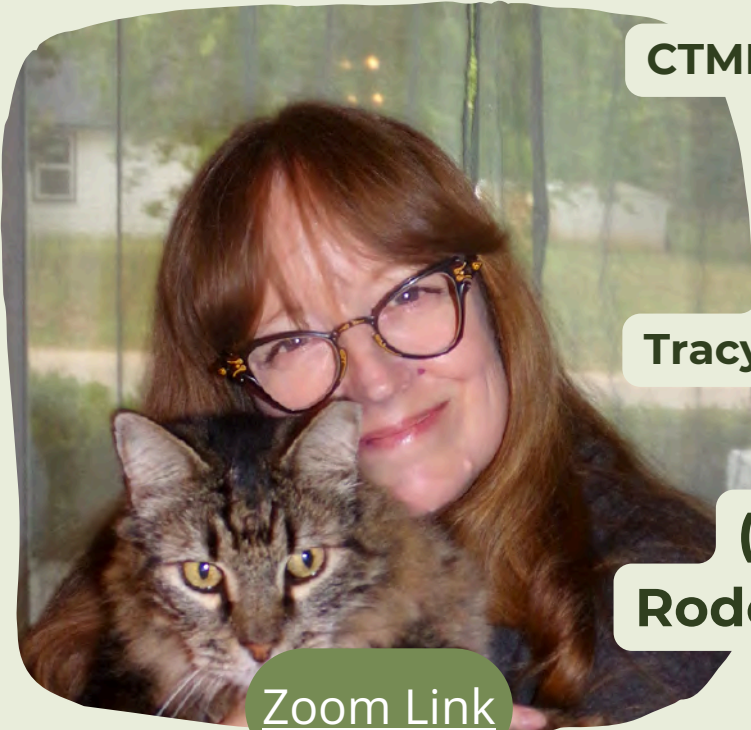
Chandor Gardens
NATURE TRAIL SPRUCE UP

EVERY 4th SATURDAY AT CHANDOR GARDENS - WEATHERFORD, TX



Speakers

April Speaker



**CTMN Chapter Meeting/Presentation –
April 20, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

**Tracy Cassidy - Veterinary Technician &
Wildlife Rehab**

**(Don't) Pick Your Poison:
Rodenticides and the Impact on
Wildlife**

[Zoom Link](#)

Rodenticides may seem like a quick fix for pest problems, but their hidden consequences ripple through ecosystems, harming not just rodents but the predators and scavengers that rely on them. In this eye-opening presentation, Veterinary Technician and educator Tracy Cassidy draws on her 18 years of experience in emergency and wildlife care to explore how common poisons affect pets and native wildlife. Attendees will learn how rodenticides work, the signs of exposure, and safer, more sustainable alternatives. This session empowers individuals and communities to protect wildlife while effectively managing pests, without picking poison.

Tracy has been a Veterinary Technician for 18 years, specializing in Emergency Medicine and critical care. Certified in Small Animal Nursing, she has cared for a wide range of companion animals, including cats, pocket pets, exotics, and some wildlife. She volunteered as a wildlife caretaker at River Legacy Science Center and has assisted with rehabilitation efforts. Tracy currently teaches Veterinary Assisting at Northeast Texas Community College. Passionate about animal welfare, she served on the board and education committee of the Texas Lobo Coalition. After witnessing the impact of rodenticide poisoning on both pets and wildlife, she now focuses on raising public awareness about its harmful effects.

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.

March Speaker

Amy Hays, For Science Sake Founder and Principal Consultant



Title: Generations in the Wild: Understanding What Drives Environmental Values Across Age Groups

Description: This session explores how generational intelligence can help Master Naturalists better understand values, motivations, and communication styles across age groups. From Boomers to Gen Z, participants will learn what drives environmental action and how to tailor messages to build trust and meaningful engagement.

Amy Hays has over 25 years of experience in agriculture and natural resource management, focusing on clear science communication, practical learning, and connecting research to real-world conservation.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

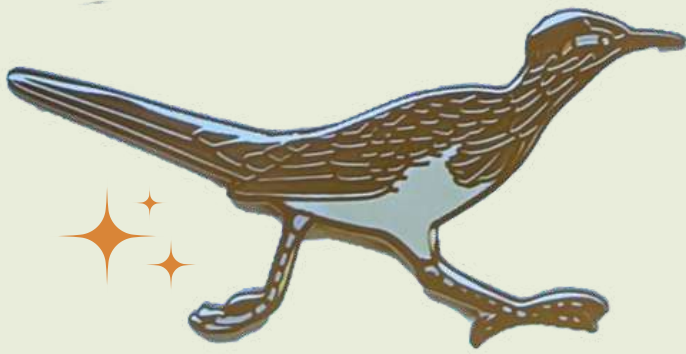
[View Past #TMNTuesday
Presentations Here for
Advanced Training Hrs.](#)

[Register Here](#)

[Webex Guide](#)

[FAQ](#)

Member Milestones



**Let's take a moment to help us
congratulate members that recertified at
the end of last year!**

They have completed, logged, and had approved 40 volunteer hours and 8 advanced training hours. They will all receive the Greater Roadrunner pin for 2025.

C/O 2010

Cynthia Crump

C/O 2014

Fonda Fox
Debbie Stilson

C/O 2016

Roberto Ramos

C/O 2021

Morgan Chivers
Carmen Fahy
Nicole Slobodin

C/O 2022

Karen Knight
Sarah Caldwell

C/O 2023

Sara Barnes
Christine Brinson
David Byczek
Shayin Daji
Sanya Lindsey
Nicole Nicole-
Fylling
Meredith O'Shea



YOU'RE THE ONLY REASON I HAVEN'T
CRAWLED INTO A STORM DRAIN
AND STARTED A NEW LIFE

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY



TO:
FROM:



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

250 Hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)



Madison Gover

500 Hours (Silver Dragonfly Pin)

Morgan Chivers



It's im-possum-ble
not to love you.



FORT WORTH®


Park &
Recreation

Member Highlight



Photos by Kelvin Deupree



Great to see the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists volunteers out in North Richland Hills this morning at the Common Ground NRH Community Garden Spring Garden Seminar. They were sharing information about the Texas Master Naturalist Program and visiting with folks.



Featured Project

Time to Restore Project



by Tina Olivas

Project Goal: To support individuals involved in habitat restoration for pollinators by providing guidance on optimal planting choices and timing, addressing potential mismatches caused by climate change. Project scope includes Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Here are a few of the many things the researchers at the National Phenology Network are learning:

- Plants and animals may be responding differently to climate change, with animals lagging behind plants in their response to shifting temperatures.
- The timing of plant flowering and insect flight is not only sensitive to temperature but also to extreme weather events such as heat waves, extreme cold periods, and extreme wet and dry conditions. Some trees may be affected for years from one extreme weather event.

What is Phenology? It's nature's calendar – when Redbuds bloom, milkweeds spread their ripe fruit, or Monarch butterflies pass through. Phenology is the study of the timing of life cycle events in plants and animals, their recurrence, and their relationship to the environment. The word comes from the Greek root word “phaino” which means to show or appear. **Phenology is one of the oldest branches of environmental science.**



Texas Master Naturalists are helping by providing research data on the phenology of **29 native plants** you can choose from. It takes minutes once a week in your own yard or where you volunteer regularly. You are not asked to travel to participate, nor to do more

than a few plants or patches of plants. You can record your volunteer time under “Time to Restore”

We use an app called Nature’s Notebook, but iNaturalist is also an option, as long as you enter phenology data, not just a photo. Note: An upgraded/easier version of Nature’s Notebook will available in March 2026.



Antelopehorns milkweed

06/28/2025 [Circle all no](#)
[Delete](#)

Do you see initial growth?	Y	☒ N	?
Do you see leaves?	☒ Y	N	?
Do you see flowers or flower buds?	☒ Y	N	?
Do you see open flowers?	☒ Y	N	?
Do you see fruits?	☒ Y	N	?
Do you see ripe fruits?	☒ Y	N	?
Do you see recent fruit or seed drop?	☒ Y	N	?

Last year, in 2025

- 19 individuals in Tarrant and Parker Counties participated. We had 2 program sites and approximately 1430 entries that were recorded in personal yards and gardens.

Phenology records, CTMN Time to Restore, 2025

Site Name	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Total
FWNCR	84	168	126	104	63	105	84	105	84	63	986
WS Monarch Waystati..	10	40	93	67	63	44	83	104	41	64	609
Grand Total	94	208	219	171	126	149	167	209	125	127	1,595

- 91 individuals across Texas observed and documented on native plants that are critical for pollinators, especially native bees.
- Top entries were American beautyberry, wax mallow (aka Turk's cap), eastern purple coneflower, green antelopehorn (aka green milkweed), common buttonbush, mealecup sage (aka mealy blue sage), palmleaf thoroughwort (aka Gregg's mistflower), and West Indian shrubverbena (aka Texas lantana)
- 9 certified Local Phenology leaders began projects in Texas (1 in FW and 1 in Dallas)
- 3,536 *Nature's Notebook* observers submitted 3,750,954 records

We are in our 2nd year here in TX, and would love to have more people join us: If interested, please reach out to Tina or David or attend any of the upcoming training opportunities:

Virtual training

Training recordings previously held are on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkjhuRtqWxs>

Upcoming Training February through April:

The training calls on **February 4th** or **April 1st** will provide a **full 1.5 hour training** on how to participate in the project. (Just choose 1). **On March 4th or May 6th** calls will be one hour and will include a brief overview on how to participate in Time to Restore, an update on the data collected so far, and tips on how to improve the hours for Time to Restore. **Log AT Volunteer hours as “AT Time to Restore”**

Register HERE for upcoming Zoom training:

<https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/Fca4vzmFRsCyC6gMhXmRUA#/registration>

Local Phenology Leader for Cross Timbers: **Tina Olivas** tinaolivas4@gmail.com
469.222.1038. I'm available to answer questions and help you get started. I'd be happy to set up additional zoom calls. Just reach out!

Texas Coordinator: **David Gwin** - dgwin@ymail.com

Here are some useful links:

- [Time to Restore webpage](#)
- [Time to Restore list of Texas Priority Species](#)
- Explore the [full list of Nature's Notebook species](#) available for observations
- [Sign up for the Monthly Time to Restore Newsletter](#)
- [Time to Restore Project in iNaturalist](#)
- [New Nature's Notebook app timeline and FAQ page](#)
- [Nature's Notebook demo app for testing](#)

Plant of the Month



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)*

by Madison Gover



The Eastern Redbud is native of the month this month because it always reminds me of Valentine's Day. It has heart-shaped leaves and varying shades of beautiful purple or pink blooms. This is around the time of year the first bloomers of Spring begin to appear, and this includes the Eastern Redbud.

The Eastern Redbud is a great native alternative to other ornamental trees such as crepe myrtle. The redbuds don't get too terribly tall and are a great spectacle for your front yard. It provides woody cover for wildlife and can be made into a shrub or small tree. If you live in a neighborhood that has lost a few oak trees here and there, the eastern redbud does wonderful in the understory of much larger trees. Be aware that this tree's vibrant blooms have inspired different cultivars. Make sure you buy from a reputable nursery!

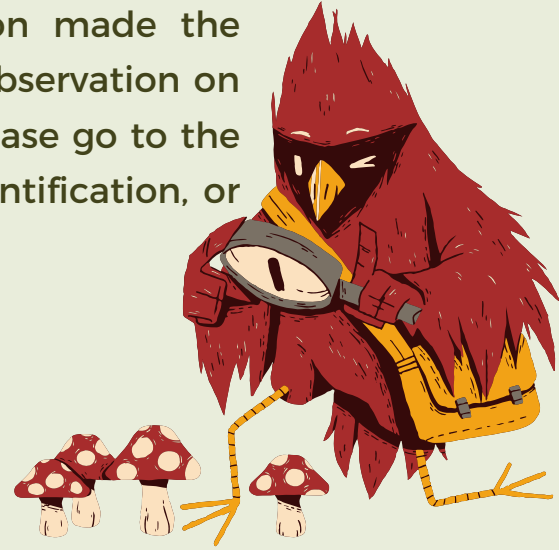
*Re-published from February 2024 Newsletter

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.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

cnacree



Time: 12:50PM

Date: February 15, 2026

Location: Fort Worth, TX



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



Current Events

March 6 | 8:30 – 11:00 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: First Friday Feathers Bird Walk at Kelly Park

Address: Kelley Park, 4195 W. Arkansas Lane, Arlington, TX

Leader: Chuck Baskin

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 7 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Organization: Native Prairies Association of Texas – Fort Worth Chapter

Title: Marion Sansom Park BioBlitz

Address: 2501 Roberts Cut Off Road, Fort Worth, TX 76114

Leader: Jeff Quayle & Suzanne Tuttle

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 7 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Organization: Native Prairies Association of Texas – Fort Worth Chapter

Title: Savage Cabbage Bash

Address: 775 Beach St, Fort Worth, TX (Trinity River Access at Fort Worth Rowing Club)

Leader: Not listed

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 11 | 7:00 – 9:30 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: Settlers Park Bird Walk (Grapevine)

Address: 2235 Bass Pro Court, Grapevine, TX

Leader: Jim Sipiora

Event Link: [Here](#)



March 12 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: March General Meeting – Secret Life of Whimbrels

Address: UNTHSC Research and Education Building, Room 100, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, TX

Leader: Sam Wolfe

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 14 | 8:30 – 11:00 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: Foster Park Bird Walk

Address: Foster Park, Trail Lake Dr. at South Dr., Fort Worth, TX

Leader: Jean Ferguson

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 17 | 8:30 – 11:00 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: Observations at Oliver Nature Park (Mansfield)

Address: 1650 Matlock Rd., Mansfield, TX

Leader: Jennifer Cross

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 20 | 9:00 – 10:30 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: Prairie Walk at Sid Richardson Tract / Benbrook Lake

Address: Old Granbury Rd., Crowley, TX

Leader: Suzanne Tuttle

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 21 | 7:00 – 9:30 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: Local Bird Walk – Cement Creek Lake

Address: Hwy 820 & Business 287, North Fort Worth, TX

Leader: Jim Sipiora

Event Link: [Here](#)



March 22 | 8:30 – 10:00 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: Trinity Trails Bird Walk

Address: Trinity Trails / Clearfork, 3000 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth, TX

Leader: Tom Haase & Jean Ferguson

Event Link: [Here](#)

March 28 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Organization: Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Title: NatureCon

Address: Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Fort Worth, TX

Leader: Lisa Gibson

Contact: Email lwoods4062@gmail.com & 409-782-3978

April 3 | 8:30 – 11:00 am

Organization: Fort Worth Audubon Society

Title: First Friday Feathers Bird Walk at Kelly Park

Address: Kelley Park, 4195 W. Arkansas Lane, Arlington, TX

Leader: Not listed

Event Link: [Here](#)

April 11–12 | 4:00 pm – 12:00 am

Organization: Native Prairies Association of Texas – Fort Worth Chapter

Title: Snakard Ranch at Chalk Mountain – Prairie Tour & Mothing

Address: Glen Rose, TX

Leader: Jeff Quayle

Event Link: [Here](#)

April 11 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

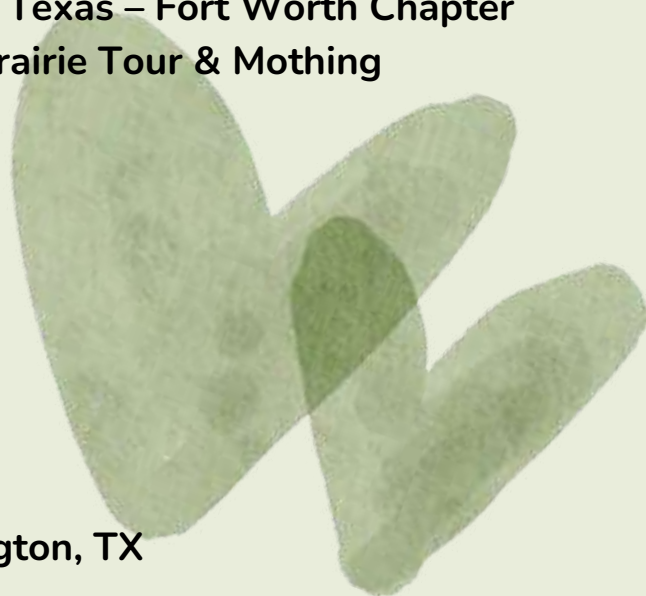
Organization: River Legacy Nature Center

Title: Earth Day Event

Address: River Legacy Nature Center, Arlington, TX

Leader: Lisa Gibson

Contact: Email lwoods4062@gmail.com & 409-782-3978



April 14 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Organization: Native Prairies Association of Texas – Fort Worth Chapter

Title: Palo Pinto Mountains State Park Spring Hike

Address: 100 Park Road 77, Strawn, TX 76475

Leader: Jeff Quayle

Event Link: [Here](#)

April 25 | Time TBD

Organization: Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Title: BioBlitz

Address: Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Fort Worth, TX

Leader: Lisa Gibson

Contact: Email lwoods4062@gmail.com & 409-782-3978

May 9 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Organization: Oliver Nature Park

Title: Monarch Festival

Address: Oliver Nature Park, Mansfield, TX

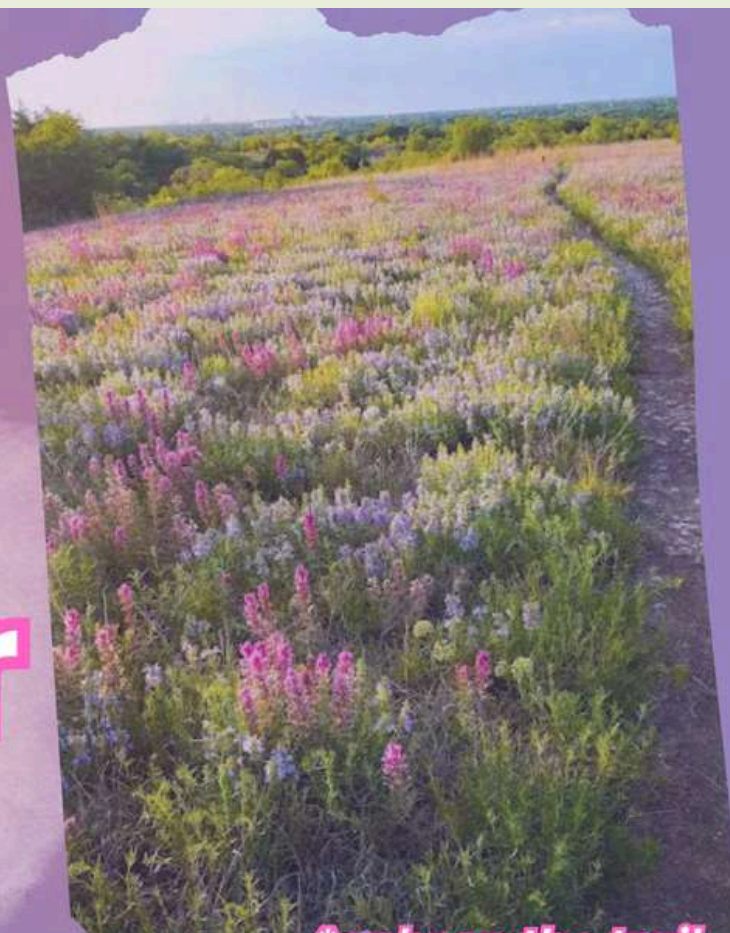
Leader: Lisa Gibson

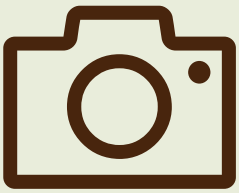
Contact: Email lwoods4062@gmail.com & 409-782-3978



Park &
Recreation

I'd cross
the
prairie for
you!*





Art & Photography Gallery



Eagles being harassed by crows at White Rock Lake in Dallas.



The lone American Flamingo in Port Aransas that comes to the same location each year.



Photos by Brent Franklin



Bobcat at Grapevine Lake



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

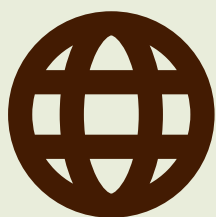


Inclusivity:

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