

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™

Cross Timbers



Spooky Issue!



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TOPIC 01

October Speaker

Discover the Joy of Birding at our monthly meeting this Oct. 19th!



TOPIC 02

Member Highlight

Learn about our new CTMN Chapter President in this quick interview!



TOPIC 03

Cross Timbers Acoustic Monitoring of Bats

Check out our Cross Timbers Acoustic Monitoring of Bats Project Report 2026



x President's Pen



Cross Timbers TXMN President

Chelsee Self

In order to adhere to the chapter operating procedures, we will be holding an election for President and Vice President. If you are interested in either of these positions, please send an email to president@ctmn.org. You will be added to the list of nominees and will be contacted by someone on the nomination committee. The election will be held at our last chapter meeting on November 16th. The results will be announced at the December meeting. The term will be for 2 years starting on Jan 1, 2027.

We are also still looking for people to help in the following areas:

1. Newsletter
2. Website
3. Outreach
4. Social Media

If anyone is interested please email President@ctmn.org by Oct 31, 2026.

CTMN Announcements

APRIL IN PARIS, Texas Style

April 9-11, 2027
Connect - Learn - Explore



North Texas Regional Chapter Conference

Calendar



The CTMN Google Calendar is always being updated. Please follow the link >>> [HERE](#) <<< for the full list of upcoming CTMN volunteering opportunities.

Today < > Oct – Nov 2026 ▾			
3	OCT, SAT	- All day 9am – 12pm 9am – 12pm	Fawcett WMA BioBlitz! (Day 1/2) 4730 Ranch to Market Rd 2 CTMN Training Class - Field Trip Molly Hollar Wildscape Volunteer Day The Molly Hollar Wilds
4	OCT, SUN	All day	Fawcett WMA BioBlitz! (Day 2/2) 4730 Ranch to Market Rd 2
5	OCT, MON	7 – 8pm	CTMN Board Meeting
6	OCT, TUE	6 – 9pm	CTMN Training Class - Prairie Systems
7	OCT, WED	9 – 11am	White Settlement Monarch Waystation Volunteer Day 8213
10	OCT, SAT	8 – 11am 9am – 7:30pm	Community Day at O.S. Gray O.S. Gray Natural Area, 2021 W CTMN Outreach Booth at River Legacy Fall Festival 701 NW
13	OCT, TUE	12 – 1pm	#TMNTuesdays
14	OCT, WED	9 – 11am	White Settlement Monarch Waystation Volunteer Day 8213
17	OCT, SAT	8am – 3pm 9am – 12pm	CTMN Training Class - Field Trip Sheri Capehart Volunteer Days 5201 Bowman Springs Rd, Ki
19	OCT, MON	7 – 8:30pm	CTMN Monthly Meeting - Discovering the Joy of Birding 32
21	OCT, WED	8am – 12pm	Bob Jones Nature Center Workdays 355 E Bob Jones Rd, Sc



Speakers

October Speaker



**CTMN Chapter Meeting/Presentation –
October 19, 2026 - 7:00PM.**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Karen Carpenter, NTMN Class of '23

Discover the Joy of Birding

[Zoom Link](#)

You are invited to learn how “birding” has taken flight around the world, and why should you flock together with the millions of people who have discovered the Joy of Birding!

Karen Carpenter serves as the Program chair for Audubon Dallas and is a Texas Master Naturalist with the North Texas chapter. She is an avid birder and bird conservation advocate, and you will usually find her out birding, researching a bird outing, or just looking at photos of birds she would like to see one day.

Member Highlight

Meet CTMN Chelsea Self!



What year did you become a master naturalist?

2025, Teddi Zonker is the one who told me about this class. She is also the one who introduced me to iNaturalist.

What sparked your passion for nature and conservation?

Honestly, I have always been a nature person, I grew up on farm and we had animals, and a garden. Later, I became a photographer.

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

I am a CrossFit junky. I even taught it for 6 years. Even though I don't teach it any more, I still do CrossFit for myself.

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

Northwest Community Park North Ft. Worth because it is attached to my neighborhood. I am amazed at what you can find. As I learned in our classes about biodiversity, I started watching things grow. I could see what was natural and what was invasive. I could see migrations change the biodiversity. I was able to put what we learned into practice. The coolest thing I have seen is a bobcat from a distance. I also got a picture of an Osprey but it was far away so the quality is not great. I did get a good picture of an American Kestrel which was the first one I had ever seen there.

What inspired you to take on the role of President of CTMN and what have you learned?

I was on the HOA board in my neighborhood and that piqued my interest in how things run behind the scenes. I was amazed at the Texas laws. This is what inspired me to be the class representative. I wanted to see what goes on behind the scenes. I realized that our chapter was not cloud based and everything was being done on paper. We were also getting last minute volunteer opportunities. I knew that getting the right volunteers for the right positions was key to making our communication and chapter more efficient.

What I have learned is that we have some absolutely amazing people in our chapter. I have been floored by the amount of knowledge that everyone has. Everyone has their own unique abilities that can expertly fill a needed niche in our chapter.

I am honored to be the President of this amazing organization. I am in awe at how much knowledge our members have and how many hours are spent advocating for nature. I have had so much fun visiting new parks, exploring new areas, finding new species, meeting new people and learning new things. I can't wait to see what the future holds.





Featured Project

Cross Timbers Acoustic Monitoring of Bats

Species Detected By Location in 2026 that Were “Highly Likely” or “Likely”

Species Detected	Where Located
Mexican (Brazilian) Free-Tail Bat (<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>)	FWNCR, FWBG, Tandy Hills plus 3 landowner properties
Evening Bat (<i>Nycticeius humeralis</i>)	Very common bat in this ecosystem: Sheri Capehart, FWNCR, Ash Creek in Azle, FWBG, Tandy Hills, Randol Mill Park White Settlement Monarch Waystation, Chandor Gardens, Colleyville Nature Center, LMWSP, plus 5 landowner properties.
Tri-Colored Bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	FWBG and Colleyville Nature Center
Eastern Red Bat (<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>)	Also common in Cross Timbers: FWNCR, Ash Creek in Azle, FWBG, Randol Mill Park, White Settlement Monarch Waystation, Chandor Gardens, LMWSP, plus 6 landowner properties
Hoary Bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>)	FWNCR, FWBG, White Settlement Monarch Waystation, plus 5 landowner properties
Silver Haired Bat (<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>)	1 property owner (in Arlington)



BAT WEEK
October 24-31

- ☐ See BatWeek.org for events, how to take action, and to expand your learning
- ☐ Become a bat ambassador with short training modules from BatCon.org
- ☐ FWBG began offering Bat Walks. While complete this year, we are hoping for more next Spring
- ☐ Attend Fall Fest at River Legacy Park on Oct 10th. Look for Bat Night next year

Cross Timbers Acoustic Monitoring of Bats Project Report 2026

We're in our 3rd year of 5 and continue to expand our sites and number of volunteers. We continue to work with our sponsors – TPWD Nature Trackers and North Atlantic Bat Monitoring System (NABat). There were a number of changes this year though.



Researchers removed Seminole bat from our search options. Although found last year as “Highly Likely” it was more likely the report mis- reports the Seminole Bat as other species in the *Lasiurus* genus, such as Eastern Red Bat and/or Hoary Bat. This was confirmed by the biologist Dr. Samantha Leivers at NABat and by Dr. Tory Bennett from TCU. These bats apparently tend to stop migrating west at the Blackland Prairie and Cross Timbers eco-system border.

We got a new sponsor from TPWD Nature Trackers, as Craig Hensley retired. Rachel Grotte brought a new perspective and helped us collect more data on weather and site description. We moved back to our initial year recommendation to prioritize sites in the NABatT using GRTS sampling method. Generalized Random Tessellation Stratified (GRTS) sampling is a probabilistic method used to select spatially balanced samples across geographic or environmental regions.

All that technical jargon aside, over 500 monitoring sites are being recorded by Texas Master Naturalists , contributing over 1000 gigabytes of bat data the first 2 years alone for researchers to learn more about what species are in Texas, what their distribution is, and where they hunt, roost, and breed.





Why are the Fall Leaf Colors so Vibrant in the North?

by Kim Lufkin

Fall is here! This is such a beautiful time of the year with the changing of the leaves. The colors seem so much more vibrant in the north than they are here in the South. There is a reason for that.



We tend to think that the cold snap causes the leaves to change color. But the truth is, the leaves begin to change color because of the change in the amount of sunlight they receive. When the days get shorter, the trees prepare for winter. One of the things that happens is the trees begin to reduce the production of chlorophyll (which is green causing the leaves to look green) and reabsorb these nutrients. This causes the green color to decrease, leaving the other secondary and tertiary colors to now be seen. Then, a special layer of cells (abscission layer) forms at the base of each leaf stem cutting off water and nutrient flow to prevent wounds when the leaves drop off. In essence, sealing the branches for winter.

When there is an early cold snap, this can damage or freeze the abscission layer before it has had the chance to seal the branch. This allows the flow of nutrients and water to continue into the leaves. Sugars get trapped in the leaf cells rather than being reabsorbed by the tree's main body and roots before the leaf falls off. This accumulation of sugar causes the colors to be more vibrant.

Plant of the Month



Buffalo gourd (*Cucurbita foetidissima*)

by Madison Gover (reprinted from
oct. 2024)



Buffalo gourds are our very own native pumpkin species! They are perennials that grow from a tuberous root. Natives used the plant for various different reasons, such as healing. The vine grows outward along the ground with triangulate leaves.

This plant requires very little water and is adapted to semi-arid and arid environments.

A fresh gourd can be eaten much like a squash, while the mature gourd has too many bitter compounds for it to be edible. They bloom from June to August.



Photos by Madison G.

Sources of info: texasbeyondhistory.com Lady bird
Johnson Wildflower Center

Continued Education



Favorite Bats of the Cross Timbers

by Madison Gover

originally in October 2023 Issue



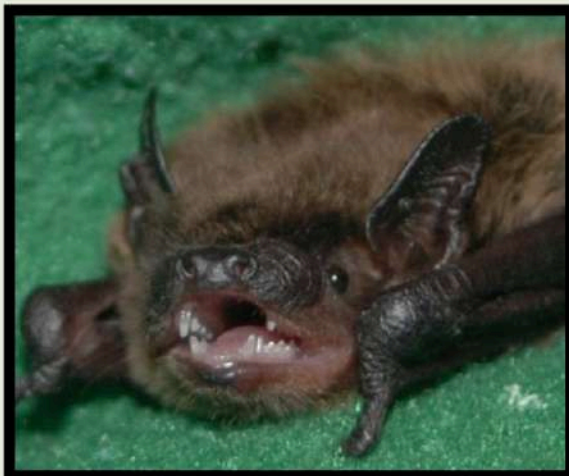
Photos by Kate Rugroden taken from Bat World MidCities Facebook Page.

Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarina brasiliensis*) are the state flying mammal of Texas! They get their name from their tail that is “free” from their **uropatagium**, a membrane that extends between the wings, thighs and tails of most bats.

These gentle creatures have the largest maternal colony in the world outside San Antonio in **Bracken Cave**. Up to **15 million** ladies congregate there each year to raise their young.

Eastern Red Bat (*Lasirius borealis*) are one of our fluffy **arboreal species** of bats found nearby. Arboreal bats roost in **trees** instead of caves. They are **solitary** and do not roost in large colonies.

These insectivores consume many agricultural pests. They can use their **fully-furred** uropatagium to wrap themselves up like a blanket, or use it as a scoop to catch insects mid-flight.



Evening bats (*Nycterius humeralis*) are a **forest-dwelling** bat. Unlike the solitary bats, evening bats will form a colony. They tend to be found under **peeling bark** and in crevices of trees.

The Cross Timbers and Post Oak regions seem to be the edge of their range. Once the **post oak savannahs** blends into the prairies, they are not likely to be found.

They, along with other bat species, partake in **resource partitioning**.



Current Events

To all Texas Master Naturalists:

Save the date for the 10th Annual Brazos River Cleanup and Campout May 21-24. What began in 2017 as a Rio Brazos Chapter training class project (in conjunction with the Friends of the Brazos), has grown into a long weekend of TMN mission-oriented work and advanced training, as well as fun and camaraderie among river-lovers and trash-haters from other TMN chapters. In 2023, this project earned the Texas Master Naturalist™ Exemplary Project First Place Award at the State Meeting. Watch the video presentation shown at the TMN State Meeting [here](#). This 14-minute video covers the history, evolution, and accomplishments of the Brazos River Cleanup project.

The attached save-the-date flyer has more details. You may check the [chapter website](#) occasionally under “[Projects and Partners](#)” for more information, including online registration beginning early in 2027. Registration will be required for participating in and enjoying this opportunity to fulfill the Texas Master Naturalist mission.

We look forward to having you join us!

Questions or requests for more information should be sent to BrazosRiverCleanup@gmail.com.



AHOY, TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS! SAVE THE DATE!

10TH ANNUAL BRAZOS RIVER CLEANUP

CAMPOUT & EDUCATIONAL WEEKEND

MAY 21–24

LITTLE L RANCH

Hosted by Texas Master Naturalist™, Rio Brazos Chapter
Open to all TMN members

Four days on the river. One unforgettable weekend.

- **CLEAN UP THE BRAZOS**
Pull tires from the river John Graves wrote about in Goodbye to a River and earn volunteer hours.
- **EXPLORE A BIRD-FRIENDLY RANCH**
Join BioBlitz activities and guided bird walks across an Audubon Certified Bird Friendly Ranch.
- **EARN ADVANCED TRAINING HOURS**
Spend a full day in classes and receive up to 8 hours of Advanced Training credit.
- **CAMP, PLAY & FEAST**
Reconnect around the campfire, challenge friends to high-stakes cornhole, and enjoy outstanding TMN-prepared meals.

SEE THE ADVENTURE

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

VOLUNTEER

LEARN

RESTORE

CONNECT

This event is brought to you by:

Sponsors of the Texas Master Naturalist Program:



brazosrivercleanup@gmail.com

October is Bat Appreciation Month!

[Click Here
What To Do
If You've
Found A Bat](#)

Bat-Watching Sites of Texas

Texas happens to be the battiest state in the country. It is home to 32 of the 47 species of bats found in the United States.

 texas.gov





Art & Photography Gallery



Cute Moth Band by Owen Curtsinger



Fort Worth Monster by Madison



Board Members

CTMN Board Members

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



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Facebook Group**



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Website**



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Instagram**

CTMN Directors

- **Past President** - Mary Beth Lampe
- **Membership** - Annamarie Fresta
- **Communication** - Carmen Francis
 - **Training** - Erika Swyryn
- **Hospitality** - Roseann Giambro
- **Newsletter** - Madison Semper
 - **Webmaster** - Alice Salazar
 - **Outreach** - Lisa Gibson
- **Class of 2026 Rep** - Jeremy Williams

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 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