



Wood Duck Whistler

March 2026



A Message From President Carol Lanthrum

Greetings, my fellow Master Naturalists!

I hope all of you stayed warm and safe during the ice storm – no power outage, no big trees down on your house or property. I did not have any problems and had a good time watching hungry birds visit. I have a 40-foot American Holly in my yard that was filled with berries. A huge flock of robins took care of them for me, eating most of the fruit in 4 hours!

Such fun to watch them gulp them down! Don't know how they store that many in their stomach at one time - guess it's like Thanksgiving dinner for birds!

It seems the slow start of MN activities that often happen in January is ending. By the time you read this, the Great Backyard Bird Count will be over. I hope you were able to contribute data to this event by getting out in your back yard or community to count our local winter population of residents and winter visitors.

Mentoring our new training class is going well according to Karen Rueb-Hall, mentoring facilitator. Trainees, use the help offered by your mentor, as we all want you to initially train and become active members of our chapter. I listened to your backgrounds and your areas of interest at the initial meeting and was amazed at the diversity you bring to our chapter. Welcome! Current members, sign up to help through the Signup Genius trainer Kay Jenkins sent out and you can get VSH for doing it. You are also welcome to come to the lectures and receive AT hours.

February's TMN Tuesday was about the Bobcat, our 2026 Recertification Pin. If you didn't hear it live, go listen to the recording – you still get 1 hour of AT credit. The speaker, Richard Heilburn, stated one of the best ways master naturalists can help is to explain to your scared neighbors that a bobcat eats a large number of rodents and rarely eats kitty cats – it's to the neighborhood's advantage if they happen to see one of these secretive animals roaming around. We are at our best when we educate the public.

Tyler Nature Trackers held a Bat Acoustic Monitoring webinar on February 13th to introduce 2026 project updates and request volunteers. Our chapter has participated in the project both years it was offered as a TNT-sponsored project, and I hope some of you have interest in participating this year. The project coordinator recruits landowners who agree to allow acoustic monitors to be placed on their property for 5 days of recording. The recordings are analyzed through special software to convert the ultrasonic echolocation calls of bats into spectrograms for analysis. Each bat species has its own 'call'. This year the monitors will be placed on properties in the summer after pups have left their moms. Volunteers are needed to move and set up monitors on each property. There is a need for someone to analyze the recordings in the software.

There are so many upcoming events:

- City Nature Challenge is held in April. Although it started as a friendly competition between cities to see which city's participants could add the most data to iNaturalist, it is now a worldwide endeavor to add quality observations for researcher use.
- TPWD is holding the Fire and Nature Festival in April at our home base, the Tyler Nature Center. This is an opportunity for you to use your knowledge and skills to educate the public about nature in a fun and entertaining setting. You get VSH of course!
- The Great Texas Birding Classic is held between April 15th and May 15th. Sponsored by TPWD, each team picks one day during that time and competes with other teams in their tournament category to identify as many bird species as possible. Think there is not a category for you – wrong! You can sit, or have a team of 2, an intact flock (team birds together), or a dispersed flock (team birds in its area separately), beginners or experts, families or friends. Find a friend or two and register by April 1st.

These are just a few of the many things you can do. Review the AT – Generally Approved Do-Not-Have-To-Ask List, and Approved Volunteer Service Opportunities and see what's available.

With so many events and activities, I know you can find something that is perfect for you and your work/life situation. I encourage you to participate in some of the group activities with your fellow master naturalists. It's more fun, and I know I learn much from other MNs.

What's Coming Up?

by Kay Jenkins

Spring 2026 New Member Training

Plans for the Spring 2026 new member training is in full swing, and will end on May 19, 2026.

Spring Workdays at the Tyler Nature Center

Spring brings opportunities for members to help spruce up the wildscape at the Tyler Nature Center during cool weather. Upcoming Saturday workdays are **January 17**, **February 7** and **March 7** starting at **9:00 a.m.** We usually work until noon, but volunteers can come and go as they are available. We plan to submit grant proposals to help fund the purchase of new plants and mulch for the wildscape.

Please contact Kay Jenkins at kvjenkins86@gmail.com if you plan to come.

Meetings In the Community

[Tyler Audubon Society](#) – 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, for more information, see page 15

[NPSOT](#) – Tyler - see page 14 for flyer

[NPSOT](#) – Longview – 4th Thursday 2:00 PM, Longview Arboretum

[NETFO](#) – 1st Wednesday 6:30 PM, Community Connections Building, 501 Pine Tree Road, Longview, TX

November 1, 2025-April 30, 2026 - Project Feeder Watch <https://feederwatch.org/about/detailed-instructions>

Other opportunities can be found starting on page 13 and on the website — see below!

To view the chapter website:

- www.txmn.tamu.edu
- Scroll down past the “green blocks” to the State of Texas map.
- Click on our chapter location.
- Select any tab to see the upcoming events on the right. Select the top event, and you can scroll through the event by selecting the back and forward tabs at the bottom of each event. Or go straight to the one you are interested in by selecting it.
- You can also see coming months’ events in calendar format by selecting ‘View Calendar’ below the event listings.
- **NOTE:** It looks different on your phone.
 - Select ‘Chapter Info’ to see pictures and information about current chapter activities.
 - Select ‘Newsletter’ to see current and past Wood Duck Whistlers

Daphne Prairie

by Ann Reynolds



Big Bluestem

Prairies are some of my favorite places to visit. There are many reasons, such as the flora and fauna, but the most important is that it is a place where nature and history meet. Pat Merkord, President of the Native Prairie Association of Texas (NPAT) describes it as “like taking a step back in time.” There is nothing prettier than seeing the sunrise and/or the sunset on a prairie.

Tallgrass prairies once covered twelve million acres but today have dwindled to less than one tenth of one percent of that. The Daphne exists today as it did centuries ago only because BF Hicks and his family have owned and preserved the land since 1830.

The Daphne Prairie consists of 925 acres, that were passed down to BF Hicks, of pasture land that were set aside for hay meadows, never grazed or plowed and therefore considered virgin prairie. This area contains Mima mounds which are small, irregularly spaced hills, described by some as “soil pimples.” There is much speculation about the cause of the mounds: gas pockets, piles of silt, sand and pebbles, created by gophers or Indigenous peoples’ burial grounds. These mounds, where no cattle ever grazed, are indicative of a native prairie pasture and these at the Daphne are some of the tallest in Texas.

Jason Singhurst, TPWD’s plant ecologist and botanist, has now documented over 400 species of flora, and 120 of these are grasses. Some of the grasses identified on the prairie include the rare Silveus’s Dropseed, Long-spike Tridens, Oilfied Threeawn and Eastern Gamagrass. Also found here are the "Big 5" native grasses of Texas, (representing critical species for prairies, wildlife habitat, and landscaping) - Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Side Oats Grama and Little and Big Bluestem.



Fringed pycnonotus



Short-eared Owl



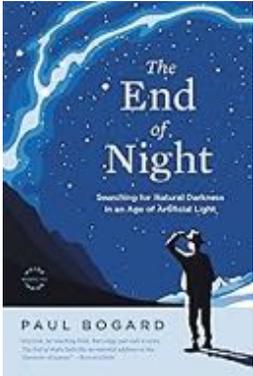
Some of the 381 species of flowering plants found here are the Rough Coneflower, Prairie Blazing Star, Green Milkweed, Dwarf Sundew and Wild Quinine. The prairie is home to numerous birds such as the Short-eared Owl, Smith's Longspur, LeConte's Sparrows, Northern Harriers, Dickcissels, Eastern Meadowlarks, Painted Buntings, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Sprague's Pipits, and Grasshopper Sparrows. Mammals documented on the prairie include feral hogs, coyotes, skunks, bobcats and badgers.

When I stand on the Daphne Prairie, I wonder what it would have been like to be a pioneer and to experience tall grasses as far as the eye could see and the loud bird songs that were almost deafening. For a forest living denizen, I can stand on the Daphne and see the sun rise and the sunset and there is nothing more beautiful. My mind wanders and I wonder if I could have been like Laura Ingalls Wilder and survive in such a place so long ago? All I know is that every Texan should be proud that this sliver of tallgrass history is surviving into the future due to forward-thinking BF Hicks and NPAT.



Book Reviews

by Lance Homeniuk



The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light by Paul Bogard, 2013, published by Little, Brown and Company, NY, NY. Paperback, 323 pages.

Living in a small city (or is Kilgore a big town?), I don't see as much of the night sky as I wish I could. It doesn't help that every time there is an aurora eclipse, or meteor shower, we have cloudy skies. According to Bogard I am in the vast majority of Americans.

The book is informative, thought-provoking, poetic at times, and hopeful. The chapters (numbered in descending order for a change) focus on the problems of night light for wildlife, for human health, ecology, and spirituality. Case studies are given of some local solutions to these challenges. The book includes copious notes, indices and a reading group guide.

“... already in Australia, they're speaking of *solastalgia*, about missing a loved place that still exists but to which the old birds and plants and animals no longer come... a yearning for a place you still inhabit rather than one you've left behind ... this is the darkness I fear the most, this sadness at the ongoing destruction of the wild world.”

A Spring Without Bees by Michael Shacker, 2008 by Globe, Pequot Press, Guilford, CT. paperback, 292 pages.

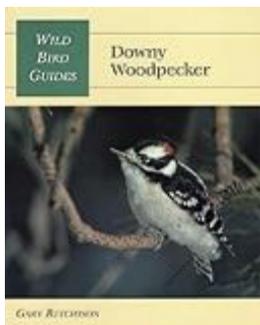
Proclaimed as the authoritative account, colony collapse disorder has endangered our food supply. And an indictment of the chemical industry that pumps out pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc, etc, etc. It also pumps out its own studies that contradict and minimize objective scientific research that reveals harmful effects of even trace amounts of these poisons. Fifty years after *Silent Spring* the same battle is being fought, the initials are just different, and the toxins are scarier than DDT.



The book provides data, hard facts, and it also provides effective alternatives to the -cides. Would that there were effective treatment for the power of profit-driven despoilers and their influence on regulatory bureaucracy. I do not want to experience a spring without bees or a food supply without them.

Wild Bird Guides: Downy Woodpecker By Gary Ritchison, 1999 by Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA Paperback, 120 pages.

It is a relatively thin book, a bright, colorful book, full of photographs of cute little birds. But this is no kiddies' storybook, not really a popularization of nature for light reading. It is packed with information about our littlest woodpecker, from taxonomy and distribution, natural history, feeding, breeding, behavior, nesting, nestling, fledging and communication. The list of references is full of primary sources - the research monographs of ornithologists. As of this printing there were four more books in the series, also common, cute little birds. I will do some online digging to see if more have been published since. Like Pokemon, “I wanna collect them all!”





Get to Know Pam Boyd Bombyk!

Where were you born/raised?

I was born in Indianapolis, IN and grew up in the State Parks there. I say that because my family camped so frequently.

Where do you live now?

I live in Smith County near UT just outside the city limits with my husband (a business owner in the hospital field) and two dogs.

What is/was your career? Education?

While living in Michigan, I founded and grew a temporary help company, Workforce, supplying clerical and general labor help for 16 years before moving to Texas. I have a BS in Natural Health, which led to publishing Natural Awakenings Magazine East Texas from 2005 to 2012. I retired in 2016 as the owner/operator of Life With Pets, a retail store where I sold unique pet supplies, including natural health products for dogs.

What are some of your hobbies?

I love landscaping and gardening, nearly anything outdoors. I'm an avid reader and lifelong learner. I started practicing yoga 15 years ago and credit it with being able to keep up an active lifestyle.

To what do you attribute your love of nature?

Camping as a child got me started in the outdoors. My mother was my Brownie and Girl Scout leader, and she got me interested in animals, insects, plants and birds, and living in the outdoors. We made an amazing butterfly collection that included a Luna moth.

What was it that interested you in the TMN program?

I love to learn, and I love the outdoors, so the program is tailor-made for me!

In what class were you?

I was in the class of 2011, but the East Texas chapter was not as well-developed as it is now, and the volunteer opportunities didn't catch my interest. So I am now in the class of 2026, because I've been walking my dog, Maggie, here pretty much every day for the last year and have come to love the Nature Center and its trails.

What volunteer experience are you most looking forward to?

I am really looking forward to trail work. I want to help make them not only passable, but attractive and inviting to all types of walkers.

Favorite nature activity?

I'd say walking/hiking, but landscape building and design is truly my favorite.

Describe your perfect, bucket-list natural science encounter or experience.

On my 70th birthday, I was walking the road over at the Boulders park. An eagle swooped down over the road in front of me, and it's the best birthday gift I've ever received!

Advice for fellow TMN students?

Relax. Listen to your teachers and classmates to learn what they have to share. Participate even when you're a little uncomfortable. Try new things. Enjoy the journey.

ETCMN Monthly Chapter Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at the Tyler Nature Center, 11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707. Meet and greet at 6:45 PM; meeting at 7:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome!

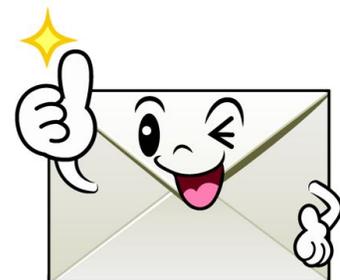
If you are interested in learning more about the business side of the chapter, all ETCMN Members are invited to attend the quarterly chapter Board Meetings.

The Wood Duck Whistler is a monthly publication of ETCMN. News, essays, comments and ideas are always welcome. Please email them to Casey Boggs at caseyllynnboggs@gmail.com

Important Notice!

Angela Hudson is unable to continue her role as assistant VMS director at this time.

The chapter is looking for someone to assist Lindsey Smith, VMS Director. The person needs to be an active certified MN who understands the differences between AT and VSH very well and is familiar with many chapter members. As VMS is a database, the ideal person would have database experience, but certainly needs good computer skills. Contact Lindsey Smith at lindseys71@hotmail.com if interested.



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Bald Eagle Encounter

by Brenda Maston



What a regal bird to add to your checklist! I had the privilege to see not just 1, but 3 of these majestic birds soar over Ratcliff Lake in the Davy Crockett National Forest last week. There was no better way to celebrate a birthday than spotting a bald eagle on your group birding trip. The setting couldn't be more beautiful. We all watched the eagles fly effortlessly around the lake, dip into the pines, and then perch on a limb. Another would take off, flapping its wings and take a pass over the lake to catch a fish. This activity happened more than once by different birds. It was quite the sight to see. I did manage to capture the birds in flight on video and still pictures. Memories not forgotten! Awesome Adventure!



Things Are Happening in the Night Skies!

by Carol Lanthrum



Planet Parade

A rare planetary alignment happens at the end of February. Six planets – Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune – will appear to form an arc in the evening sky. Rare not only because there are six planets, but it's an evening event. The best day for viewing is February 28th, but the window is open about a week before and after.

The best visibility occurs 30 minutes after sunset in the southwestern sky. Venus, Jupiter and Saturn are easily visible, but the others will require use of binoculars or a small telescope. Mercury should be looked for as soon as the sky darkens, as it will be very close to the horizon.

Throughout history, planetary alignments have been omens of doom, but today we know that the alignment is nothing more than the way the planets appear to align from Earth's point of view. Alignment of planets in the 1970s and 1980s facilitated the exploration of the outer planets by Voyager 2 as it used them for slingshot effect.

Lunar Eclipse

There is a total lunar eclipse visible in East Texas on March 3rd. The penumbral eclipse begins at 2:44am; partial eclipse begins at 3:50am. Totality begins at 5:04am and the moon will be red. Maximum eclipse is at 5:33am. The moon will be close to the west horizon, so be sure you have free sight. The moon sets at 6:49am so the waning partial eclipse will not be visible here.

As you probably know, the moon is red due to the refraction of sunlight through the earth's atmosphere, a prism effect as the light hits dust particles, water droplets and different gases. Colors with longer wavelengths like red and orange are refracted around the earth, hitting the surface of the moon.

This **full** lunar eclipse will be the only one visible from East Texas for a while. The eclipse this summer on August 27th will be almost full, with just a small portion of the moon not covered. It will be worth watching.

Hope for a cloudless sky on March 3rd!

TMN Tips & Tricks!

From Lindsey Smith

If you want to get photos of this medium-sized butterfly, don't wait around. They are here for about 2 months and this week was the first time I've seen them this year. They feed primarily, from my observations, on Crow Poison and Violets. The male of this species has the orange markings on the tips of its dorsal wings, but the female has none. The female does, however, have the ventral wing markings of black splotches like the male.



Falcate Orangetip Butterfly



Falcate Orangetip Butterfly



Falcate Orangetip Butterfly

From Ann Reynolds

If you have had my class in iNaturalist, you might remember the #1 objective of making observations of different organisms in nature is to provide data. Most folks rely on the app to ID what they are seeing. More importantly, people need to upload their observations, receive IDs from others that are on iNaturalist, so that these observations funnel into the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) National Database. The Species of Greatest Conservation Need National Database is a compilation of lists from States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories, that contain names of wild species in need of conservation attention, including animals, plants, fungi and other organisms from terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments. Those lists include imperiled species and other species of conservation concern that represent each State and Territory's wildlife diversity and health. **SGCN lists help inform conservation planning and prioritization, as well as guide conservation action.**

The use of iNaturalist goes hand in hand with the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program which is "to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within communities in the State of Texas."

I hope you continue to promote iNaturalist in your endeavors or when out in the field. If you should need a refresher, I am always willing to come visit or perhaps do a field walk.



Rugate Tiger Beetle

by Lindsey Smith

I took the pictures today in a sandy wash in front of my house and was amazed when I realized the Rugate Tiger Beetle was killing and feeding on Imported Fire Ants!





This year is the 30th anniversary of The Great Texas Birding Classic (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic>) a state-wide birding competition to be held from April 15 to May 15, 2026. This is a great time to be out in the field as this is the heart of spring migration when birds are passing through East Texas making their way north from Central/South America to all parts of the United States and Canada. There are many ways to participate in the Birding Classic but I want to highlight two easy ways – the State Park Tournament and the Adult Regional Big Day Tournament with the team birding as an ‘intact flock’. Either way can help you sharpen your birding skills and have fun while earning some VSH.

A State Park Tournament – Intact Flock competition is just that – your team picks a state park from your area, or anywhere in the state, and you bird there for up to 24 hours (midnight to midnight). The team is made up of 3 to 5 members and team membership is open to birders of all ages (so your kids or grandkids can be on your team!). Competing as an ‘intact flock’ means that the team members are birding and travelling together within the selected state park. At the end of day, the team will compile their checklist and submit to the GTBC using eBird. We have many wonderful state parks in East Texas. These include Atlanta SP, Cooper Lake SP, Lake Bob Sandlin, Daingerfield SP, Lake Tawakoni SP, Caddo Lake SP, Martin Creek SP, Tyler SP, and Purtis Creek SP. They each have a variety of habitat including lakes, grasslands, forest and riparian areas that will add to your birding experience.

An Adult Regional Big Day Tournament is conducted in one of nine regions across the state. Our region, Prairies and Pineywoods East, is shown in the map below. This region includes the ten counties of the East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists. A team competing in an Adult Regional Big Day Tournament consists of 3 to 5 members who are 19+ years old (there are special competitions for birders under 19 years of age). A Big Day tournament means that the team birds for up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight). Competing as an ‘intact flock’ means that the team members are birding and travelling together as they compete. Our region has a diverse collection of birding spots including regional parks and WMAs (Camp Tyler, Mineola Nature Preserve, Old Sabine Bottoms), state parks (Caddo Lake, Daingerfield, Tyler, Rusk, Tawakoni), and lakes (Lake Palestine, Lake Tyler/Tyler East, Lake O’ the Pines, Bob Sandlin, etc..). These sites vary in habitat which also adds to the challenge and diversity of birds to see. Your team can bird at just one or two sites or you can bird multiple sites within a county or even across several counties. At the end of day, the team will compile their checklist and submit to the GTBC using eBird.

Teams competing in the 2026 GTBC must register by April 1. You can pick any day from April 15 through May 15 to bird and you can change your day to adjust for things like weather or team member availability. If you are interested in forming another team for to compete in the Great Texas Birding Classic, contact Mark Edmund (maedmund321@gmail.com). Mark will help your team get organized and plan out your fun day for counting birds



Native Plant Society of Texas

**Meeting of the Tyler Chapter
Business Meeting & Guest Speaker
Monday, March 9, 2026
4:00 PM at the
Tyler Nature Center
11942 FM 848, Tyler**

<https://www.npsot.org/chapters/tyler/>

The mission of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote conservation, research and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example.

Designing A Layered Landscape: Using Native Plants

Andrew King, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Andrew King is an assistant professor of ornamental horticulture for Texas A&M AgriLife in Overton, TX. Andrew's research interests include ornamental plant improvement, ornamental plant trialing, medicinal plants, and nursery/greenhouse production systems. Andrew is a 4th generation horticulturist whose family has been in the nursery industry for 110 years. Andrew has served on faculty in the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences in College Station and as the Assistant Director of SFA Gardens on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

Dr. King's research focuses on enhancing the quality, variety and resilience of ornamental crops in Texas and the U.S. through breeding and selection efforts and assisting the green industry in their effort to produce these crops profitably and efficiently.



DIRECTIONS

Tyler Nature Center,
11942 FM 848

Located southeast of central Tyler.
Take Loop 323 to University Blvd
(SH 248).

Go east on SH 248 past the UT Tyler
Campus to FM 848 (about 3 miles).
Turn right on FM 848 and travel about
0.7 mile.

Turn right at 11942 FM 848.

The meeting is in the first building on
the right, next to the pond.



Upcoming Events - Tyler Audubon Society

March Meeting (Tuesday, March 10th @ 6:30pm)

We're excited to welcome **State Ornithologist Tania Homayoun** for our March program:

“Safer Skies for Migration”

Collisions with buildings and glass are the second leading human-related cause of bird mortality in the United States. This presentation will explore why bird-building collisions are such a significant conservation issue, what research and monitoring efforts have revealed, and how biological and design factors contribute to these events. We'll also discuss practical techniques for reducing collisions in built landscapes.

Tania will be joining us via **Zoom**. You are welcome to attend virtually or join us in person at our usual meeting location:

St. Francis Episcopal Church

(I will have the Zoom presentation streaming on the screen.)

Zoom Information:

[https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/84645445055?
pwd=NDQ2NVFij2DpMzL0bl4zDJjrWgGlgF.1](https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/84645445055?pwd=NDQ2NVFij2DpMzL0bl4zDJjrWgGlgF.1)

Meeting ID: 846 4544 5055

Passcode: 853634

March Field Trip

Saturday, March 14th at 8:00 AM

Neches River National Wildlife Refuge

We will meet at the main entrance building, located about 10 miles west of Jacksonville on US 79 (approximately 40 miles from Tyler). Parking and restrooms are available on site. Walking is easy and mostly along gravel roadways. There is no entrance fee.

Upcoming Trip

April 18th – Mineola Nature Preserve

For more information about field trips, please contact our Field Director:

Jerril Burnette – jerril1959@gmail.com

"The Art of Seeing Birds"

with Amber Leung

Thursday March 5, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Social Hour: 6:00 - 7:00pm

Location: [Bud O'Shieles Community Center](#)

1330 Band Rd, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Note: This is different than our normal program location!

Please join us on Thursday, March 5, at the [Bud O'Shieles Community Center](#) for an interactive program, the "Art of Seeing Birds".

Struggling to tell one sparrow from another—or wondering what field marks really matter when birds won't sit still? Better Birding Through Art offers a fresh, engaging way to level up your birding skills through the power of drawing. In this interactive program, nature educator and featured 2024 Great Texas Birding Classic artist Amber Leung reveals how simple sketching techniques can dramatically improve observation, memory, and bird identification. By slowing down and drawing what you see, you'll train your eye to notice avian anatomy, feather groups, posture, and key field marks that often go overlooked in the field.

Participants will take part in guided sketching drills, explore the structure and function of bird forms, and learn how nature journaling can deepen understanding while fostering a stronger connection to conservation. Join in person or online with just paper and pencils—*no artistic experience required*. Whether you're a beginner birder, a seasoned lister, or simply curious about nature, this program offers a creative, memorable way to see birds—and birding—differently.

About Our Presenter: Amber Leung is the owner of Wild Arts of Texas, where she combines art and science to create meaningful nature education experiences for all ages. As the featured artist for the 2024 Great Texas Birding Classic and a Texas Master Naturalist with over a decade of experience, Amber has worked with Houston Audubon, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and county parks to inspire conservation through creativity.

In-Person Meeting: Texas Master Naturalist - Coastal Prairie Chapter programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. This program will be held in-person at the [Bud O'Shieles Community Center](#), 330 Band Rd, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Refreshments and social time start at 6pm and the program starts at 7 pm.

Zoom Attendance: You may also attend by Zoom. Use the link below to register in advance for Zoom attendance.

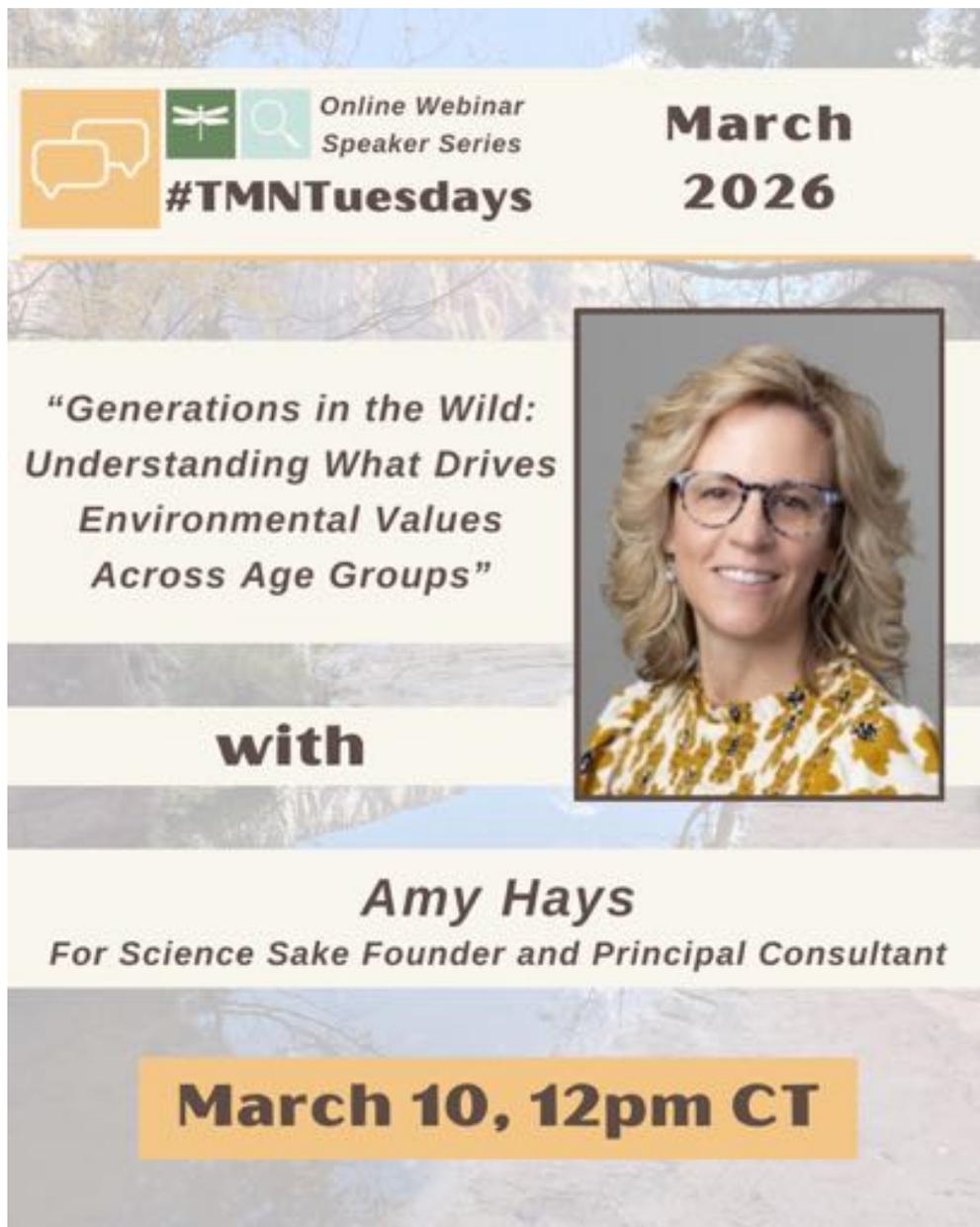
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RknHh4LvQIa3NSo5-cd5uA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Please join us either in person or by Zoom for a great presentation!

Topic announced for TMN Tuesday, March 10, 2026
1 hr AT :TMN Tuesday Webinars.



The graphic features a background of a river and trees. At the top left, there are three icons: two speech bubbles, a dragonfly, and a magnifying glass. To the right of these icons is the text "Online Webinar Speaker Series" and "#TMNTuesdays". On the top right, the text "March 2026" is displayed in a large, bold font. In the center left, the title of the webinar is written in italics: "Generations in the Wild: Understanding What Drives Environmental Values Across Age Groups". To the right of the title is a portrait of Amy Hays, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a yellow and white patterned top. Below the portrait, the word "with" is written in a bold, lowercase font. Underneath "with" is the name "Amy Hays" in a bold, italicized font, followed by her title "For Science Sake Founder and Principal Consultant" in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom, a large orange box contains the date and time "March 10, 12pm CT" in a bold, black font.

Online Webinar
Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

March
2026

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

with

Amy Hays
For Science Sake Founder and Principal Consultant

March 10, 12pm CT

MINEOLA NATURE PRESERVE TOUR

on the Sabine River

Friday, March 27, 2026

9:00am - meet at the Pavilion

10:00am - 12:00pm - walking tour

Location: 1860 CO RD 2724, Mineola, Tx 75773

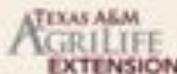
Greg Grant, Smith County Horticulturist and award-winning naturalist will lead a group walking tour of the Mineola Nature Preserve discussing native plants, ecosystems, and wildlife along with the effects of land use changes and management. Join him for a talk about the birds and bees!

Spacing is limited:

Call Wood County Extension Office (903) 763-2924 or Smith County Extension Office (903) 590-2980 to reserve your spot today:

(Tip books will be available for sale from the Wood County Master gardeners)

Presented By: Wood County Master Gardeners
and Smith County Earth Kind Environmental
Educational Committee



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

Find East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists at the following locations:

<https://txmn.org/etwd/>

<https://www.facebook.com/EastTexasMasterNaturalist/>

<https://www.instagram.com/easttexasmasternaturalist/>

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/>

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Organization

Officers

Title	Term	Name	Email
President**	2026-2027	Carol Lanthrum	clanthrum@gmail.com
Vice President**	2026	Dawn Bahr	dmebahr@yahoo.com
Secretary**	2025-2026	Ann Reynolds	reynolds.ann1@gmail.com
Treasurer**	2026-2027	David Shafer	davidrshafer@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	2026-2027	Wanda Rauscher	wwrauscher@gmail.com

** indicates Officers and Executive Board Members

Committees 2024

Title	Name	Email
Hospitality	Caryn Vorsas	carynvorsas@gmail.com
	Joe Vorsas	jvorsas@utexas.edu
	Bonnie Edwards	edwardsbonnie2020@gmail.com
	Open for addition	
Historian / Archivist	TBD	
Advanced Training (AT)	Karen Rueb-Hall	karenruebhall@gmail.com
	Amy Cumbie	amycumbie83@gmail.com
	Kari Steph	kabaster@gmail.com

Volunteer Service Projects (VSH)	Lance Homeniuk	homeniuk@yahoo.com
	Greg Marshall	Marshall7707@gmail.com
	TBD	
Community Education / Outreach	Lance Homeniuk	homeniuk@yahoo.com
Speakers Bureau	Greg Marshall	Marshall7707@gmail.com
Training Class 2025	Kay Jenkins Wanda Rauscher	kay-jenkins@sbcglobal.net wwrauscher@gmail.com
Membership	Donna Smith	lindseys71@hotmail.com
VMS Director	Lindsey Smith Assistant Director	lindseys71@hotmail.com
State Representative	Carol Lanthrum	clanthrum@gmail.com
2026 Class Representative	TBD	

Communications 2024

Title	Name	Email
E-Blast	Carol Lanthrum	clanthrum@gmail.com
Newsletter	Casey Boggs	caseylynnboggs@gmail.com
Photography	Lindsey Smith	lindseys71@hotmail.com
Social Media	Greg Marshall	Marshall7707@gmail.com
	Dawn Bahr	dmebahr@yahoo.com
	Ann Reynolds	reynolds.ann1@gmail.com
Website	Jessica Coleman	jcoleman@uttyler.edu

Chapter Advisors

Name	Organization	Email
Clint Perkins	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Smith County	clint.perkins@ag.tamu.edu
Boyd Sanders	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	boyd.sanders@tpwd.texas.gov

Vacant roles:

Assistant Director VMS

Historian

Publicity

Outreach

If you have interest in filling one of these roles, please contact clanthrum@gmail.com