

April 2019

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Carrie Moore– newsletter

Frank Keeney– webmaster

Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

Cowboys and Naturalists

Are they related? Probably someday or another. Can a cowboy be a naturalist? I think so, and you can find out for yourself on Friday the 29th of March.

The term naturalist doesn't represent any particular 'ology', and most of us practice more than one. When you live on a prairie near a forest or with a stream running through it, it is easy to be fascinated by more than one type of biological entity. Celebrate the diversity, in our community and within yourself.

Like I mentioned last month, there are plenty of opportunities to spread your naturalist's wings; city, county, state and federal. Put down the remote and the cell phone and get outside. Just for yourself or to volunteer at one of the many facilities in the area.

Hope to see a lot of you at Lake Mineral Wells State Park March 29-30.

Be safe.

Bill Collins, President, Cross Timbers Master Naturalists

* See the schedule for Lake Mineral Wells State Park March 29-30. On page six.

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Presenter: David Owens

Presentation title: Answering the question, “So What?” to create those “A-ha!” moments! (the art of interpretation)

Description:

Whether he's helping children and their parents understand how to keep young people safe in natural areas, leading hikers on all fours through undeveloped backwoods, or portraying a cowboy poet around a campfire, David Owens is always teaching. As the Assistant Superintendent of Lake Mineral Well State Park, he is responsible for the park's rich and varied interpretive program. In this presentation, David will address the art of interpretation: teaching principles and techniques you can use to help others form an emotional and Intellectual connection to your subject. These proven methods--used by professionals in parks, museums, zoos, and nature centers--can also be used by us, as Master Naturalist volunteers, to inspire and equip others to help protect natural resources.



David Owens– picture by Kerry Newberry

Event: Canoe Fest at Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge- Avon Burton

A record number of participants came out to paddle at Canoe Fest on this beautiful Sunday afternoon.

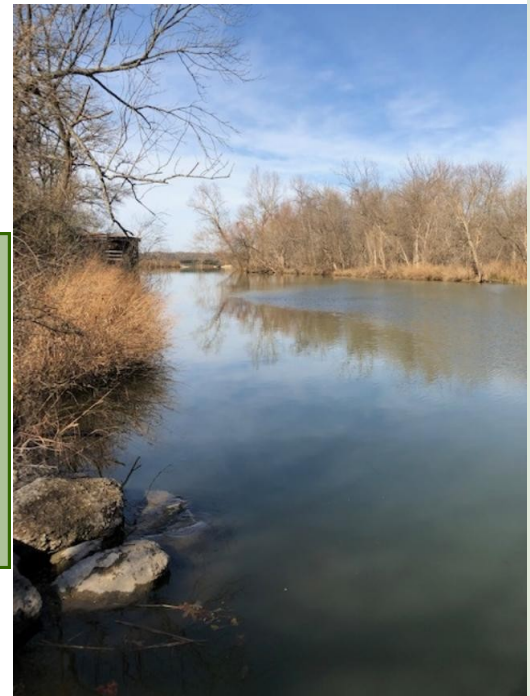
One hundred and forty one people enjoyed fresh air and sunshine with family and friends. For most of the day we had a line eagerly waiting for their turn on the river. We had young children with parents, a couple celebrating their anniversary, visitors from Minnesota, and returning paddlers we have seen before. How great it is to see so many out enjoying nature. This is the reason why I love to volunteer at this event on the third Sunday of every month.



Left– Picture of van with canoes for canoe fest

Right– Picture of the view up river from the dock

Pictures by Avon Burton



Flower of the Month- Agarita- Josephine Keeney

Agarita, Laredo Mahonia, *Mahonia trifoliolata* Berberidaceae (Barberry Family). What surprising qualities this plant has!! It is tough and drought tolerant and the gray green leaves are prickly and resemble holly. They look rather unremarkable most of the year. This evergreen plant can reach 8 feet in height which makes it very impressive.

But come February it bursts into bloom up and down every stem with beautiful tiny yellow flowers that perfume the air in a most delightful way and you can smell them from far away.

If that wasn't enough, the flowers mature into orange red berries which are edible and have a very pleasant lemony flavor. Some people like to make lemonade by crushing and mixing them with water or you can make a delicious jam for your toast.

Be careful if you come close to this plant, you might get a prickly welcome that will have you smarting for a while. What a great plant this would be to set beneath your window and along paths where it could be used to keep away unwelcomed visitors.



Whole Plant- Josephine Keeney

Flowers- Josephine Keeney

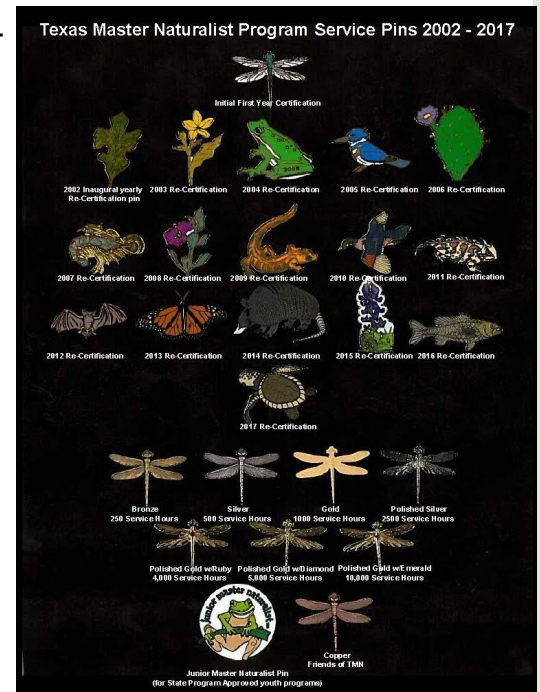


Berries- Josephine Keeney



Reminders

1. Recertification under the Texas Master Naturalist program. After you complete your class study and field trips you get a Certificate of Completion. After you finish your first 40 hours of volunteer activities and 8 hours of advanced training you will get your name badge and a painted dragonfly pin. From then on, each calendar year you must complete 40 hours of volunteer activities, 8 hours of advanced training and pay your membership dues. If you do all three you are a Re-Certified Member of CTMN. - Lani
2. Start thinking about an art entry for the 2019 Annual meeting October 18-20 in Rockwall Texas. Rules and categories for the 2019 art competition have yet to be posted, but keep an eye on the website, <https://txmn.org/2019-annual-meeting/>
3. **If you have any pictures or articles you would like to see in May's newsletter, please email them to newsletter@ctmn.org by April 20th (the deadline, so I can get your newsletter out by May 1st). -Carrie**

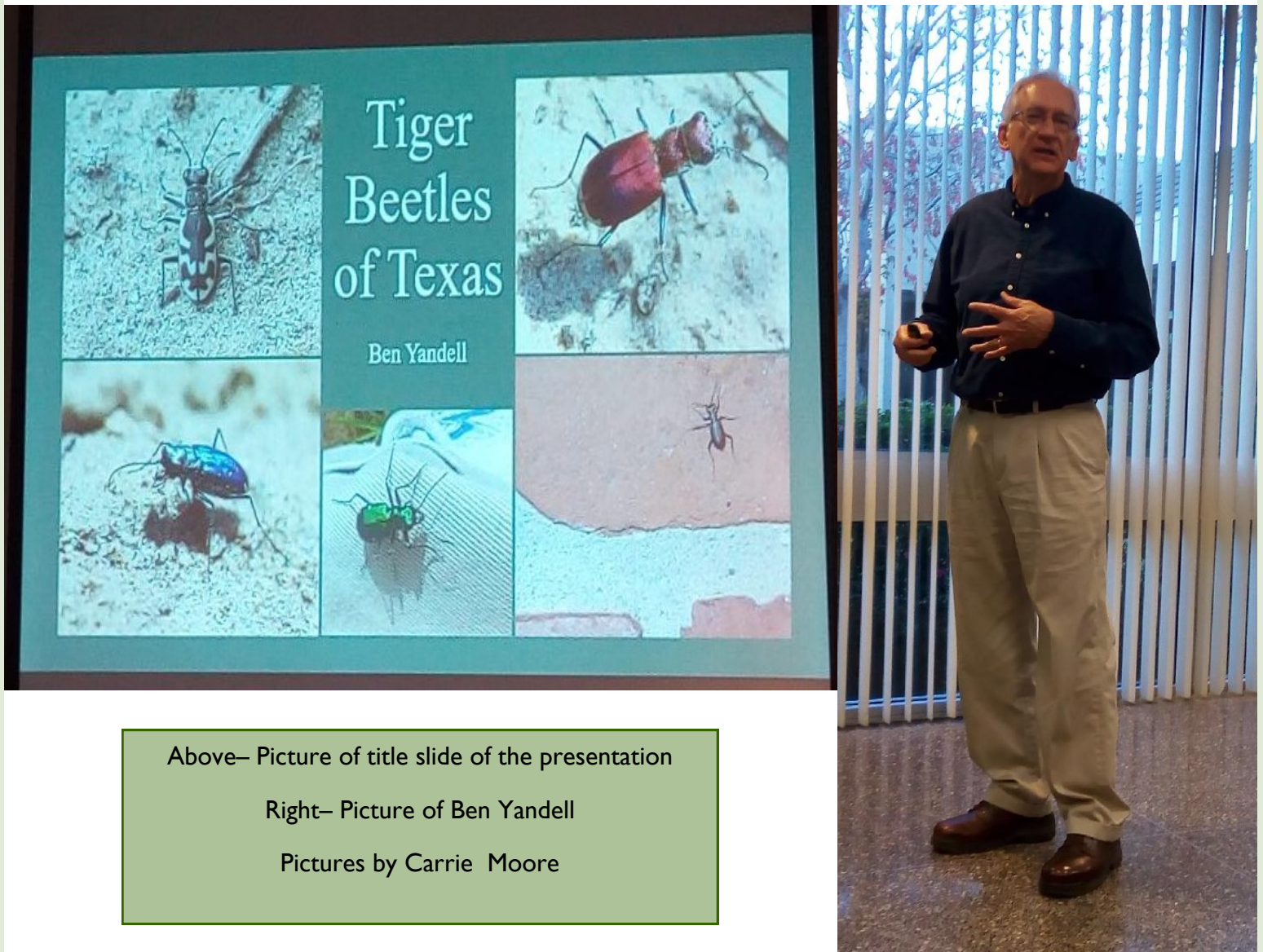


Tiger Beetles of Texas by Ben Yandell– Carrie Moore

On March 18, 2019 at our monthly CTMN group meeting, Ben Yandell amazed with his Tiger Beetles of Texas presentation.

We learned that this group of beetles are extremely fast, so fast that even with their amazing eyesight, they cannot see at those speeds. They have a stop and go approach to their movement, so that they can take in their surroundings. These beetles are found all over the world, except where it is too cold or that they cannot get to, like oceanic islands. Most of the habitat that the tiger beetles prefer is “flat, sparsely vegetated areas– especially moist or sandy areas”.

Mr. Yandell mentioned that this group of beetles are relatively easy to find and “distinctive enough to ID from photos”. If you would like to spend more time with Tiger Beetles, Mr. Yandell recommends, A Field Guide to the Tiger Beetles of the United States and Canada, by David L. Pearson. You can get it off Amazon for \$39.40 ([click here](#)).



Above– Picture of title slide of the presentation

Right– Picture of Ben Yandell

Pictures by Carrie Moore

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 L	2 N	3 A, O	4 B	5	6 B
7	8	9 M	10 A	11 B	12	13 B, E, F
14	15 G	16	17 A, C, D, H	18 B	19	20 B
21	22	23	24 A	25 B, I	26	27 B, J
28 K	29	30				

A- FWNC- Restorative Greenhouse from 9:30- 11:30 AM- this event is a reoccurring event every Wednesday

B- FWNC- National Guard- Outdoor Conservation from 9 AM to 12 PM- this event is a reoccurring event every Thursday and Saturday

C--Sierra Club Monthly Meeting, Fort Worth Botanical Garden, 6:30 pm. Please bring a pot luck dish. This counts for an advance hour of training. This is a reoccurring even every 3rd Wednesday of every month.

D- Urban Forestry Class and Field Trip

E-- Spring Nature Hike at Chisholm Trail Community Park from 9-10:30 am

F- Riesel Prairie Volunteer Day, 10-3 pm, near Merlin, Tx. Check out NPAT website

G- CTMN Group Meeting: Presenter David Owens on "Answer the question, "So what?" to create those "A-Ha!" moments! (The art of interpretation)".

H- Texas Aquatics Science Workshop, 10-3 pm, Bonham State Park, more info Danielle.Knapp-Smith@tpwd.texas.gov

I- Texas Aquatics Science Workshop, 10-3 pm, Meridian State Park, more info Danielle.Knapp-Smith@tpwd.texas.gov

J- City Nature Challenge at SWNP, check website for more details

K- BioBlitz/ Talk to a Naturalist, 2-5 pm, Chisholm Trail Community Park

L- CTMN Board Meeting

M- Student Day at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, 8:30-2:30, contact Colton Claborn at Cclaborn@swca.com

N- BRIT/FWBG Pollinator Pathway Planting Day, 9-Noon

O- Arlington Conservation Council Meeting, 7pm

LMWSP Event 29-31 Mar 2019**Friday 29 March 2019**

5pm- 7pm - hike led by Jeff Quayle

Supper - on your own

7:30. Cowboy poetry and music - Dining Hall
David Owens, Bill Collins and Judy Sheridan

Saturday 30 March 2019

8:00 - 10:00. Check in and registration - amphitheater
Coffee and donuts
Prepay for lunch. (\$10 for Subway lunch. Turkey, beef or veggie plus chips and tea)

10:00 - 12:00. Interpretive hike led by David Owens

10:00 - 1:00 guided hike led by Jeff Quayle

Noon - 1:00 lunch. - Sam and/or Brent iNaturalist review - amphitheater

1:00 - 4:00 guided hike led by Brent and/or Sam

Supper Join fellows naturalists at Mesquite Pit BarBCue in Minerals Wells

7:30 Sunset

8:30 Mothing at Amphitheater. Melinda and Sam

8:30 Star gazing at amphitheater parking lot - David Owens

Optional activities :

Pollinator garden maintenance at Park HQ meet with Cindy Crump to work Garden

Canoe and kayak rentals available at Concessionaire

Fishing or Swimming (brrrr!)