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Carrie Moore– newsletter

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Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

While I really like being outside, sometimes things have to be planned, organized, or researched using a computer or other inside mechanism. I enjoyed working on the Lake Mineral Wells State Park event, and hope the chapter chooses to do something similar every year. It was fun working with the state park staff and trying to figure out what might attract Master Naturalists. In the end, the weather didn't help, but all who went enjoyed the outing and would go again. According to Sam K., we logged somewhere between 150 and 200 species via iNaturalist. It is always a thrill to hear "Hey look at this, what is it?" And then talking about 'it', where else it might be found, and what different folks may know about that particular species. Look for info this fall about next year's special event.

In the meantime, get out there and be curious. This newsletter will come out after the big iNat weekend challenge, and I hope all of you participated in the challenge some way or another. Take pictures, take notes, and maybe write a short article about your experience with the challenge. Take somebody with you and open their eyes about Texas' incredible natural world. There is a lot more to Texas than bluebonnets.

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BRIT/FWBG Pollinator Pathway Planting Day– Avon Burton

On Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Tarrant County Master Gardeners, Texas Master Naturalists, and Native Plant Society members volunteered for the BRIT/FWBG Pollinator Pathway Planting Day, which is the Braided Pathway within the parking lot between the main Fort Worth Botanical Garden building and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) building.

Montana Williams from BRIT described the project: We are simply buzzing with excitement to plant native Texas species in our new Pollinator Pathway Garden. With your help this space will support our native pollinators by supplying them with food and shelter. This project will also help educate our visitors on the importance of pollinators in our urban ecosystem and give a visual reference for how we can create habitat for them in our own communities.

Picture collage created by Kim Conrow



This lovely flower is a sprawling perennial about 18 inches tall. The seed is very fine and should be scattered on prepared smooth soil in the fall. Sometimes it is not necessary to plant the seed; the wind or birds will do the job for you.

This very easy to grow plant is drought resistant, and will cover large areas with beautiful pink flowers waving in the breeze. It can be used as a ground cover in wild-flower gardens, and once planted it is there to stay.

This very widespread species can be found over a very large area of Texas. Evening primrose blooms from March through July, going dormant in summer.

Considered one of Texas' most beloved spring flowers together with Bluebonnet and Indian paintbrush, it presents a most stunning sight along Texas highways, prairies, meadows and woodland edges.



Close up view– Josephine Keeney



Landscaping with the plant- Josephine Keeney



Flowers- Josephine Keeney

Information on the TMN Photo, Art, and Media Contest– Kate Morgan

The Cross Timbers Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists is organizing the Photo, Art and Media Contest at the Annual Meeting of the Texas Master Naturalists in Rockwall, October 18 – 20, 2019. Wouldn't it be great if some of our chapter members were among the contest winners? North Texas spring is approaching its maximum beauty. Don't miss an opportunity to take that winning photo!

2019 Contest rules have not yet been announced, but last year's contest had 10 categories and this year will be similar. All entries must be the original work of and submitted by a Master Naturalist volunteer. Entries are limited to one per category per individual. Photos must be Texas-specific. Last year's categories were:

Photo Categories:

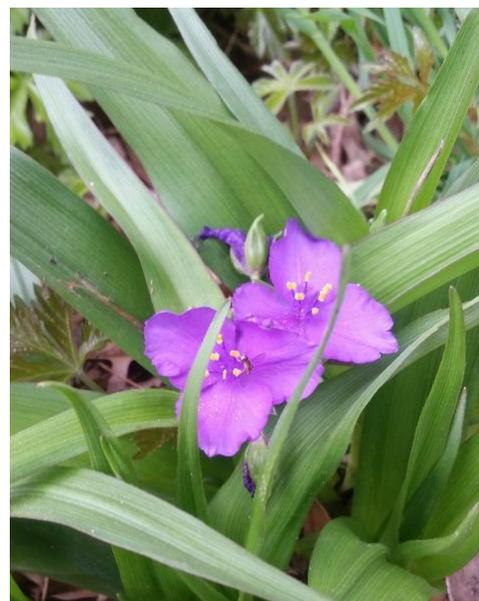
(1) Plant Life (w/no wildlife), (2) Wildlife, (3) Birds, (4) Scenic, and (5) Historical Photos of Chapter at work/play (i.e inaugural chapter class, charter members then and now, early projects in chapters' history)

Art Categories:

(1) drawings & paintings, (2) sculpture & carvings and (3) sewing and stitchery.

Media Categories:

(1) scrapbooks, (2) chapter newsletters and (3) chapter brochures



Spiderwort– picture by Kate Mor-

Walk on Wildside 2019– Carol Marcotte

For approximately the 10th year, the Molly Hollar Wildscape volunteers took 5th & 3rd graders from AISD & Merryhill School for a Walk on the Wildside. During the student's walk, they learned about the 4 ecosystems represented in the Wildscape, along with butterflies, soil, flowers, and how to make seed balls.

This year, while demonstrating the riparian ecosystem, two CTMN members, Dick Schoech and Jane Oosterhuis, discovered a snapping turtle in the creek. Of course, the children were elated to see it!

Look for the snapping turtle on your next walk on the wildside in Molly Hollar Wildscape.

Regular Wildscape Volunteer days:
Wednesdays and most first Saturdays - 9:00 - noon

Let me know if you have any questions
@ carol@carolshinsky.com

Pictures by
Carol
Marcotte

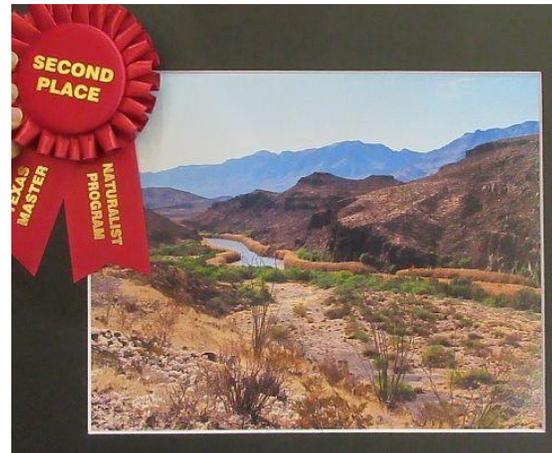


Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Snap Up Photo Contest—Carol Morcotte

At the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting in October, 2018, two of our CTMN members placed in the photo contest!

Kimberlie Sasan won 1st prize in the plant photo contest with "Star of Asclepias". Jenny Warren won 2nd place in the scenic photo contest with "Fluid Boundaries". They had well deserved smiles for the camera. Judge for yourself.

Next year, the Texas Naturalist Meeting will be in Rockwall, Oct 18-20, 2019. It was announced, the 2019 service pin will be the Golden Cheek Warbler.



Pictures by
Carol
Marcotte

1. When did you finish classes?

Interview by Carol Marcotte

2009

2. What is your passion, as a Master Naturalist? Do you have more than one passion?

My passion is plants and primarily trees identification educating others about trees and their value to us all. Secondly, I enjoy being outside; hiking, fishing and camping. Taking in whatever is there, plants, insects, birds, fishes, etc.

3. How & where do you get your 40 volunteer hours each year?

Most of my hours are accrued at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge greenhouse. We provide plants for multiple Fort Worth initiatives. Native Neighborhood (to help people understand the value of native plants). Storm Water Runoff protection (using native grasses to filter and slow down storm water runoff). Re-vegetating areas around the Nature Center.

4. What is your favorite field tool?

Walking stick, iPhone and binoculars and a big dose of curiosity.

5. Last time you were in the field, what did you learn?

Do you take notes? pictures? Probably learned or relearned a plant or two and yes I take pictures mainly for iNat.

6. Is there a website you like to visit?

Mostly Google to query about something I have found. What is it, What is it good for. Where else does it grow?

7. What do you like most about being the Cross Timbers President?

There are so many opportunities to learn and to teach others about the natural world. I try to use my position to encourage others to get out there and investigate. Be curious



Interview by Carol Marcotte

1. When did you finish classes?

Fall of 2017

2. What is your passion, as a Master Naturalist? Do you have more than one passion?

My greatest passion is enabling other Master Naturalists to expand *their* volunteer efforts. That includes training and recruiting other volunteers, helping volunteers form connections with people and organizations so that they can identify new volunteer opportunities, and setting up volunteer projects in a way that makes it easier for other volunteers to step in and continue something that I started.

3. How & where do you get your 40 volunteer hours each year?

First, my family would probably be shocked if I ever volunteered only 40 hours in a year. Second, my primary projects have been setting up a park docent program at Chisholm Trail Community Park, training hike leaders for the Red Waterfront Trail at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, and leading a refresh project for the pollinator garden at Lake Mineral Wells State Park.. However, I enjoy variety and I have a soft spot for native plants, so I have also volunteered for NPAT and BRIT. This year, I have contributed to my NPSOT chapter (Cross Timbers NPSOT, based in Parker County) by providing photos for use in a new chapter brochure and by organizing a chapter field trip. Lastly, some of my volunteer hours this year have been spent on my responsibilities as CTMN Vice President.

4. What is your favorite field tool?

Do you really think I would dare face Brent Franklin and Sam Kieschnick again if I responded with anything other than iNaturalist?! ;) ;) ;) However, I would also name my camera and my binoculars as important field tools.

5. Last time you were in the field, what did you learn? Do you take notes? pictures?

Sadly, the business of life has kept me from getting out into the field since mid-March when I went searching for tiger beetles with my family. On that day, I learned how to recognize likely tiger beetle habitat and how to spot tiger beetle larvae holes. I did take photos and video that day, some of which were used in Ben Yandell's talk on tiger beetles at the March CTMN chapter meeting.

6. Is there a website you like to visit?

For plants, my go-to websites are the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center's native plants database (<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>) and the USDA Plants Database (<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov>). For birds, I like Cornell Labs All About Birds (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>). For insects, I'm a fan of Bug Guide (<https://bugguide.net>). For any and all of the above, iNaturalist is also a great resource. I have also been known to use shot-in-the-dark Google searches entering search terms for what I see, what I hear, and where I am. I've had some decent luck identifying plants and animals that way when I'm not sure how else to start my search.

7. What do you like most about being the Cross Timbers Vice President?

I see it as another opportunity to empower other volunteers. I hope each chapter member will learn something from this year's presenters that helps increase their value -- and more importantly, their joy -- as Master Naturalist volunteers.



The brand new arbor at the Molly Hollar Wildscape was built by Eagle Scouts on 3/30/2019. The following pictures were provided by Joe Martinez, a fellow Cross Timbers Master Naturalist.



May CTMN Monthly Meeting– Kerry Newberry

Presenter's name: Robb Ramos

Presenter's title: Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration

Presentation name: The 10-year Range Development Plan: Stewardship and Training at Fort Hood

Presentation description for newsletter and meeting notice:

As naturalists, we are all familiar with environmental impact assessments and their relevance to protecting the wild places and species we love, but our presenter for the May 20th meeting will be able to provide a more personal view of the process than most of us will ever witness. Robb Ramos, an active member of the CTMN chapter, conducted a study of a planned expansion of firing ranges at Fort Hood military base.

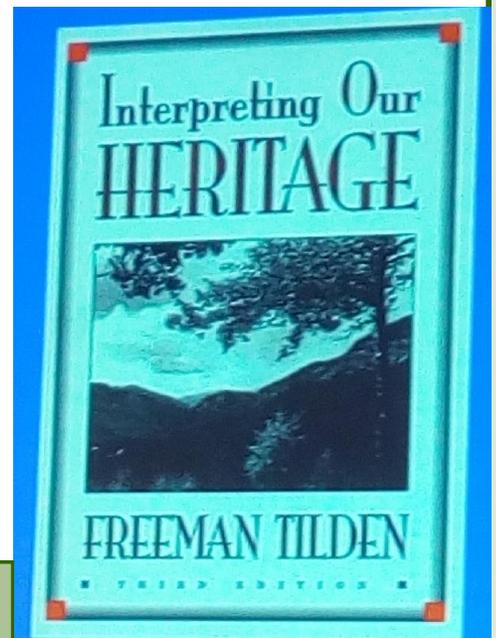
This assessment was required by the National Environmental Policy Act due to the variety of threatened, endangered, and vulnerable species that reside on the base's property, most notably the golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo. The research helped earn Robb his Master's degree from Texas A&M University in 2014, and he has offered to share his experience with his fellow CTMN chapter members.

April CTMN Monthly Meeting– Carrie Moore

Monday, April the 15th, we had our April CTMN monthly meeting. Our guest speaker was David Owens, a park superintendent III at Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trail way. He talked to us on how to create the "A-ha moments" . He mentioned that to engage your audience you need to make any presentation/ interpretation enjoyable, relevant, thematic, organized, and to serve a purpose. David suggested reading the book *Interpreting Our Heritage* by Freeman Tilden, you can purchase it from Amazon, [here](#), for \$23.44. He also mentioned a three day interpretation class for certification through the National Association for Interpretation.



Pictures by Carrie Moore



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 A	2 B	3	4 B, G, I
5 G	6 E	7 H	8 A	9 B, H	10	11 B
12	13	14	15 A, C	16 B, H	17	18 B
19	20 D, H	21 F, J	22 A, H	23 B	24	25 B
26	27	28	29 A	30 B	31	

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– CTMN Monthly Chapter Meeting

E– CTMN Board Meeting

F- Establishing and Maintaining Native Plants: Prairie Restorations and Pollinator Gardens, 7:00 pm , Please see www.swnp.org for more details

G- Texas Parks & Wildlife “Get Outside” at Mayfest , Follow this link for more info and to register: <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/1353/OppDetails/219046/2019-Get-Outside-at-Mayfest-in-Ft.-Worth/#.XFpip1xKhPZ>

H- Spring 2019 Field Investigation Day Volunteer Opportunities , https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeclePeJcY72Pt5j3AMy7FRJxMyTdcA3clufbbBWE_uQSuGw/viewform

I- Molly Hollar - Mini Class

J- Southwest Nature Preserve Program