

June 2019

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Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

Yesterday, the weather was summer, this morning it is spring like, goodness knows what tomorrow will bring. My favorite trails and paths are wet and muddy, and because of the recent rains, they are overgrown as well. Many of the trails at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge are under water, and are likely to stay that way for some time. Still, that is no excuse to not get out and go see what new plants are blooming, what butterflies have emerged, or what reptiles have ventured out of hiding. (How about the pictures of the alligator crossing the Eagle Mountain Dam? Seems they are looking for higher ground too.)

Speaking of weather, the weather for the iNaturalist city challenge was great. DFW came in 7th in the world wide competition with over 1000 observers out combing for something to report.

Something new for VMS reporting. The state office of TMN informed us that they will be strictly enforcing the 45 day rule. That means that the chapter members not only have 45 days to report their volunteer and advanced training hours, the chapter staff have to approve these hours within that same 45 day period. Please, Please get your hours in early (30 days would be great) to give our records people (Theresa Thomas and MaryBeth Lampe) time to approve your hours. We don't want to lose any hours due to time constraints.

Keep investigating and take someone with you!

Inside this issue:

Plant of the Month– Scarlett Sage 2

2nd Annual Chisholm Trail Bio Blitz 3

May CTMN Chapter Meeting Recap 4

June CTMN Chapter Meeting Preview 4

EarthX– Texas Native Cats 5

Get To Know Your CTMN Member– Lani Acker 6

Marshall Fox Tribute with Trinity Forks Plant Press Release Tribute 7-8

June Calendar 9

Plant of the Month– Scarlet Sage : Josephine Keeney

Scarlet Sage, Blood Sage, *Salvia coccinea*

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Sometimes, I wonder if there is a plant easier to grow than *Salvia coccinea*, or a plant that will give as much in return for so little effort. I find myself hard pressed to find a plant that can do a better job without much help at all.

This lovely native plant is indigenous to our area, and perennial in zones 8 and up, although sometimes the roots can freeze in the DFW if we have a very cold winter. It can be grown as an annual in colder climates.

This plant can reach a height of 3 feet, and continue growing and blooming, but it can benefit from trimming and cutting back to keep those flowers coming. Another good thing about it is, that you can keep it trimmed short and it will still bloom. I have cut some of mine down to three nodes from the ground with no problem. It can be grown in full sun and semi-shade, or even full shade, although you may not get many blooms in full shade.

As far as watering, it benefits from regular water if rain is not forthcoming, but it can withstand some dry periods.

Scarlet sage reseeds itself very vigorously, but it can also be propagated by tip cuttings, although you probably won't need to do cuttings after the first season or two. There are some cultivars in pink and white, but the original species is the red.

If you want a plant that blooms all year long from spring till frost this is the plant for you. On top of that the beautiful orange-red blooms attract bees, butterflies and hummers, making it one of the best plants to grow for pollinators in our area.



A Single Bloom– Josephine Keeney

A Large Plant- Josephine Keeney



Second Annual Chisholm Trail Community Park and Bio Blitz– Donna Honk Page 3

The Second Annual Chisholm Trail Community Park and Bio Blitz event on Sunday, April 28, 2019 was another successful event. Thank you to all of the volunteers for your hours of hard work in preparation for this event.

Thank you to the volunteers at the Outreach tables for the Fort Worth Native Prairie Association of Texas, the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist, and the North Central Chapter NPSOT.

Thank you to the volunteers that held positions and educated the public/participants at the Prairie Habitat, the Riparian Habitat, the Pond Habitat, the Citizen Science, and the iNaturalist stations.

The weather was great, the turnout was good, and we added quite a few observations to the 2019 Bio Blitz Challenge of this great Fort Worth Prairie at 4936 McPherson Blvd, Ft. Worth, TX 76123.

A special Thank You to Alexis C. (2019 CTMN) for being our fearless leader and keeping us organized.

To learn more about this wonderful Fort Worth Prairie, please visit:

[Chisholm Trail Park preserves Fort Worth prairie parcel](#)

Help us to keep the prairies intact for our future generations!!

We hope to see you next year!



Top Right– NPAT/NPSO,
Bottom Right– Zack, Bottom
Middle– Riparia Volunteers,
Middle Middle– CTCP Volen-
teers, Middle Left– Melinda
at the Pond Station.

May CTMN Chapter Meeting Overview– Carrie Moore

On May, 20, 2019, at our monthly chapter meeting, we were presented a presentation of Urban wildlife of the DFW Area by Chris Jackson. Mr. Jackson, as a hobby and a blogger, goes out to capture photographic and word of mouth evidence of various types of wildlife that are thriving in the urban landscape. I was very surprised at some of the shots of animals he was able to find. Most surprising to me were the river otters and minks. He posts his pictures on his blog, <http://dfwurbanwildlife.com/category/chris-jacksons-dfw-urban-wildlife/>. His photos are amazing, I highly encourage you all to go outside and look, and then, if you are inspired, go out and take some photos of your own.

Red Eared Sliders at the Botincal Garden Just Before the May Meeting– Carrie Moore



Below– Rare Mandarin Duck– Chris Jackson



Right– Chris Jackson– Carrie Moore



June CTMN Chapter Meeting Presentation—Kerry

Presenter’s name: Brent Franklin

Presenter’s title: Nature Photographer, iNaturalist Super User, and Past CTMN President

Presentation name: Here Be Dragons! Odonates of Southwest Nature Preserve

Nearly half of the recorded species of dragonflies and damselflies in Tarrant County have been observed at least once at Southwest Nature Preserve in Arlington, so it’s not surprising that the park is one of Brent Franklin’s favorite places for photographing them. After years of visiting the park, Brent has accumulated a treasure chest of beautiful photos, hints on where to look for which species within the park, and tips for how to photograph them. He will share this and more during our June 17th chapter meeting.



Desert Firetail Damselfly – Brent Franklin

Roseate Skimmer Dragonfly – Brent Frank-



Swift Setwing Dragonfly– Brent Franklin



EarthX bills itself as the world's largest environmental experience. The EarthX website says 175,000 people attended this year's expo, and it gets bigger every year. It was held April 26-28 at Dallas Fair Park. This was Texas Native Cats' third year, and we plan to return next year.

EarthX consists of expositions, education, conferences, and film. The producers explain its purpose as follows:

We are an international, nonprofit environmental forum whose purpose is to educate and inspire people to action towards a more sustainable future. We assemble and connect citizens, educators, students, businesses, nonprofits, and global leaders to explore sustainable solutions for today's most pressing challenges.

Texas Native Cats was one of 31 wildlife and land conservation organizations (there were many more conservation organizations under different headings) that were located in the Centennial Building: three days of enlightening people about our amazing wild cat diversity, their habitats, and the threats they face.

Texas wild cats, like most wildlife, suffer from habitat fragmentation and loss, and human encroachment. This is especially true of ocelots. In the case of bobcats and mountain lions, they have no protection in Texas, yet mountain lions are classified as 'imperiled' by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Jaguars were extirpated from the state nearly 100 years ago, and jaguarundis may face the same fate.

What can you, as Master Naturalists, do about this situation? Come to our monthly meetings, participate in outreach events where you can inform people about the cats' situation, educate yourselves about them and the benefits they provide to nature, *spread the word*. Be an advocate for the cats.

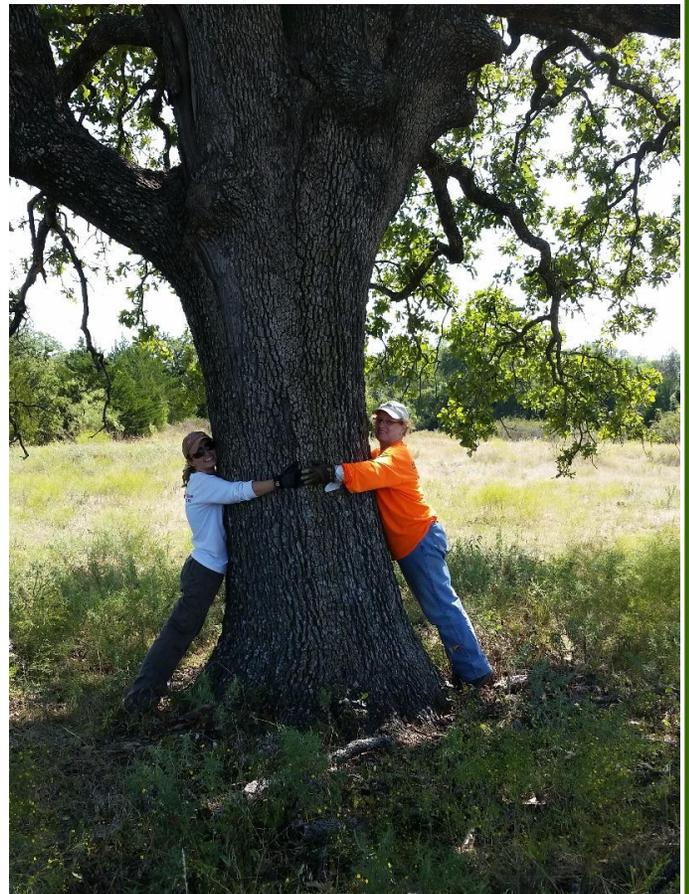
Positive change will come for the cats, but only if people become informed about the perils facing our wild felines and speak up on their behalf.

You can get more information at www.texasnativecats.org



Donna at EarthX–
Native Texas Cats 2019

1. 1. When did you finish TMN classes?
Graduated January 2016
2. What is your passion, as a Master Naturalist? Do you have more than one passion?
I have been drawn to the Fort Worth Nature Center since I moved to Texas. I have volunteered there as Natural Guard since 2005. I stopped in mid 2018 due to injury but I am working to get back there.
3. How & where do you get your 40 volunteer hours each year?
Fort Worth Nature Center.
4. What is your favorite field tool?
Camera - so I can have reminders of everything I have seen.
5. Last time you were in the field, what did you learn? Do you take notes? pictures?
Notes, pictures and knowledge of moths. I won't do that again though. They move to fast.
6. Is there a website you like to visit?
I avoid getting attached more to a computer. Let me outside.
7. What do you like most about being the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Treasurer?
Seeing how easily people will pay dues without we have to bug them.
8. Tell us about your background.
I am a paralegal with over 30 years of my career spent working in the field of bankruptcy. I grew up in the country on a lake where there was 4 seasons. When I was 14 we moved to a city half a country away. I have one son, one daughter-in-law and two grandbabies.
9. What other organizations are you involved with?
Fort Worth Police Department, CodeBlue. Summerfields Neighborhood Association.
10. What is most rewarding about being a Master Naturalist?
Helping to teach others about nature and the need for protection is fulfilling. Encouraging others to protect nature is a hard job and fought by many people who don't want to hear. Watching children I have influenced perform any act of protection or displaying their knowledge to other kids is spectacular.



Marshall Fox Tribute, Including Trinity Forks Native Plant Press Release- Fonda Fox

Marshall Fox took the Master Naturalist training in 1999. He missed a field trip and didn't graduate until 2000. He qualified for the Gold Dragonfly (1000 hours of volunteer service) in 2013 and received the award in 2014. He had over 500 hours of volunteer time at the Ft. Worth Nature Center and Refuge, his favorite place to volunteer. After he retired in 2012 he had more time to volunteer. At his passing he had accumulated 2,287.37 hours of volunteer service.

Remembering Marshall Fox

Our dear friend Marshall Fox died on April 20. His cheerful, uplifting spirit and dedicated service to several north Texas organizations will be sorely missed by many.

Here are tributes offered by several friends:

From Mike Mizell

The single word that comes to mind to describe Marshall would be exuberant.

His years of service in the Navy were understandably a very important part of his life. He had the opportunity to sail all over the world on the oceans blue. One of his early shipmates aboard the USS Kitty Hawk spoke of Marshall's exuberance and camaraderie ... and constant chatter.

He had a smile and a kind word for everyone – that's a great characteristic to have.

We all know about his deep love for nature (primarily birds and wildflowers) and his enthusiasm for sharing information about the natural world with everyone. I remember his delight in showing people the bonnet in the Bluebonnet. It is no surprise that he loved being a Master Naturalist and volunteer at the Ft. Worth Nature Center.

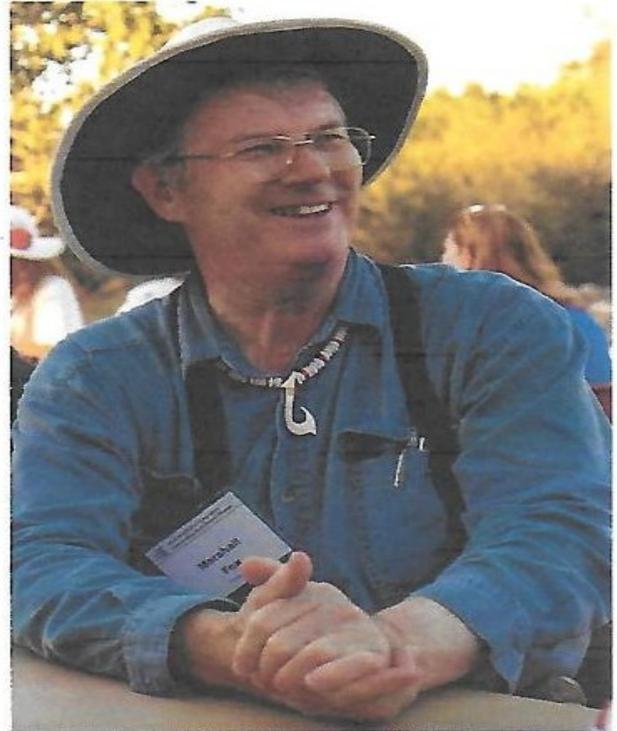
The exuberant display of wildflowers along the highway between Denton and Decatur as I went to his memorial service spoke to me of Marshall.

Many of you probably didn't know that Marshall and Fonda loved to dance – many kinds of dancing – square dancing, ballroom dancing, push, polka, and Scottish Country dancing. He was quite good ... and, need I say, exuberant!

We will be remembered by the tracks we leave behind. Marshall left many deep and indelible tracks. His service and enthusiasm made a big impact on Trinity Forks chapter.

Marshall's ship is anchored in God's Harbor now, but we still on earth will miss his cheerful (and exuberant) presence.

Photo by Alan Lusk, taken at 2016 NPSOT Symposium in Glen Rose →



From Becca Dickstein

My husband Lon Turnbull and I have known Marshall and Fonda Fox from the time we joined NPSOT, not long after we moved to Denton in 2000. We've known both of them as steadfast friends, with similar interests in native plants, birding, dancing, and for Fonda and me, beading. We treasured our friendship with the Foxes and are heartbroken at losing Marshall. He was a great, kind, compassionate and supportive friend, with a well-honed sense of decency, caring and responsibility.

Marshall and Fonda did a lot of things together. In addition to being husband and wife, they were best friends. I think that everyone who knew them could see that in an instant. They traveled a lot, especially to go birdwatching. Lon and I were always hearing about their latest adventures and their trips to South Texas, Hawaii and other places to see birds and other wildlife. Locally, Marshall led birding walks that were memorable for Lon and me at the Ft. Worth Nature Center, where he was an active volunteer, and at the LBJ Grasslands. Marshall and Fonda's garden in Decatur has lots of bird feeders and native plants to encourage the birds and they were always on the lookout for birds.

Marshall was a member of the Denton Celtic Dancers, as are Fonda, Lon and I. Although he was a big man, Marshall was very light on his feet. Marshall was an avid ballroom dancer and square dancer as well. He and Fonda had great moves – it was such a pleasure to see them dance! And although we're used to seeing Marshall and Fonda in their matching Tilley hats and dressed like normal people, there are a lot of photos of the two of them dressed to the nines in ballroom dance clothes for formal events like the Ft. Worth Military Ball. We've had the pleasure of several "Dancing with the Stars" demonstrations from them.

Marshall was a tremendous resource of information about native Texas plants. Lon and I learned a great deal from him. Marshall has had an outsized positive influence on our Trinity Forks chapter, serving as President for a number of years and as an exceptionally active volunteer. He and Fonda gave generously of their time and money to ensure the success of our chapter.

At the plant sales, who can forget Marshall and his megaphone? In my mind, I can still hear him saying through the megaphone, "Get your native plants here, Get your native plants here." He was the model for helping customers find a plant to suit their needs.

Lon remembers one Native plant sale on the Courthouse lawn on the Denton Square when it was cold and windy at a Redbud Day event. Money from the cashbox got caught up in the wind and started blowing away. Marshall had his megaphone out and alerted people to catch it as he and Lon ran around retrieving the money.

It was obvious that Marshall loved Fonda. He loved doing things with her, being with her, and talking about all the ways he was proud of her. All the way to the end, what he was worried about was whether Fonda would be OK after he was gone.

Marshall, you've left us too soon! – it hasn't really sunk in yet that you are gone. We miss you and we will ALWAYS remember you.

Marshall Fox Tribute, Including Trinity Forks Native Plant Press Release- Fonda Fox

you.

From Liz & Pat Moyer

Marshall was a big presence in Trinity Forks in so many ways. He was always friendly and ready to meet new people; he was one of the first people we met here, and not just because he was manning the snack table! His enthusiasm set the tone for the whole organization. He always seemed to be so happy, and his knowledge of the natural world was really impressive. He was generous to a fault, sponsoring a matching gift for North Texas Giving Day, purchasing and storing equipment for the Plant Sale, and always ready to lend a hand. We'll miss his ready laugh and sharing of ideas.

Continued on next page.

3

From Marilyn Blanton

I would like to pay tribute to Marshall as a friend and someone that gave so much to our chapter. Everyone has their special memories of Marshall. He will be remembered fondly and greatly missed. He was always kind, generous and ready to help and share his love of nature with others. Marilyn made this comment relating to the photo here from the Art Exhibition Appreciation Reception: "Marshall loved seeing the art and greeting the kids and their parents. He met everyone with a smile."

From Suzanne Tuttle, retired Manager at the Ft. Worth Nature Ctr.

NOTE: Marshall volunteered as a docent for many years at the FWNC. Fonda commented on how he loved leading nature hikes for children.

A few weeks before his passing I asked Marshall how he got interested in birding and studying nature in general. He told me that he became curious about the birds he would see while walking his mail carrier route each day. It led him to finding the local Audubon group in Decatur, who were happy to take a novice under their wings. His experience reinforced my already strong belief in the importance of nurturing a welcoming, inclusive fellowship of education about, and appreciation for, the natural world. Thank you, Marshall, for teaching me one final lesson.

Tribute by Michael Francis, Pres. of FW Audubon Society, published in their May newsletter

In Memory of Marshall Fox, a Super Volunteer

FWAS and the greater North Texas conservation community lost a great friend on April 20 of this year. Marshall was known to so many, an example being that he was a familiar face at the Fort Worth Nature Center as a volunteer docent.

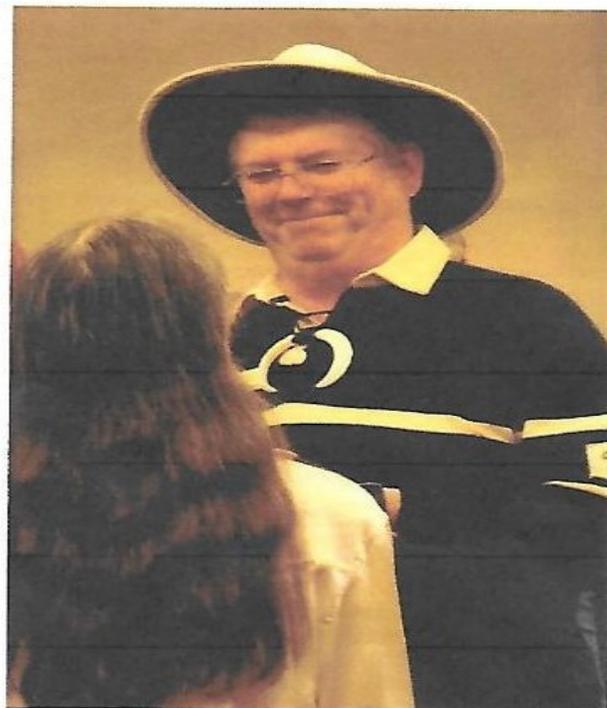
His personality was infectious – you could not help but be in a good mood around him, with his extroverted personality and focus on helping everyone around him and sharing his knowledge so freely as he did. I cannot think of better qualities in a volunteer than that.

Marshall's wife, Fonda, sent me a thank-you card in response to a sympathy card I had mailed her. Her response was one of the most poignant notes I've ever read. In it she related how they were both members of the Denton Celtic Dancers, doing Scottish County Dancing, and that he only tolerated it for her. However, he loved ballroom dancing with her. In fact, they met at a square dance in Paradise, TX back in 1981.

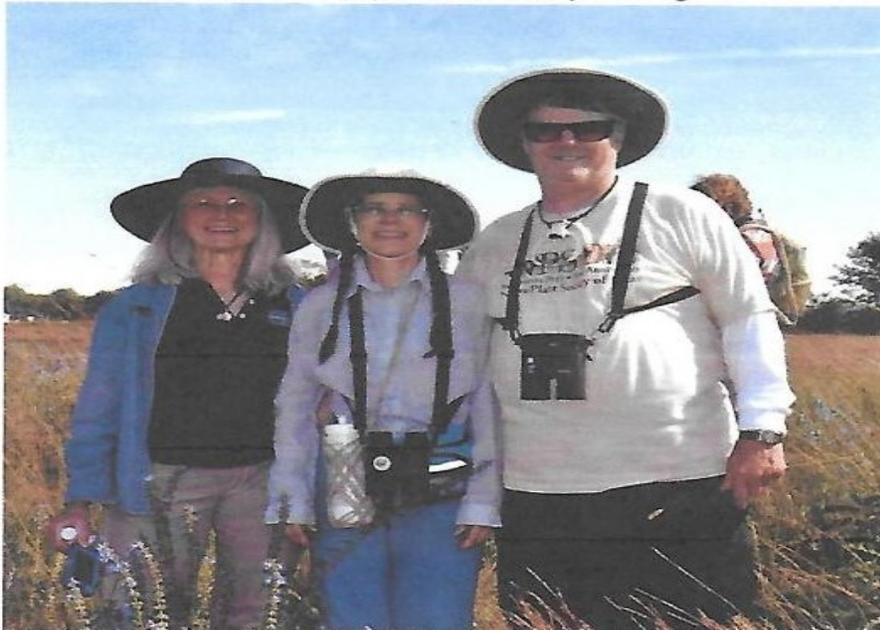
According to his wife Fonda, the Painted Bunting was one of his favorite birds and they were lucky to count this species as a backyard bird at their home in Decatur. Even in his last months, Marshall was volunteering and helping the birding world and conservation science in general. He spent 18 hours over 4 days by his kitchen window counting birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count and getting volunteer hours for the Master Naturalists. In the process, he and Fonda got a new yard bird, a Red-breasted Nuthatch. They also had several Purple Finches for the first time in decades.

Fonda also related how Marshall loved helping FWAS out with our Christmas and Spring Bird Counts. I was lucky enough to have both of them assist me in one area of the FWAS CBC count circle for several years. There were a couple of years when Marshall's health kept him from participating, but Fonda would still show-up to assist, and she was with me the year I got my car stuck in the mud on the Murrin Ranch.

In addition to being a Master Naturalist and volunteering for FWAS and the Nature Center, Marshall was a very active member of the Native Plant Soc. We were all very lucky organizations to have had him around, believe me. We miss you already, Marshall – we really do!



*Marshall & Fonda at the 2015 TX Native Plant Art Exhibition Appreciation Reception
Photo by Marilyn Blanton*



*Marshall & Fonda with Lisa Euchner on a prairie tour at the 2014 NPSOT Symposium in Texarkana – Photo by Marilyn Blanton
(Note: Marshall loved the bear-claw necklace worn in these 2 photos)*

June 2019

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

E– Citizen Urban Forestry Class

F– Juneteenth Celebration @ Mexia, Texas Parks and Wildlife, get more info <https://tpwd.samaritan.com/recruiter/1353/OppDetails/219368/2019-Juneteenth-Celebration-Mexia/#.XNxcgchKhaQ>

G– Molly Hollar Volunteer and Mini Class, from 10:30-11 am .

H– BRIT Water Saving Seminar from 6-8 pm

I– North American Prairie Conference at the University of Houston