

July 2019

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Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

The board has received lots of inquiries about the upcoming Master Naturalist class that begins in August. By the way, if you have friends who are interested, please have them enroll early, I suspect this class will fill before the cutoff date. The application is available online at ctmn.org.

How much of Mother Nature is too much? Never happen you say? I know rain is a necessity and I always enjoy the benefits in wildflowers (this year has been one of best), vegetables from the garden (yum), and the bounty of pollinators and other critters. I dislike mowing, and because of the extra rain, I have mowed more already than I do most years. As for undergrowth; I keep a path cleared around our property and it usually takes no more than a mowing to keep it open. Not this year, I have been out with loppers and shears to make the path passable. And, like many articles already published, poison ivy likes rain as much or more than other native plants. However, I will always take what Mother Nature has to offer and deal with it.

Speaking of dealing with it, summer officially starts on the 21st of June which means hot muggy days and nights. Learn to deal with the heat by staying hydrated and staying cool as possible (hats, shade cloths, etc). Don't overdo on the heat, the consequences can be severe. Get out early when it is cooler.

Thanks for all the well wishes concerning my knee replacement surgery. I am doing better every day, and I am hoping to be back walking and hiking by the end of summer.

Keep enjoying the out of doors and take someone with you.

Plant of the Month– False Indigo Bush : Josephine

False Indigo Bush, *Amorpha fruticosa*
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

This deciduous woody shrub can reach 6-10 feet high, with a very open crown. Most of the compound leaves grow at the top third of the branches, giving the plant a very open and airy look. The flowers are gorgeous spikes of tiny purple and yellow flowers that attract bees, butterflies and many other insects by the hundreds. False indigo Bush is not picky about soils, and although it likes to grow beside stream and pond edges, it can also grow in open woods, roadsides and canyons.

The plants I have grown have done well in my garden with regular watering and no extra care. I do recommend pruning the tips of the branches in the winter to encourage heavier bloom. This plant is indigenous to North Central Texas, and it is very easy to propagate by seed. This is a great pollinator plant and if that wasn't enough, this shrub is also larval host to many butterflies, skippers and moths, including the Southern Dogface, Gray hairstreak, Silver Spotted Skipper and the Io Moth

Mature Plant- Josephine Keeney



Dogface Butterfly- Josephine Keeney

Io Butterfly- Josephine Keeney



Young Plant- Josephine Keeney



Silver Spotted Skipper- Josephine

June CTMN Chapter Meeting Overview– Carrie Moore

If you missed our chapter meeting on June 17, you missed one of our own, Brent Franklin, wowing us with his presentation, “Here There Be Dragons! Odonates of Southwest Nature Preserve.”. In his presentation, Brent had many photos of dragonflies and damselflies. Reminding us that dragonflies (mostly) have wings that lay out to the side like an airplane when they land, and are hearty fliers. While damselflies (mostly) lay their wings back behind them when they land, and are slow, dainty fliers. He also gave some advice for would be photographers of the dragonflies and damselflies. You should get a camera where you can change the F stop to a higher depth of field, and/or the shutter speed to a much shorter time (a higher denominator shutter speed, to learn more on f/stop and shutter speed click [here](#)).



July CTMN Chapter Meeting Presentation—Kerry Newberry

Meeting Date: July 15th

Presentation Topic: George W. Shannon Wetland Water Reuse Project

Presenter: Darrel Andrews, Assistant Director of the Environmental Division at Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD)

Can a change to the environment made to accommodate the rapidly growing human population also benefit wildlife? Our presenter for the July 15th meeting would answer, “Yes!”. Darrel Andrews— Assistant Director of the Environmental Division at Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD)—will tell the story of George W. Shannon Wetland Water Reuse Project. He will explain how over 2,000 acres of man-made wetlands can provide homes and migratory stopovers for hundreds of native wildlife species, while cleaning 90 million gallons of water a day for TRWD's service area.

I was in the Class of 2014.

I am passionate about iNat and I absolutely love participating in Bioblitzes and data collection. Being a board member is also very special because it allows me to serve the organization in a very direct way. This chapter is such a special group of people and the Master Naturalist program has meant so much to me. I am honored to be able to give back. I am also passionate about instilling the value of volunteering in my son, who accompanies me often when the activity I am participating in is suitable. He has grown up in this organization and I hope that his love of volunteering is a lasting one.

Most of my hours each year come from my duties as Education Coordinator. I spend a lot of time working with FWNC staff planning and facilitating the training classes each year and spend a lot of time replying to emails from those interested in taking the training course. I also am active in bluebird nest box monitoring at Tierra Verde. In addition to these duties, I enjoy participating in volunteer activities at various organizations, including helping with outreach, Bioblitzes and special events.

I really love working in the role of Education Chair. It is always fun meeting the new class members and helping them get started on their Master Naturalist journey. It is encouraging to see that there are so many people out there who want to give back to nature and learn more about the local environment. I also have a lot of fun attending the classes and field trips each year. I feel so fortunate to be in this position and I am so grateful for having this opportunity.

I was born and raised in Ft Worth and grew up being passionate about nature and spending a lot of time outside at places like the Ft Worth Nature Center. I graduated from UNT with a degree in Geography and attended UTA for grad school. I love road trips, camping, hiking and hanging a sheet and putting up a moth light whenever possible. I am a Utility Designer at Oncor, where I have been for 22 years now. I now live in Somervell Co with my husband, Kevin (Class of 2015) who is a TPWD park ranger and my Son Zane, who is starting 2nd grade in August. We are starting work on making adobe bricks to build our own green, off the grid home on our land in Somervell County. In my spare time I love spending time with my husband and son, going to movies, and working on our property.

I'm not actually a current member of any other organizations, but I do attend meetings of other organizations such as NPSOT and NPAT whenever I can.



1. When did you finish TMN classes?

I am member of the class of 2006. Due to job responsibilities, I was inactive for several years. I knew I would come back, and I returned to the fold in 2017.

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

My passion is to instill a love for the natural world and its inhabitants with kids and adults.

Additionally, I eagerly learn about the myriad ways that creatures survive and thrive in our diverse Texas habitats.

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

Although I retired from full-time teaching, I enjoy working with kids for Texas Wildlife Association. Kids learn so much outdoors during their Field Investigation Days, collecting macroinvertebrates, playing Run for Your Life, testing water chemistry, and performing a necropsy of a pen-raised bob white quail. Special benefits of this work include the absence of grading, faculty meetings, and administrators.

4. What is your favorite field tool?

The magnifying glass and the microscope. The tiniest structures in plants and animals are so amazing!

5. What other organizations are you involved with?

I work with the Texas Association of Biology Teachers. A fun and active group of working and retired teachers, TABT provides professional development and advocacy for Texas teachers. We have the best summer trips, er, nature travel. If you would like to join the TABT group traveling to Costa Rica June 28-July 8, 2020, download the brochure from this website: <https://tabt.us/index.html>. Not a member? Become one for \$11 and you are eligible for the trip. Contact Alton Biggs (altonb@ix.netcom.com) with additional questions.

6. What is most rewarding about being a Master Naturalist?

Hanging out with other Nature Nerds. Learning and teaching. Preserving and restoring habitats for the creatures that live in them and for our grandchildren to know them. Seeing success stories, like that of the brown pelican.

7. How did you learn about Texas Master Naturalist?

My friend and colleague, Perri Carr, became a Master Naturalist and told me I would love it. I do!



July 2019

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

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

G– BRIT Water Saving Seminar from 6-8 pm