

February to March 2019

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# Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

## *President's Pen* — Bill Collins

First newsletter in a long time

A big thank you to Carrie Moore for taking on the newsletter for our chapter.

We just finished our chapter awards ceremony and had a very good turnout. It is very rewarding for me to see the number of volunteers in our program and the number of hours they put in each year. Congratulations to you all.

CTMN event at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Plans have been made and details are being filled in for our chapter event 29-31 March. Please make plans to attend. This is primarily a social get together, but you know you like to walk around and look at stuff, and David Owens (assistant Park Superintendent) will be teaching us about TPWD criteria for interpretation. At the March meeting (March 18) we will have details and ask for a head count of those who plan to attend.

As I am sure you have noticed by the increased number of emails from Jana Hill that spring is near. Lots of events are being planned. No you can't make them all, but make as many as possible and help support the "natural" community.

Kerry Newberry, our new VP has put together an impressive list of speakers for the near future. Come out to the meetings (still the 3rd Monday) and still at the Botanic Gardens. I personally have not given much thought about Tiger Beetles but have heard that our March speaker is able to share his passion for them enthusiastically. Not to be missed.

TMN state meeting this year will be held in Rockwall the weekend of October 18th. Make plans to attend. More details as they become available.

Bill Collins, President Cross Timbers Master Naturalists

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## Guidelines to submitting articles and pictures– Carrie Moore



**Gayfeather—  
Carrie Moore, Fort  
Worth Nature**

Due to the fact that Cross Timbers Master Naturalist chapter does not want to be sued, again, for plagiarism, we offer the following guidelines to prevent plagiarizing in your writings or pictures.

1. Any article sent in should be written by the submitter.
2. Articles should be within 100-1500 words. This is more for the fact it will be put into a newsletter, than plagiarism.
3. You need to site your sources. Anything that you include in your article that you had to do research on should be sited.

-If you are using a direct quote, "quotation marks" need to be about the words. See below:

Taylor (2019) wrote, "When you introduce a pertinent argument or piece of data from another scholar, incorporate it into your essay by citing the author and date. If, for example, you're quoting facts from a journal publication, you may say, "Francis (2009) found that, 'the animals exhibited exceptionally human-like behaviors.'"<sup>[1]</sup>" (1).

Here I quoted a website that is showing people how to quote an author on a scholarly subject.

Within the quote is another quote by my source, showing how to properly quote. The three at the end of Taylor's quote is to show what number the reference is from on his reference page. I used the number 1, as this is my first reference.

-If you are paraphrasing, which is where you summarize what you read and/ or rephrase what you read, you still need to include the author and the date. See below:

Taylor says you need to include the author's last name, the date the writing was published, and the page number, if applicable, of what you are paraphrasing from (2019) (1).

4. You will need to include any sources you used at the end of your writing. It should include author's name, date published, and the name of the book/ website link at the very least. See below:

(1) Christopher Taylor, 2019, <https://www.wikihow.com/Put-a-Quote-in-an-Essay> . This is also the website that I used for the above quote and paraphrasing, you can go look at the website if you would like a more comprehensive look at putting quotes in your writing.

5. If you send in a picture, either your own or one found, you need to include the following information:

-The name of the photographer, what is in the picture, where it was taken, and when it was taken. The bare minimum for a picture is who took it and when.

Sources: (1) Christopher Taylor, 2019, <https://www.wikihow.com/Put-a-Quote-in-an-Essay>

**Rough Green Snake, Molly Hollar Wild-  
scape, Arlington, October by Carrie Moore**



## The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Welcomes You! -John MacFarlane Page 3

Founded by John Muir in 1892 to protect the Sierra Nevada range, the Sierra Club is the oldest, most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. With over 3.5 million members, we fight for clean air, clean water, and social justice. We also love the outdoors. We encourage our members to get outside and go camping, hiking, climbing, rafting and canoeing. As part of the national Club, the Greater Fort Worth group has over 2,000 local members in 15 counties.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Our monthly speakers present on a diverse range of topics, such as climate change, the best places to tent camp in Texas, water conservation and xeriscaping, rhino conservation in South Africa, and about local wildlife like raptors, bats, bees and reptiles. Master Naturalists can usually earn an hour of Advanced Training at our meetings. Check out our schedule on [Meetup](#), where we have almost 3,000 members.

We also like to get outside, just as Master Naturalists do. We lead outings such as hikes to the Fort Worth Nature Center and camping at local state parks and even to Davis Mountains State Park and Big Bend National Park in far west Texas. We also like to go canoeing and kayaking on local waterways and lakes. We advocate for environmental policy, both locally and statewide. We are currently working with our local state senators and representatives to ensure that our newest state park, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, is fully funded so it can open to the public. We have led several hikes and one campout to the park, which is only open to groups by special permission. We would love for you, as a Master Naturalist, to join us at our next meeting, outing, or event. You can find out more about us on [Facebook](#), [Meetup](#), and our [website](#).



red-shouldered hawk,  
Blackland Prairie—John  
MacFarlane

## Have you seen a sick or dead turtle? - Rachel Richter

Texas Parks and Wildlife staff have been monitoring an ongoing turtle mortality event at two adjacent locations in Fort Worth since late November. Recently, we were made aware of two other locations with sick turtles in Southeast Texas. Multiple samples have been sent to the National Wildlife Health Center and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab. Complete test results are pending.

We are concerned that there may be sick turtles elsewhere in the North Texas area that we don't know about and we'd like to request your help in monitoring local turtle populations. Please keep an eye out for dead or sick turtles. Sick turtles may exhibit the following signs:

- Extreme lethargy and reluctance to move when approached
- Swollen or sunken looking eyes that do not open
- Inability to submerge
- Nasal discharge
- Blisters on the skin

If you find dead or sick turtles, please contact Rachel Richter at [rachel.richter@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:rachel.richter@tpwd.texas.gov). A description of what you saw, the number of turtles impacted, pictures, and the location would be useful.

## Restore with Privet-aid by Laura Penn

Do you hate invasive Privet, Ligustrum species? Yes, so do we. But, we are NOT asking you to do the back breaking work of wrenching up Privet roots or cutting it down. We are making Privet work for us in restoration. Please read on..

Clipart– Microsoft Publisher



Got lemons, make lemonade. Absolutely! We say, 'Got Privet, make Privet-aid'. What is Privet-aid? Discarded Privet limbs and branches bundled and staked into an erosion control barrier, installed along creek shores to reduce soil loss from erosion.

The staff of the Tarrant County Resource Connection, the land manager for Stella Rowan Prairie, has agreed to participate in restoration of the disturbance zone. Whereas the City of Fort Worth removed invasive Privet from their water line easement, Tarrant County staff will work cutting down additional privet (as their schedules allow) that is immediately adjacent to the area. Their important work will reduce

Privet seeds from raining down, re-invading the restoration area. So, what to do with all that invasive privet they will be cutting down? Make Privet-aid!

This restoration project will be taking Privet that has already been cut down and to use it for erosion control. We need your helping hands to stack already cut limbs and to secure them down with stakes and twine, so they do not wash downstream in a future heavy rainfall period. There are a few different methods for using cut brush for erosion control and we are interested in experimenting to see what works.

Because Privet branches do not have a wide diameter, they are not too heavy for most people to stack into bundles. So after a short introductory session, just about anyone can do one of the methods to help. It's like playing with life size Lincoln Logs, with the added benefit that we are putting cut privet to work for us! That just feels good! By using already cut Privet, we are keeping that Privet from possibly being burned, which would release more carbon into the atmosphere, and we are keeping it out of the landfill. The Privet-aids will help keep native soil on site, which will enable native grasses and wildflower to eventually grow and hold the soil.

So many things to love about this restoration project:

- +Invasive Privet being cut down by a helpful land manager
- + Turning invasive privet limbs and branches into a tool for restoration
- + Reducing the effect of cut brush on our environment, allowing it to slowly decompose on site
- + Retaining native soil for grasses and wildflowers to grow
- + Fostering an environment for the return of native plants
- = Long term goal: Recreating native habitat

We hope you are as enthusiastic about this project as we are! Please join us on **Saturday, March 30, 2019 10 am - 2pm** making Privet-aids. If potted plants are ready, we may also do some transplanting of native plants to stabilize the soil. So save the date and watch for additional information on Facebook.

To learn more about Stella Rowan Prairie, a ~ 125 acre native remnant prairie, please contact Laura Penn [Lgnpenn@gmail.com](mailto:Lgnpenn@gmail.com)

## Flower of the Month: Coralberry- Josephine Keeney

Coralberry, *Symphoricarposorbiculatus* Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family )

What a lovely and adaptable shrub Coralberry is!!

Its native habitat is greatly varied and its range is very widespread, covering the Eastern U.S. from New York to Texas. It can grow in thickets, open woodlands, river banks, and many other places, but here in North Central Texas it prefers the Post Oak woodlands and Savannas.

The average height is one to three feet, but it can reach six feet under favorable conditions. It prefers part-shade but can live in full shade and is not picky about soil, being able to grow well in sand, loam, or clay. It does not require much water to be happy, and is able thrive with minimum watering or just rainfall.

Although this shrub is deciduous, it is almost evergreen as it loses its leaves late in the season and greens up early in the spring with lovely lime green leaves.

The flowers are inconspicuous and the most outstanding feature are the berries which hang in there through the fall and winter. That is of course if the song-birds, ground birds, small mammals, and browsers who use this plant for food, let them last that long.



Leaf and Fruit of Coral berry— Josephine Keeney



New Leaf- Josephine Keeney

This shrub makes an excellent plant around the home foundation and can be used to replace the invasive Nandina. Used as a ground cover it also presents a very lovely sight when planted in a natural setting.



Landscaping—Josephine Keeney



Mature Leaf- Josephine Keeney

Making seedballs is the bomb! On January 26, 2019 volunteers came together from many different organizations: Native Prairies Association of Texas - Fort Worth chapter, TCC NW Campus Horticulture Club, TCC South Campus Biology students, Cross Timbers Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Native Plant Society of Texas - North Central chapter, and the general public. Led by Jarratt Willis of The Great Seed Bomb, approximately 70 people joined together and made an estimated 4,000+ seedballs. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Seeds were collected locally (with permission) from Stella Rowan Prairie, a native remnant prairie, by volunteers Barbara Fleischman, Jan Miller, Suzanne Tuttle, Bill Freiheit and Laura Penn. They focused collecting native grass and wildflower species growing in seeps and creek banks, in conditions similar to where the seed balls will be dispersed. The seed balls are part of a multi phase project to help a portion of Stella Rowan Prairie recover after being stripped of vegetation. We call this area "the disturbance zone".

We hope that the stewards who live upstream from us are conscientious in the treatment of fresh water we share, so as to not pollute what we drink. Thus the City of Fort Worth needed to do maintenance work on the City's sewer pipeline located in their easement that runs along side one of the creeks running through Stella Rowan Prairie. This waterway feeds into Sycamore Creek, which feeds into the Trinity River, a source of drinking water. To gain access to the pipeline, a lot of woody plants needed to be removed. Much of the shrubby growth was invasive Privet species. So while the disturbance zone looks bare now, a lot of what was removed was undesirable. We are thankful for the Privet being dug out. Now we can actually see the creek that was previously hidden and enjoy watching the water trickle over limestone rock.

This seed ball project can kick start actions to restore the site to improved native plant conditions, perhaps eventually, even better than they were before. By distributing locally collected native seeds and seed balls, we hope to promote the disturbance zone eventually returning to a native grassland community. With native grasses deep roots, the goal is to stabilize the creek banks without bringing in non native species like bermuda grass. We know native grasses take time to germinate, grow initial roots, begin more visible top growth and then growth larger. In all honesty, the area will take years to recover. In the mean time, willing volunteers can contribute to restoring the site to promote it once again becoming native habitat. By helping in future projects like transplanting native wildflowers or installing measures to limit soil erosion, we can make a difference. We look forward to your participation.

To learn more about Stella Rowan Prairie, a ~ 125 acre native remnant prairie, please contact Laura Penn

[Lgnpenn@gmail.com](mailto:Lgnpenn@gmail.com)



Volunteers making seed balls on the left.

Boxes of seed balls on the right

Pictures by Laura Penn



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

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

B– 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.

C– Texas Waters Webinar, 3-4 pm, register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5848910773454154242>

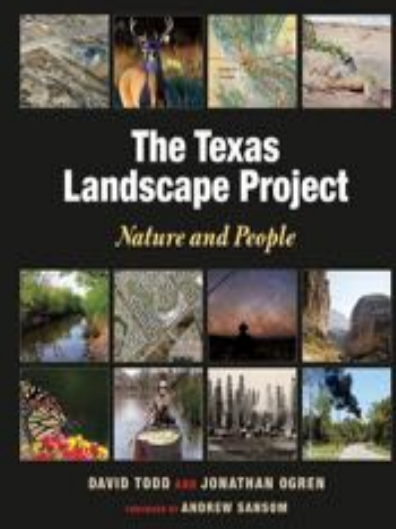
D– Urban Riparian Symposium, Grapevine Event Center, 3 day event: register and details here: <http://texasriparian.org/2019-urban-riparian-symposium/>

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

F– Sub Courthouse Garden Work Day 10-1 pm, Contact Gailon Hardin at [ghardin@flash.net](mailto:ghardin@flash.net) for more information.

## Book Blurb: The Texas Landscape Project– Nature and People– Jana Hill

*The Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People* by David Todd and Jonathan Ogren (Texas A&M Press, 2016) is the result of an environmental research and mapping project funded by the Conservation History Association of Texas. This is a great book for those of us who only look at the pictures, with over 400 maps and charts illustrating every conceivable aspect of our state’s environmental history. Some maps that caught my eye include: the shift of USDA plant zones as Texas has grown hotter, rates of urban sprawl, tall grass prairie acreage by county, and even the “bison diaspora” (that is, the distribution of the American bison in zoos around the world!). There is also a companion website at [www.texaslandscape.org](http://www.texaslandscape.org). \$45 online or find a copy in a local library at [www.worldcat.org/oclc/1058892733](http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1058892733).



# March 2019

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

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B– 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.

C– Hike Penitentiary Hollow with Jeff Quayle at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, register and details here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hike-penitentiary-hollow-with-jeff-quayle-tickets-55907137754>

D– Urban Riparian Symposium, Grapevine Event Center, 3 day event: register and details here: <http://texasriparian.org/2019-urban-riparian-symposium/>

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

F– Carolina Anemone Scavenger Hunt BioBlitz, Mansfield City Cemetery, email [kimberlietx@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlietx@gmail.com) , for more details and to sign up.

G– Hike and Learn Pemberton's Big Spring Preserve and Crawford Memorial Park, limit 25, details and reserve here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hike-learn-pembertons-big-spring-preserve-crawford-memorial-park-tickets-55787986369>

H– Water saving Seminar: Birds, Bees, and Butterflies: Gardening for Wildlife, at BRIT, from 6-8 pm. SOLD OUT- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-saving-seminar-birds-bees-and-butterflies-gardening-for-wildlife-tickets-54759972552>

I– Walk on the wild side field trip, at M H Wildscape, Please contact Ann Knudsen, MH Wildscape Coordinator to volunteer or for more info at [native\\_gardener@yahoo.com](mailto:native_gardener@yahoo.com) or cell # 682-554-4443

J– Cross Timbers Group Meeting at Mineral Wells State Park– cowboy poetry, star gazing, mothing, hiking, and more.

K– Nature Hikes at the Chisholm Trail Community Park, 9-10:30 AM





## Class of 2018

Fred Barton, Avon Barton, Alexis Chernosky, Lori Chernosky, Jason Cole, Leah Breitenstine, Amy Davis, Windy Elias, John Gilder, Erin Hatchett, Christopher Honkomp, Larry Jones, Ellen Long, David Vestal, and Tim Yatko

## First Year Certification– Class of 2018

George Barton, Avon Barton, Jason Cole, Christopher Honkomp, Larry Jones, and Dawne Schomer.



## First Year Certification– Class of 2017

Cynthia Contreras, Christopher Hill, Krista Huebner, Tim Huebner, Kathy Livingston, Lissa Prater, Kimberlie Sasan, Glenda Walker, and Lisa Winnett.



# Congratulations to this years award recipients, cont.

## First Year Certification— Class of 2016

Mary Beth Lampe and Laurie Lucas



## Member Recertification— Class of 1998

Jan Miller and Marsha McLaughlin



## Member Recertification— Class of 1999

Gailon Hardin



# Congratulations to this years award recipients, cont.



Member Recertification– Class of  
2000 ( no picture)

Marshall Fox and Hester Schwarzer

Member Recertification– Class of  
2006

Sharon Hamilton, Josephine Keeney, and Larry Norris



Member Recertification– Class of  
2007

Sandra Fountain and Kay Sekio



Member Recertification–  
Class of 2008

Frank Keeney

# Congratulations to this years award recipients, cont.

## Member Recertification— Class of 2009

Bill Collins, JoAnn Collins, Martha Mullens,  
and Troy Mullins



## Member Recertification— Class of 2010

Jose Martinez, Jane Oosterhuis, Dick  
Schoech, and Teresa Thomas



## Member Recertification— Class of 2011

Terry Austin and Bill Hall





## Member Recertification— Class of 2012

Kakkie Cunningham, Mike Fenoglio, Sheila Franklin, Sally McCoy, Charlene McMorrow, Dick Pafford, and Mary Sanford



## Member Recertification— Class of 2013

Phyl Baloga, Kay Dansby, Brent Franklin, Pat Leach, Bren Ledbetter, Johnny Sherrell, Judith Pierce, and Glynda Yandell

# Congratulations to this years award recipients, cont.

## Member Recertification— Class of 2014

**Hozea Chambers, Kimberly Conrow,  
Mario Garza, Linda Gilly, Banjo  
Moore, Melinda Pajak, Donna Piercy,  
Debbie Stilson, Annette Tess, and  
Bob Tess**



## Member Recertification— Class of 2015

**Lani Aker, Charlie Amos, Rayond  
Conrow, Jana Hill, James Landers, John  
MacFarlane, Carol Marcotte, and Kevin  
Pajak**



## Member Recertification— Class of 2016

**Beth Ann Almaraz, Marianne  
Armstrong, Layne Calabro, Joan  
Carey, Zachary Chapman, Mindy  
Crudup, Donna Honlomp, Gary Lacy,  
and Roberta Ramos**





### Member Recertification– Class of 2017

Christopher Castro, Fonda Fox, Dee Ann McGinnis, Kate Morgan, Kerry Newberry, Judith Sheridan, Sandy Thornburgh, and Suzanne Tuttle

### 250+ Hours Member Milestones-2018

Joan Carey, Kim Conrow, Mary Margaret French, Sharon Hamilton, Carol Marcotte, Kerry Newberry, Mary Sanford, Annette Tess, Bob Tess, Sandy Thornkomp, and Suzanne Tuttle



# Congratulations to this years award recipients, cont.

## 500+ Hours Member Milestones-2018

Donna Honkomp and Suzanne Tuttle



## 1000+ Hours Member Milestones-2018

Charlie Amos (no picture)



## 2500+ Hours Member Milestones-2018

Martha Mullens and Troy Mullens

## Class of 2018 Instructors Thank You

Charlie Amos, Elizabeth Bittner, Omar Bocanegra, Brent Franklin (next page), Sam Kieschnick, Dr. Ann Mayo, Micheal Perez, Roberto Ramirez, Rachel Richter, Michael Smith, Laura Veloz, and Michelle Villafranca







2018 Instructor– Brent Franklin

The Lovely CTMN Celebration Cake



# Volunteers in Action



**Volunteers at the stock show, Jan 27, 2019– by Jana Hill**



# A Word From Your Newsletter Editor

Hello Everyone.

My name is Carrie Moore, and I hoped you enjoyed your first newsletter in over a year. None of this, or future newsletters, would be possible without you and your submissions.

Do you have a passion for flowers, insects, trees, mammals, herps, landscapes, or etc.? If you are willing to write just a little bit and share your passion, the rest of the group would like to read it. Maybe you don't like to write, but you have pictures of your work and would like to share them. Or both, you want to write and you have pictures. I will take what you have and share it with the group.

I have created a survey about the newsletter, but only received 7 responses. Please take a minute and go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MB2G6QD> to take the survey and have a say in what gets in. Some questions ask if you would like to see birthday shout outs or see a get well soon/ sympathies/ prayer blurb about members to keep in your thoughts.

If you have anything you would like to see in next months newsletter, please email [newsletter@ctmn.org](mailto:newsletter@ctmn.org) . I am taking submissions for pictures, articles, or volunteer opportunities starting now until March 20th, for the April 2019 newsletter.

Nipple Cactus— FWNC—February 16— by  
Carrie Moore

