

January 2019

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Carrie Moore– newsletter

**Inside this Issue**

Plant of The Month	2
River Legacy Science Center	3-4
Green Programs	5
January Chapter Meeting	6
2019 Holiday Pictures	6-8
Key Sekio/ Arp Rosemary	9
Announcements	10
Now You Know	10
Word from the Editor	10
January Calendar	11

# Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

## *President's Pen* — Bill Collins

Happy New Year!!!! Here's hoping for a prosperous and healthy new year.

I don't like or make new year's resolutions, but I do like to reflect on last year's successes and failures. I make corrections, forgive myself, and move on.

I had a personal best on iNat with 287 observations, and think of all the things I saw that I awed over and never recorded. Speaking of iNat, Sam K had a birthday at the end of December. If you see him wish him a belated Happy Birthday.

This year, CTMN is again planning a weekend/all day event at Lake Mineral Wells State Park on the last weekend in March. Make plans now to attend. Details will be available by the next newsletter.

One of my favorite winter time activities when it is really cold is to fill the bird feeders, get a fresh pot of coffee, cleanup the binoculars, pull my chair up near the North window and see who shows up. Well dang, it hasn't been cold enough yet to bring in the winter birds. I have seen a few gold finches and the usual chickadees, juncos and titmice, but nothing more exotic so far.

Don't forget to get last year's hours in the system. You have 30 days.

For information about volunteer and AT opportunities, signup for LISTSERV. Go to [txmn.org](http://txmn.org), go to search and type in listserv and you can find guidance on how to sign up.

Get outside when you can or get the coffee ready, the bird feeder full and watch for winter birds to come visit.

Bill

Possumhaw, Deciduous Holly, *Ilex decidua*, Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

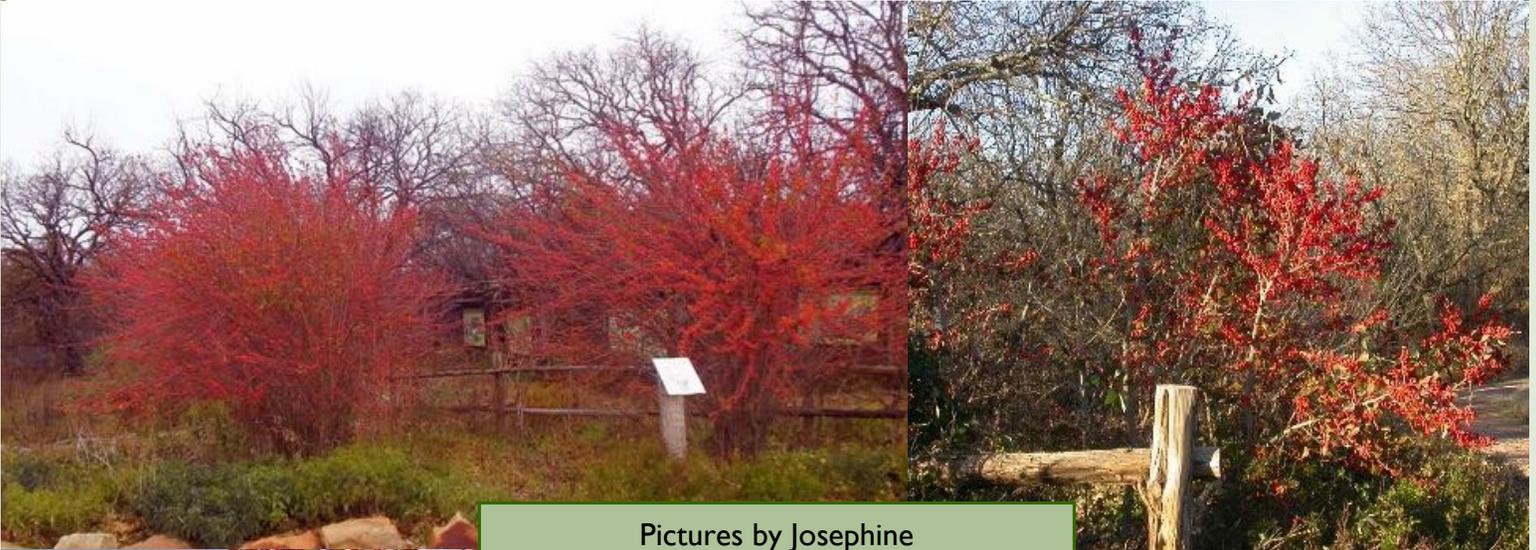
This wonderful shrub or small tree reaches 15-30 feet high, and is rather inconspicuous most of the year, looking very much like Yaupon Holly, which is a relative. There is one big difference between the two, the Possumhaw is deciduous, and Yaupon is not.

It blooms in March-May, with little white flowers in the leaf axils, and it can grow in full sun to partial shade, preferring plenty of moisture.

This plant is dioecious, meaning that they are not self fertile. The female plant makes the berries, but it needs a male plant somewhere in the area for pollination. The male doesn't need to be really close, since pollen travels a long way.

When you buy this plant it is best to buy it in the fall when it is in fruit, so you can be sure to get a female. Sometimes the nurseries get them mixed up and you could end up disappointed.

The big show starts in the fall when the berries turn bright orange red, and continues in winter when the leaves drop and the tree is ablaze with color. The fruits last until late winter when they get soft and start to ferment. The last show begins when Mockingbirds take possession of the tree and try to chase away all other birds, but they are no match for the Cedar Waxwings that come by the thousands and devour all the berries in a frenzy that lasts only a few minutes.



Pictures by Josephine



## River Legacy Science Center Pollinators : Josephine Keeney

We have formed a group made up of Master Naturalists and we call ourselves the Pollinators group. We were asked to help at River Legacy Science Center which had been neglected and we accepted in the fall of 2018. We are there one Monday a month 9 to 12.

This is the front garden before:



This is the garden with planting in process:



What the garden looks like now:



The Pollinators Group from left to right: Jane Oosterhuis, Ann Alderfer, Dick Schoech, Phyl Baloga, Kay Dansby and Kay Sekio. Not pictured: Charley Amos Ellen Ravkind and Josephine Keeney.



## Evergreen Programs : Avon Burton

Evergreen programs at the Fort Worth Nature Center are fun way to get AT hours. Each Tuesday offers something different from Art in the Park, Yoga on the Boardwalk, guided hikes, and green living classes that focus on supporting Texas and our natural environments.

On January 14, 2020 our very own Bill Collins will teach a wood turning class using native wood. Register at [www.fwnc.org](http://www.fwnc.org).



Evergreen Art: Hand stitched songbirds  
December 10, 2019 Photo by Avon



Yoga on the Boardwalk December 3, 2019  
Photo by Avery

Speaker: Sam Hunt, Junior naturalist and citizen science ambassador

Short description: This young naturalist's personal story is a testament to the potential power of citizen science.

**January 2020 Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight:**

BioBlitzing and iNaturalist Citizen Science Opportunities in 2020

Table will be manned by:

Sam Kieschnick

Urban Wildlife Biologist, DFW

Texas Parks and Wildlife

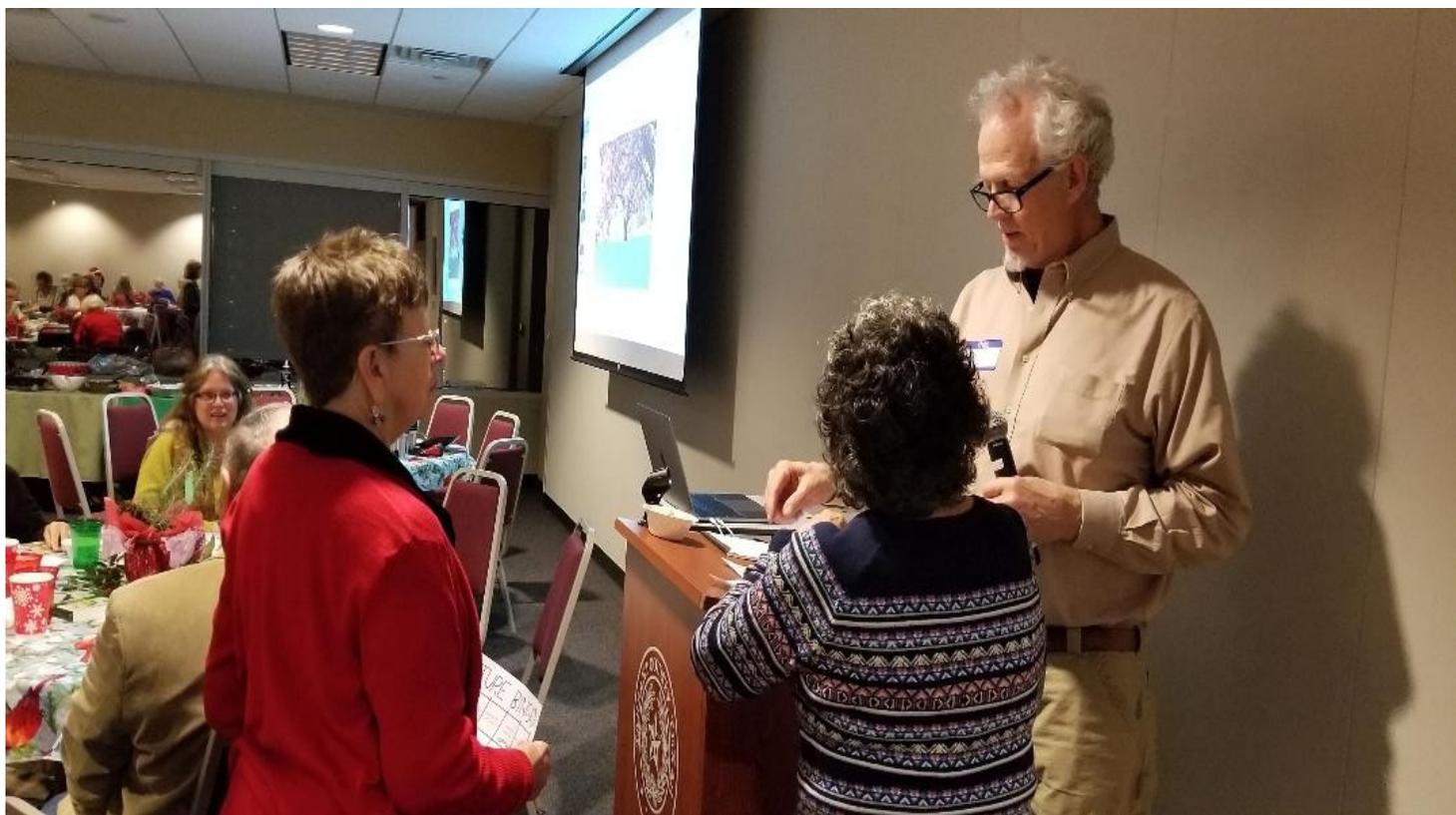
**2019 Holiday Party Pictures: Carol Marcotte**



Zach Chapman welcomes party goers



Ray & Kim Conrow with an empty platter



Bill Collins awards Bingo prize winners



Sheila with Kikki, center piece winner



Center piece winner, Mary Burris



Food was awesome



Arp Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis Arp*) was originally found in a small northeast Texas city, Arp, in 1972. This extremely drought tolerant and winter hardy plant will grow upright with pale blue flowers and reach to about 4 feet tall at maturity. It needs full sun and well drained soil. You can trim its top portions for propagation or culinary use. The centerpieces at the party were grown organically at the Molly Hollar Wildscape Greenhouse from one mother plant obtained from an organic grower.

— Kay Sekio

Picture of Kay Sekio with her Arp Rosemary center pieces for the 2019 Holiday Party: Picture by Carol Marcotte

## 2020 Annual Meeting

**When:** October 15th-18th, 2020

**Where:** Omni Houston Hotel at Westside, 13210 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77079

More information coming soon!

Have a wonderful New Year!

### Now You Know: Carol Marcotte

Baby jackrabbits are called leverets.  
They thermoregulate through their ears.

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Vultures are the only birds with a sense of smell.

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### Word From the Editor: Carrie Moore

Greetings everyone,

In this new year and new decade, I know you will all be doing and seeing wonderful things. Volunteering at your favorite spot, or coming across a wondrous sight, capture what you do in words, a picture, or both.

Maybe you have a vast amount of knowledge on birds, trees, flowers, insects, mammals, reptiles, fishes, or plants, and you want to share some of that knowledge. Write up a paragraph or two about what you know and send it in. If you have taken any photos of what you are writing about, please send that in as well.

Please send what you have to the [newsletter@ctmn.org](mailto:newsletter@ctmn.org). This newsletter will only be as good as its members

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <b>B</b>	3	4 <b>B</b>
5 <b>F</b>	6 <b>E</b>	7	8 <b>A</b>	9 <b>B</b>	10	11 <b>B, I</b>
12	13	14 <b>H</b>	15 <b>A, C</b>	16 <b>B, G</b>	17	18 <b>B</b>
19	20	21	22 <b>A</b>	23 <b>B</b>	24	25 <b>B</b>
26	27 <b>D</b>	28	29 <b>A</b>	30 <b>B</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– Trash Pick Up at CTCP at 7:30 am, contact Alexis t alchernosky@yahoo.com for more information

G– CTCP docents meeting at 6 pm contact Alexis t alchernosky@yahoo.com for more information

H- Bill Collins will teach a wood turning class using native wood. Register at [www.fwnc.org](http://www.fwnc.org)

I– Project Learning Tree Class [http://tarrantmg.org/linked/Project\\_Learning\\_Tree\\_11Jan20.pdf](http://tarrantmg.org/linked/Project_Learning_Tree_11Jan20.pdf)