

March 2019

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Carol Marcotte– Member-
ships

Kerry Newberry– Programs

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– education

Theresa Thomas– records

Mary Beth Lampe– hostess

Carrie Moore– newsletter

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Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

March 28, 2020

CTMN event at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Earlier this week, I met with the folks from Prairie Oaks Chapter (part of LMWSP is within their area) and invited them to our event. Their response was positive and I hope a good number of them attend. The schedule as of now is as follows:

8-9 coffee, water and donuts at the amphitheater parking lot

9-noon first led hike of the day (Sam Kieschnick; Life Under A Log) using iNat

Noon-1 lunch 9on your own) and iNat training available.

1-5 second hike of the day TBA - plants along the Cross Timbers trail using iNat

5-8 supper - on your own time -

8-10 mothing at amphitheater and star gazing at amphitheater parking lot.

More details will be provided as the information becomes available.

Wear your name tag to get into park for free. Be prepared to sign up at the March meeting to facilitate car pooling.

My experience is that when a bunch of naturalists get together in the out of doors, it doesn't matter what the intended hike is to be about, we all want to share what we see and what we know about it. That's the beauty of this event. We hope to have birders, herpers, plant people, tree people, etc. each sharing their interests with others. We all learn from that kind of information exchange. Please make plans to come and share yourself with others.

As an added treat, Judy Sheridan (class of 2017), myself and David Owen (Assistant Park Superintendent) will present Cowboy music and poetry on Friday evening at the amphitheater.

Thanks to all who attended our annual awards ceremony. It is so encouraging to hear about all the hours our chapter members volunteer. For those who missed it, our chapter logged in 156 volunteers in 2019 and almost 14,000 hours. D That is almost \$380,000 value to the state of Texas. Well done. I also got to present Josephine Kenney with her 10,000 hour award. WOW that is a lot of hours. Josephine and her husband Frank will be going to the state meeting in October where Josephine will receive additional acknowledgement for her incredible accomplishment.

Texas Mountain Laurel, *Sophora secundiflora* Fabaceae (Pea Family)

This evergreen shrub or small tree can grow up to 30 feet tall, and is one of the most beautiful and desirable plants in Texas.

The leaves are thick and shiny, and the flowers are to die for, they are so very beautiful!! They look like the flowers of wisteria but the clusters are much shorter, with the typical pea flower shape. The scent is out of this world!! Some say that they smell like grape kool-aid, but I think they have a very unique scent all their own, and when the tree is in full bloom you can smell it from far away.

The flower buds form on the plant at the ends of the branches in May or June of the current year, then they bloom the following year, so if you have a very heavy bloom one year you may not have much bloom the following year, because the tips of the branches will be occupied with the seed capsules.

This is what happened to my tree this year, so I plan to remove at least half the seed capsules every year after blooming, so as to free the branch tips to make flowers. This heavy and light bloom trait occurs in many flowering and fruiting plants.

The seed capsules and the seeds are very hard and also very poisonous. It normally takes a hammer to break the capsule and then the boiling water treatment for the seed. To do this, put the seeds in a cup and pour boiling water over them, let them soak 24 hours and some of them may be swollen by then, at that point they can be planted in a gallon pot and covered with 1/4 inch of soil. The ones not swollen after the first treatment can be put through the treatment again and more of them will swell up. The outer shell of the seed is extremely hard, and unless it is softened it will take months maybe years to germinate. Some say that you can nick them but I have never been able to accomplish this, they are just too hard. I have also heard that if you plant slightly immature seeds they germinate faster, so I tried it and it is true, they germinate in about one week, however the seedlings are a little weaker than average. The seeds have to be harvested in June or July before they turn red and harden up. Of course you can always harvest volunteer seedlings that may come up under your tree. I have never had any luck with root cuttings but I keep trying, you never know when my luck might change!!!

This plant is a very slow grower, so if you see a big beautiful one you should stand there in awe of what nature has accomplished in its own sweet time.



Close up of a flower- Josephine

Plant of the Month– Texas Mountain Laurel: Josephine Keeney



Down Left

1. Close up flowers
2. Immature seed pods
3. Mature seed pods

Down Right

1. Shrub in bloom
2. Mature seeds

All Pictures by Josephine



Get to Know a Member– Josephine Keeney: Carol Marcotte

1) What year did you finish your CTMN training?

I started and finished my classes in 2006. After retiring in 2005 I started working with Molly Hollar at the Wildscape and she recommended that I take the classes. One of the best things I ever did. It has given me a special purpose in my later years by helping Texas Parks and Wildlife and making our area a better place for the pollinators.

2) You have earned the 10,000 of logged hours milestone award. What is your volunteer passion to achieve such Special, well deserved , Award?

My passion is Texas native plants and beautiful Pollinator gardens. I have been taking care of the butterfly garden area at the Wildscape since 2005, of course not all by myself but with the help of the regular faithful volunteers. We work there every Wednesday and every first Saturday.

In 2006 Molly assigned me to manage the wildscape greenhouse which we work every Tuesday. We grow native plants for the Wildscape needs and for the plants sales which help us raise money for the maintenance of the wildscape. The crew are Hester Schwarzer, Kay Sekio, Jo Poppelreiter, Glenn Troutman, Joe Martinez, Larry Norris, Charley Amos and Josephine Keeney.

In 2006 while I was taking the MN classes I had the opportunity to take over and rebuild a garden at Fielder House Museum in Arlington. With the help of one of my class members Rosalee Rogers and a community volunteer Marylee Thomason we started work and turned it around into a flourishing garden for butterflies and other pollinators. We were later joined by MN Jane Oosterhuis and Charley Amos who are still working there with me two Mondays per month.

In 2010 when O. S. Gray Natural Area was started Jane Oosterhuis and I went to work on the Pollinator and Wildflower areas there.

We have built and maintained those gardens all this time. We work on the second Saturday of every month.

In 2017 we were joined by MN Kay Dansby and Phyl Balloga and we started work on Mondays at Knapp Heritage Park which had been neglected for a while. We went to work and established the pollinator gardens there, some more work still needs to be done there.

In 2018 we were asked to help at the River Legacy Science Center gardens and wildflower area which had also been neglected for lack of volunteers. We work there one Monday per month and have made a wonderful difference in their gardens. At that point we decided to call ourselves The Pollinators Group, also CTMN members. We are MN Jane Oosterhuis, Charley Amos, Kay Dansby, Phyl Balloga, Kay Sekio, Dick Schoech and Josephine Keeney.



Get to Know a Member– Josephine Keeney: Carol Marcotte CONT.

3) What other organizations are you involved with?

I am a member of The Native Plant Society of Texas, The Arlington Conservation Council, and the Arlington Organic Gardening Club.

4) What advise do you have for new Texas Master Naturalists?

Find out what you love to do and dedicate yourself to it with all your heart. You will reap great benefits for yourself and the natural world around you.

5) Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I met my husband Frank in 1982 while I was teaching basic Country Western dance lessons. We have been together ever since.

Carol Marcotte asked: If I had an insect ability, I'd want to be able to

Kimberlie Sasan - use compound eyes of a fly

Brent Franklin - Undergo metamorphosis

Glenn Butler - Help others grow, POLLINATE & I'd want to realize that in return, I receive nectar to help me grow too!

Mary Beth Lampe - Fly

Charlie Amos - sting

Joe Martinez - use attractive pheromones

Picture by Kimberlie Sasan



Fort Worth Nature Center February 11th
At Evergreen Art in the Park we created Valentine's using native plant seed paper. Our Valentine's will plant native seeds to LOVE THE EARTH!!! The Evergreen Program is an entertaining and fun way to earn AT hours.

To sign up visit www.fwnaturecenter.org/

Evergreen Program: Tuesday's 9:00 to 11:00 am Geared for seniors, 55+, to increase time outdoors and improve mobility with yoga, art, guided hikes, and learning about green living. Free for members.

Photo by Avon Burton



Announcements From the Board

1. When sending checks via mail, please make all checks payable to CrossTimbers Master Naturalist or CTMN—Thanks Gailon
1. Do you want to see more in our CTMN newsletter? Please send in pictures or a write up about what you are doing . Do you have a specialty? Write about it. Please send in anything you want in the newsletter by the 20th of each month. Thanks Carrie Moore

How Viewing The Lorax Lead to the Fifth Anniversary The Savage Cabbage Bash

In 2012, I planned a short bike ride along the Trinity Trail for my daughter and me to see The Lorax at the theatre off of 7th Street. The Lorax is one of Dr. Suess's greatest books about environmental awareness. We enjoyed the movie and headed home on our bikes down the Trinity Trail! As we made our way down the trail, we saw a new wildflower that I had never seen before. It oddly resembled the Truffula Trees featured in Dr. Suess's classic movie we had just seen. We decided to call them Truffula Flowers. I took note and soon tried to find out what this mysterious flower was.

It didn't take long to find out what we had witnessed was a fairly recent invasive species that has taken up residence all across the metroplex! I am a substitute teacher for FWISD, so upon finding out its common name is Bastard Cabbage, I used it as an attention-grabber for getting students interested in recognizing invasive species. I often use my Master Naturalist and native plant knowledge to try to excite students about getting outdoors and attend local nature events! Saying the B-word goes a long way in getting a high school student to pay attention to what I am talking about. In fact, I have even been called the "B" teacher by some students when they see me later!

On a day in 2016, while substituting, I happened to bring Bastard Cabbage up to a class of 6th-grade women at the Young Women's Leadership Academy in Fort Worth. I told them that the plant was found along the Trinity Trails and how I wished I could get some people to help me pull it up! They said we could do that! We began to discuss how to find sponsors for the event. Remembering that Tarrant Regional Water District used gloves and trash bags for their Trinity River Trash Bash, it seemed like a perfect fit to have them contact Tarrant Regional Water District Board Member, Marty Leonard, who also happens to be a big supporter of YWLA.

Soon we had a meeting set up with TRWD's Tina Hendon and Marty Leonard to plan the event at the Tarrant Regional Water District office which was only a few blocks away from the YWLA downtown campus. Calling it The Bastard Cabbage Bash seemed a bit unladylike, so the girls decided to call it The Savage Cabbage Bash! The event was scheduled and was a huge success. We had nearly 40 family members from the school come out and bag close to 100 bags of this invasive species.

Over the last 4 years, we have continued to have the event. After two years of doing it, the maintenance staff of the TRWD called us to see if we were still coming. The event is now sponsored by the Fort Worth chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas. We have also partnered with students from Greta Bowlings and Pansy Shih's classes at TCC. Students from my Community Service Remind Group have also participated. The areas where we pulled it up are virtually BC free! Since BC is an annual, pulling it is a very successful strategy in its eradication. In fact, TRWD maintenance staff have pointed out a new area to work this year since the areas we have done are pretty much BC free. If you are ever on the Trinity Trails between the Press Cafe and the Interstate 30 bridge, you have seen our work!

Due to its success, the event needs to be moved! The 5th Annual Savage Cabbage Bash will happen on March 21 starting at 9 and lasting until 12. This year we should be working on the trail at the bridge near the intersection of Bellaire and Hulen. Be sure to check the event on the facebook page of the [Fort Worth chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas](#) for any updates about the location of the event. Participants can meet us there at the area and park in the lot near the Tom Thumb, or along the roadway on the west side of the bridge on Bellaire. We will have signs up to publicize the event to the public for awareness. Dress for the weather and wear closed toed shoes. Small shovels or hand spades may be helpful. We will have students from the ages of 12, students from Tarrant County Colleges, and other organizations participating. Community Service Hours can be offered for those students who are collecting hours.

Fifth Anniversary The Savage Cabbage Bash—Jo Ann Collins CONT.

So if you need some nature therapy to help you deal with the all-out assault on nature these days, join us for some Bastard Cabbage removal. Feel free to think of your favorite "B" when pulling it up! It's a great stress relief!



Above: Marty Leonard and two girls. The older girl is Eunice Cardona and the younger is Damaris, both are students at Ywla.



All pictures by Jo Ann Collins.

Above: Marty Leonard with bags of Bastard Cabbage

Middle: Lots of bags of Bastard Cabbage

Left: Area cleared



Public Channel KERA 13 Nature Programming: Carol Marcotte

KERA is a National Public Radio member station serving North Texas. There is radio (90.1) & TV (channel 13). You don't have to have cable to watch the TV programming.

If you want to watch nature programming KERA TV Channel 13 has an awesome show. It's only on the air Oct - April on Saturday at 9am. It's interesting. You should tune in.

Kids Go Wild at the Stock Show: Sharon Hamilton

Why do hundreds of children, teens, and their parents choose the last Sunday in January to visit the **Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo**? No, it's not because there's no NFL playoff game that day. It's because they want to experience **Kids Gone Wild**, the annual event sponsored by **Texas Wildlife Association!**

Cross Timbers Master Naturalist members arrived before 9:00 am, ready to set up our booth in the Arena between Cattle Barns 3 and 4. Driving hazards include cattle and goats being guided to an outdoor corral as well as human pedestrians. CTMN joined the Texas Parks and Wildlife Kid Fish station, AgriLife's archery event, Tarrant Regional Water District's watershed trailer, raptor rehab booths, the local herpetological society, FW Nature Center and Refuge, River Legacy Park, Mansfield's Oliver Nature Center, Imagination FW, and the FW zoo in hosting activities for kids and their parents.

CTMN volunteers included **Mary Burris, Gailon Hardin, Carol Marcotte, Stephonia Roberts, Linda Stevens, Sandy Thornburgh,** and **Glenda Walker**. All overcame the biggest challenge—finding a place to park! Using the book, *A Very Hungry Caterpillar* as our focus, we helped kids make Monarch butterfly caterpillar models and attached them to paper "leaves." Along the way, kids and parents learn about our state insect and about pollinators and the plants that host them.

We had a lot of fun talking with kids, learning from them, and seeing them smile! At the end of the day, we were tired in a good way.



Upper Right : Stephonia Roberts and Linda Stevens.

Left:: Sandy Thornburgh and Stephonia Roberts

Down Right: Happy child with finished model!



2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2018 Graduates

Left to Right

Wendy Elias

Ellen Long

Carrie Moore

Beverly Moore

Not Pictured

Erin Hatchett

Elisabeth Love

2019 Graduates

Left to Right

Amy Dragon

David Afflerbach

Susan Afflerbach

Mary Burris

Sydney Dragon

Thomas Murphy

Steve Smith

Not Pictured

Alyssa Austin

Angela Hathaway

Scott Hathaway

Joe Kuderer

Larry Mundt

Avery Pesel

Jesse Tate





First Year Certification
 Class 2019
 Steven "Steve" Smith

First Year Certification

Class 2018

Left to Right

Ellen Long

Wendy Elias

Lori Chernisky

Amy Davis

Carrie Moore

Beverly Moore

Not Pictured

Leah Breitenstine

Alexis Chernosky

David Vestal



2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified

Class of 1998

Marsha McLaughlin



2019 Recertified

Class of 1999

Gailon Hardin

Not Pictured

Jan Miller

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified

Class of 2006

Josephine Keeney

Sharon Hamilton

Not Pictured

Larry Norris



2019 Recertified

Class of 2007

Kay Sekio

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified
Class of 2008
Frank Keeney



2019 Recertified
Class of 2009
Troy Mullens
Martha Mullens
JoAnn Collins
Bill Collins

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified

Class of 2010

Cynthia Crump

Jose Martinez

Dick Schoech

Jane Oosterhuis

Theresa Thomas



2019 Recertified

Class of 2011

Bill Hall

Terry Austin

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified

Class of 2012

Suzanne Tuttle

Kakkie Cunningham

Not Pictured

Sally McCoy

Dick Pafford



2019 Recertified

Class of 2013

Kay Dansby

Phyl Baloga

Glynda Yandell

Brent Franklin

Not Pictured

Diane Pierce

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified

Class of 2014

Fonda Fox

Kim Conrow

Melinda Pajak

Banjo Moore

Donna Piercy

Not Pictured

Lynda Gilley

Debbie Stilson



2019 Recertified

Class of 2015

Charley Amos

Carol Marcotte

Raymond Conrow

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified

Class of 2016

Joan Carey

Zachary Chapman

Mary Beth Lampe

Not Pictured

Donna Honkomp

Gary Lacy

Laurie Lucas

Roberto Ramos

2019 Recertified Class of 2017

In alphabetical Order

Christophe Castoro, Kathy Livingston, Dee Ann McGinnis, Lissa Prater, Kimberlie Sasan, Sandy Thornburgh, Glenda Walker, Jenny Warren



2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



2019 Recertified Class of 2018

Alexis Chernosky, Lori Chernosky, Fred Burton, Avon Burton, Glenn Butler, Wendy Elias, Dawn Schomer, Carrie Moore, and Beverly Moore

Not Pictured: Christopher Honkomp, Jason Cole, Leah Breitenstine

Bronze Dragonfly 250 + Hours of Volunteer Service

Raymond Conrow

Glenn Butler

Zachary Chapman

Kate Morgan

Kay Dansby

Debbie Stilson

Dawn Schomer

Not Pictured

Roberto Ramos



2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



**Silver Dragonfly 500 +
Hours of Volunteer
Service**

- Glenn Butler
- Kimberly Conrow
- Kimberlie Sasan
- Carol Marcotte
- Sandy Thornburgh

Not Pictured

- Sheila Franklin
- Kerry Newberry



**Gold Dragonfly 1000
+ Hours of Volunteer
Service**

- Bill Collins
- Kay Sekio

Not Pictured

- Donna Honkomp

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



Polished Gold with Ruby Dragonfly 4000 + Hours of Volunteer Service
Troy Mullens



Polished Gold with Emerald Dragonfly 10,000 + Hours of Volunteer Service
Josephine Keeney

2020 February CTMN Award 20th Anniversary Celebration



Thanks to our 2019 Instructors

Charley Amos, Dr. Ann Mayo, Kenneth Nalley, Michelle Villafranca, and Brent Franklin

Not Pictured

Rachel Richter, Michael Perez, Michael Smith, Laura Veloz, Dr. Denis Benjamin, Omar Bocanegra

Josephine showing out wonderful raffle prizes put together by Carol Marcotte





Congratulations to all of the award recipients in the 2020 Award Ceremony!

Monarch Citizen Science Workshop-Rebeca Quiñonez-Piñón

As part of the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Stewards certification program, NWF is partnering with members of the Central Texas Monarch Alliance to provide the Monarch Stewards' next level of training, the [Monarch Citizen Science Workshop](#). We are offering the workshop on two different dates (March 6, and March 7, 2020) to give people a broader opportunity to attend.

Please go to <https://monarch-citizenscience-austin.eventbrite.com> to learn more about this workshop and register.

You might have attended the first level of training, the Monarch Conservation Workshop (During 2019). If you attend the Citizen Science Workshop (level II) and the Gardening for Monarchs with Native Plants (level III, TBA), you will be eligible to receive the [National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Stewards Certification](#). We will offer the Monarch Conservation Workshop sometime this year. You do not need to take the workshops in a specific order.

I look forward to seeing you in March!

Volunteer Opportunity at MWSP– Cindy Crump

The pollinator garden at Lake Mineral Wells State Park is located at the Administration Building just off Hwy 180 between Mineral Wells and Weatherford. Volunteering at the park is an approved project for Master Naturalists of both Prairie Oaks and Cross Timbers Chapters and is supported by the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Last year we watched the garden mature with several new plants and had a good positive response from park visitors. In 2020 we plan to continue the work by thinning some of the plants and moving the tallest plants to the back of the garden for aesthetic purposes.

Volunteers will be needed every third Saturday of each month beginning February 15. Winter/Spring hours will be 10 am to 12:30 pm. In February, March, and April we will be weeding out non-natives such as vetch and henbit, removing dead plant material as new growth emerges, moving plants around, adding drip irrigation and mulching the plants. Your help is much appreciated. Volunteers should bring gloves, a hat, insect repellent, water, hand tools and shovels.

Please contact Cindy if you would like to volunteer in February by email: cindylecrump@gmail.com or by cell phone 817-771-6910. She will contact you in the event that the event is cancelled due to weather



BECOME A DOCENT

Attend our docent training and become a trained natural history interpreter.
You will discover ways to share your appreciation for
nature with our community.

To register, please call Kenneth Nalley at
(817) 392-7411

April 7-10, 2020 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 E	3	4 A	5 B	6 F	7 B, J, F, G
8	9	10	11 A	12 B	13	14 B, G
15	16 D	17	18 A, C	19 B	20	21 B, G, H, I
22	23	24	25 A	26 B	27	28 B, G
29	30	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 , this month is the Cross Timbers Chapter 2019 Awards and 20th Anniversary Celebration

E– CTMN Board Meeting

F– Monarch Conservation Workshop , see page 24

G– Texas Parks & Wildlife Television on channel 13 at 9 am , see page 9

H– Pollinator garden at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, see page 24

I– Fifth Anniversary The Savage Cabbage Bash, see page 7-8

J– Molly Hollar Work Day 9am -12 pm. Mini class 11:30-12pm .This is a reoccurring event every 1st Saturday.