

May 2020

CTMN Board Members:

Bill Collins -President

Krista Huebner– Vice
President

Beverly Moore– Secretary

Gailon Hardin – Treasurer

CTMN Chair Members:

Carol Marcotte– Member-
ships

Kerry Newberry– Programs

Sharon Hamilton– Outreach

-VOL Service and AT Hours

Melinda Wolfinbarger Pajak
– education

Theresa Thomas– records

Mary Beth Lampe– hostess

Carrie Moore– newsletter

Inside this Issue

Plant of The Month 2-3

Get To Know CTMN Member 3

Announcement 4

Making Seed Ball Video 5

Pictures 5

Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

WOW! Things are changing and changing quickly. Hope you are keeping up and keeping safe.

As I write this, the Texas State Parks are opening for day use only. I hope this means we are getting closer to a new normal. Also, the iNaturalist city challenge is still on but not as a competition. The TMN set up a ZOOM account that we all could use, but problems arose and we are on hold.

If you have not done so, please enroll in listserv. Lots of good information coming from the state office. Go to the TMN website for details on enrolling.

We will do our best to have some sort of May meeting.

In the meantime, spring has sprung and new plants are coming alive, birds are flying, and rabbits are munching our native and cultivated plants. Saw a turkey in our neighborhood (that was a first for me). Spotted several Texas spiny lizards (always good to see them come back year after year.). No snakes yet. No new species in our mail box wildflower spot, but Illinois bundle flower is coming back after a one year hiatus. I seen several road runners so far this year. Bumper crop of poison ivy this year - yuck!

So, get outside this weekend, record what is in your yard and on your roadside. The main thing is to get outside and get your mind on something besides what you can't do.

Stay safe.

Page 2 **Plant of the Month– Golden Columbine : Josephine Keeney**

Golden Columbine, *Aquilegia chrysantha*
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

This beautiful plant is perennial and remains green most of the year. The leaves are divided into three lobes and are almost as pretty as the flowers.

This plant likes moisture and semi-shade, and under the right conditions it can get as tall as three feet, making a very impressive mound.

The many flowers held high above the foliage resemble birds in flight, and their name “Columbine” means dove in Latin. It blooms in spring for about two months, and attracts bees and butterflies, making it very desirable in the butterfly garden.



Pictures by Josephine



The large amount of seed produced by this plant tends to volunteer many little plants, making the gardener very happy. It can also be propagated by clump division.

If you grow both the Red Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, and the Golden Columbine, *Aquilegia chrysantha*, a very strange and wonderful thing can happen, they can hybridize and make wonderful combinations. I have both in my yard, and I really can't decide which one I like the best. But if you want to keep the colors pure don't grow them both in the same garden, we only grow the Golden at the Fielder House butterfly garden for that reason.



What year did you become a member of TMN?

2018

You earned your Re-Certification Golden Cheek Warbler pin last year. How & where did you earn your VH & AT hours?

I earned my Volunteer Hours mostly at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, typically volunteering with canoe activities, and vegetation surveys in prescribed burn areas. I also had a fair number of hours doing online transcription of botanical specimen labels for BRIT. My AT hours came from the TXMN Conference, as well as the Texas Waters Specialist webinars.

Are you involved in other organizations ?

I am involved in a summer camp for kids based on science and secular values called Camp Quest Texas. I even did a little impromptu iNaturalist bioblitz with the campers last year!

What is most rewarding about being a Texas Master Naturalist?

For me, the most rewarding aspect is being able to connect with nature and feel like my contributions are useful. I majored in biology, but I work in the occupational safety field, so Texas Master Naturalists gives me the chance to reconnect with my interests in evolution, ecology, and plant science. I've also become very interested in lichens in the last year or so.

What would you like to tell the next generation of Master Naturalists?

To the next generation of Naturalists, I would just say – be vigilant. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from conflicting interests, and preserving those resources will take a conscious effort by those who understand their value.

Plant of the Month– Golden Columbine Pictures Cont. : Josephine Keeney



Cross Timbers Master Naturalists Photo Contest

Entries must be submitted by **Friday, May 15, 2020**

Entries must be labeled with owners name, category and title of the work.

All entries must be original work and submitted by a CTMN volunteer.

Entries are limited to one per category per individual.

- Photos must be Texas specific (i.e. taken in Texas)
- Photos can be color or black and white.
- Photos must be unframed and have no unnatural/extreme digital enhancements
- Submit your photo entry(s) to Cross Timbers Master Naturalists.com/Facebook/Group/Photo Contest 2020 or email to carol@carolmarcotte.com or mblampe@gmail.com

*Contest Committee reserves the right to place an entry into another category if deemed appropriate.

Photo Categories:

- (1) Plant life (with no wildlife)
- (2) Wildlife
- (3) Birds
- (4) Scenic
- (5) Historical photo of members at work/play (i.e. inaugural class, members then & now, early projects in our history)

Judging will be done by a panel of three (3) impartial judges.

Winners will be announced at the June 15, 2020 meeting .

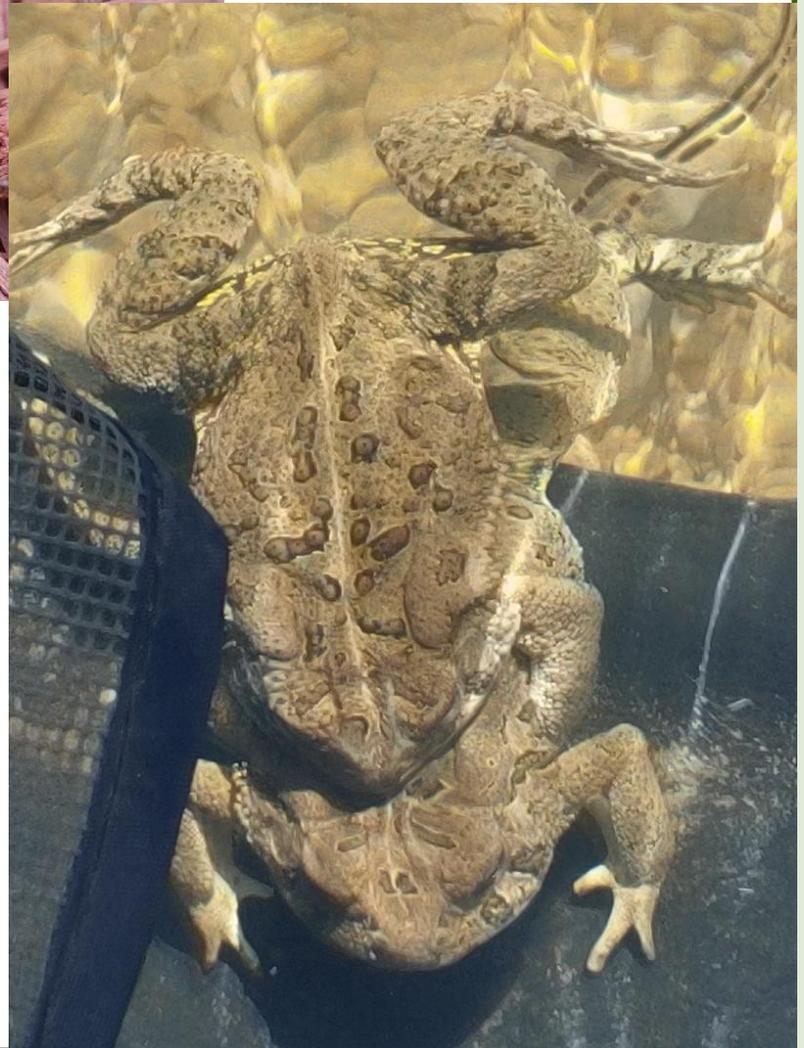
If there is less than 3 entries in a given photo category , a placement ribbon may not be awarded.

Direct questions to Carol Marcotte, cell: (817) 793-3917 or email: carol@carolmarcotte.com

Join Wildflower Center Editor and Communications Manager Amy McCullough as she demonstrates how to make seed balls. This is a fun, family friendly activity you can easily engage in at home, and it offers opportunity to get your hands dirty, spend some time outdoors, and learn about native plants. Celebrate Earth Day with some guerilla gardening!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F88EnyRYBKU&feature=youtu.be>

Pictures– By Carrie Moore



Woodhouse Toads

Male in the above Picture

Male breeding Female to the right. If you look in the upper right corner of the right picture you will see a string of black, those are woodhouse toad egg strings.