November 2020

CTMN Board Members:

Bill Collins -President

– Vice President

Beverly Moore– Secretary

Gailon Hardin – Treasurer

CTMN Chair Members:

Carol Marcotte– Memberships

– Programs

Sharon Hamilton– Outreach

Melinda Wolfinbarger Pajak– education

Theresa Thomas– VOL Service and AT Hours

Mary Beth Lampe– hostess and records

Carrie Moore– newsletter

Frank Keeney– webmaster

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Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

Halloween is right around the corner. Shorter days and cooler temperatures prevail. Grasses in bloom. Fall wildflowers blooming and summer wildflowers making seed. Lots of birds moving through, squirrels are getting real active. Leaves are falling (time to start raking already?). Still lots of butterflies, bees and other pollinators making their rounds. Fall CTMN training coming to an end. TMN annual meeting is history. Sure enough, time is marching on. All that in the midst of a pandemic.

Lots of human activities are slowing down, but nature marches on.

So get out there and check it out. There are lots of places that are open. City parks, refuges and wildscapes. State and national parks. Your own backyard. University campuses may be absent of students or sparsely populated but the grounds are still there. While you are out there, take notes and pictures. (Take note of the pictures in this newsletter, Well Done!)

Some notes from the state TMN annual meeting. First and foremost congratulations to Josephine Kenney for reaching 10,000 hours. Wow!

Over 1170 people participated. And each of the 48 Texas Master Naturalist Chapter was represented. Master Naturalist license plates are soon to be available. We should hear from the state office soon and will pass on the good news. The recertification pin for 2021 will be sideoats grama. The TMN annual meeting for 2021 will be held at the DFW Marriott in Irving; October 21-24 2021. Be sure and make plans to attend and since it will be so close, there will be lots of opportunities to help with the event. Will let you know when we hear more.

We are still in need of a candidate to fill the Treasurer's office. If interested, please let me or Brent Franklin know.

Thanks for all you do. Get out and stay safe.

Plant of the Month– Frostweed, Verbesina virginica : Josephine Keeney

This lovely perennial plant is native to Texas and many other states, but has been ignored by commercial nurseries.

The large leaves give it a rather tropical look, but it is very hardy. It can reach as high as 6 feet, but averages 4 feet. Trimming it back in June will give you a fuller plant and more blooms. It likes full sun, partial or full shade. Frostweed requires a small amount of water to be happy.

Its native habitat is river banks, open woodlands and shaded woods.

The large clusters of white flowers bloom in August and September and are usually covered with bees and butterflies. The foliage is a larval host for the Summer Azure, Bordered Patch and Silvery Checkerspot butterflies.

As if all that wasn't enough, when a freeze happens the stems will burst and make beautiful ice formations at the base of the plants, but you have to go out early to see it, the ice sculpture melts fast.

Pictures by Josephine: Left Flowers and Bottom Right Frost-Ice

More pictures on page 4

Get to Know A CTMN Member: Fonda Fox - Carol Marcotte

What year did you get certified?

I graduated in 2014 and got my first certification that same year. Many people probably assumed that I was a member before then since I came to most of the meetings with my late husband Marshall Fox who graduated in 2000.

You've earned your American Bumble Bee Re-Certified Pin for 2020. How do you get your VH? How do you get your AT hours?

I get most of my Advanced Training hours by attending CTMN chapter meetings along with the program meetings for the Trinity Forks chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas. It's great that I can keep attending these on Zoom. I can even attend other chapter meetings with appropriate topics and get credit. I have taken a few on-line courses on water from TPWD. I got to attend the State Meeting a couple of times which provides lots of AT hours. I can get up to 25 hours of Volunteer Hours annually through administrative duties that I perform with other groups. So as Hospitality Chair for my NPSOT chapter I attend our board meetings which count.

What do you do for fun?

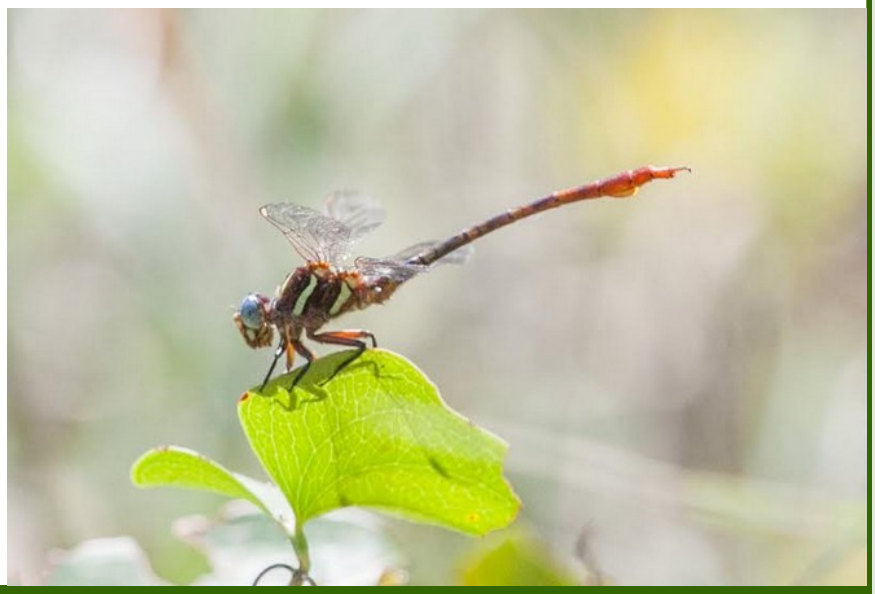
One of my interests is bird watching. So a great way, even for beginners, if you see that you are short some Volunteer Hours is do some Christmas Bird Counts. I think they are a great way to learn more about birds. There are 2 weeks in Dec. and early Jan. that they are held. So if you have time to schedule 4 of them, you might be able to get 40 hours all in one month. However, I will say that it is tough to do them on consecutive days at my age.

A new activity that I started last month is "Notes from Nature" where on-line I transcribe specimen labels from digitized herbarium specimens so that the information can be put into a data base. I am really enjoying this, since I am not a people person, and I like plants. The typing hasn't been so much that it is hard. I have even seen ones collected by people that I know like Jeff Quayle. You can look up http://www.thearmchairbotanist.org to find out more on that. My other interests are all kinds of dance, cross stitching, and beading.

Insect of the Month: Two-striped forceptail – Brent Franklin

Usually I try to feature an insect that is common to our area. But this time I'm doing the opposite and showing one that has never been seen in our area. The Two-striped forceptail is seen uncommonly in southeastern US and into east Texas. This species grows to around 3inches in size, often perch very high in vegetation and are known to be wary of people. Unlike other forceptails they can occasionally be seen on the ground. When they cruise along the water they tend to hold their abdomen in an arch, very distinctive of the species.

Records I could find show the closest to DFW that one has been documented is near Tyler. Until the first day of the Chapter Nature Challenge, September 6. Imagine my excitement when I photographed not one but two individuals at the Fort Worth Nature Center. The first popped up right in front of me and posed very nicely for a few minutes. The second was quite a ways out and moving so quickly that I had no idea if I even got a photograph much less what it was until I looked at the pictures on my computer.



Frostweed– Josephine Keeney

New Leaves

Full Plant

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center– **Carol Marcotte**

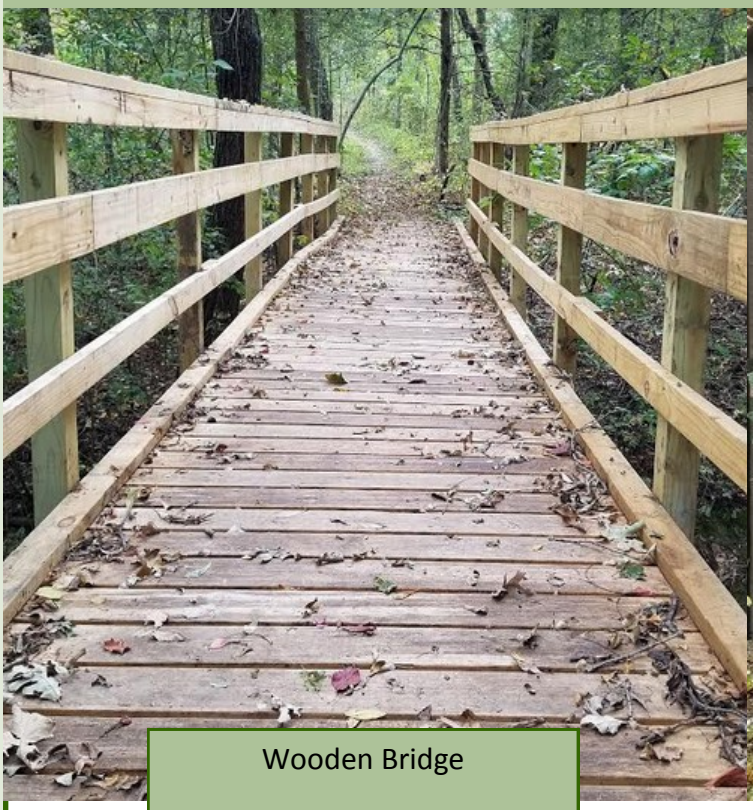
It will be a glorious day when covid is behind us! Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, Cedar Hill is open only Friday and Saturday these days. The center is located next to Cedar Ridge Preserve although there are not trails to connect the two.

Admission is free, but you must preregister online. All visitors sign in at C.E. Doolin building. Then it's time to hit the trails. Well maintained and marked.

Ringless Honey Mushrooms

Old Cabin

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center– **Carol Marcotte**



Wooden Bridge

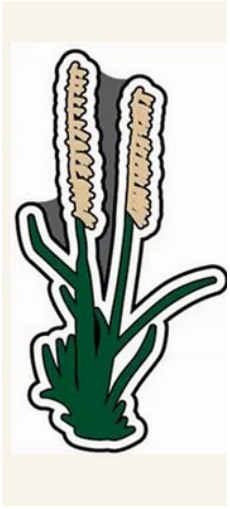
Home to resident American kestrel. Notice the sign – "A Texas Master Naturalist Project" . It was a fun morning. Not crowded, plan to visit.

Urban Field Trip 10/10– Molly Hollar Wildscape– Carol Marcotte

SPECIAL announcements from the 2020 TMN Annual Meeting

- 2021 ReCertificate Pin is: Sideoats Grama
- 2021 Annual Meeting is: Dallas ~~ October 21 - 24, 2021
- TMN license plate cost $30.00, $22 of that goes directly to TMN

Special pin to 2020 Active TMN members Note: to be considered an active member, you must 1) be a certified TMN 2) paid 2020 Chapter $20 dues 3) logged at least one (1) Volunteer Hour into VMS



November BRIT Lecture

BRIT Brown Bag Lecture Series
"The commonness of rarity—evolution and endemism in South American clubmosses"
by Dr. Weston Testo, Tuesday, Nov 3rd, noon to 1pm
More info at https://bit.ly/3iXsu9Y

Other CTMN Announcements

- You can pay your dues using PayPal now.: http://ctmn.org/dues-fees.php

- Reminder of the pins for hours
  - 250 hours = Bronze Dragonfly pin
  - 500 = Silver Dragonfly pin
  - 1000 = Gold Dragonfly pin

Sales of T-Shirts Exceeds Chapter Expectation– Sharon Hamilton

Fifty-one CTMN members ordered 65 chapter T-shirts during August and September, 2020, indicating that people are eager to identify as Master Naturalists while volunteering or performing everyday activities.

Alexis Chernosky needed to identify volunteers from a distance at Chisholm Trail Park. She brought a request for T-shirts to the CTMN board in November 2019, and the seed of the project was planted. Frank Keeney and Gailon Hardin graciously adopted PayPal as payment software, allowing members to order and pay for the shirts online.

Board members offered to deliver shirts, and Melinda Pajak, Carol Marcotte, and Bill Collins made deliveries to CTMN project and field trip locations as well as to members front doors! Many thanks these folks for making this project possible.

SWSC October 10th Volunteers– Debbie Stilson

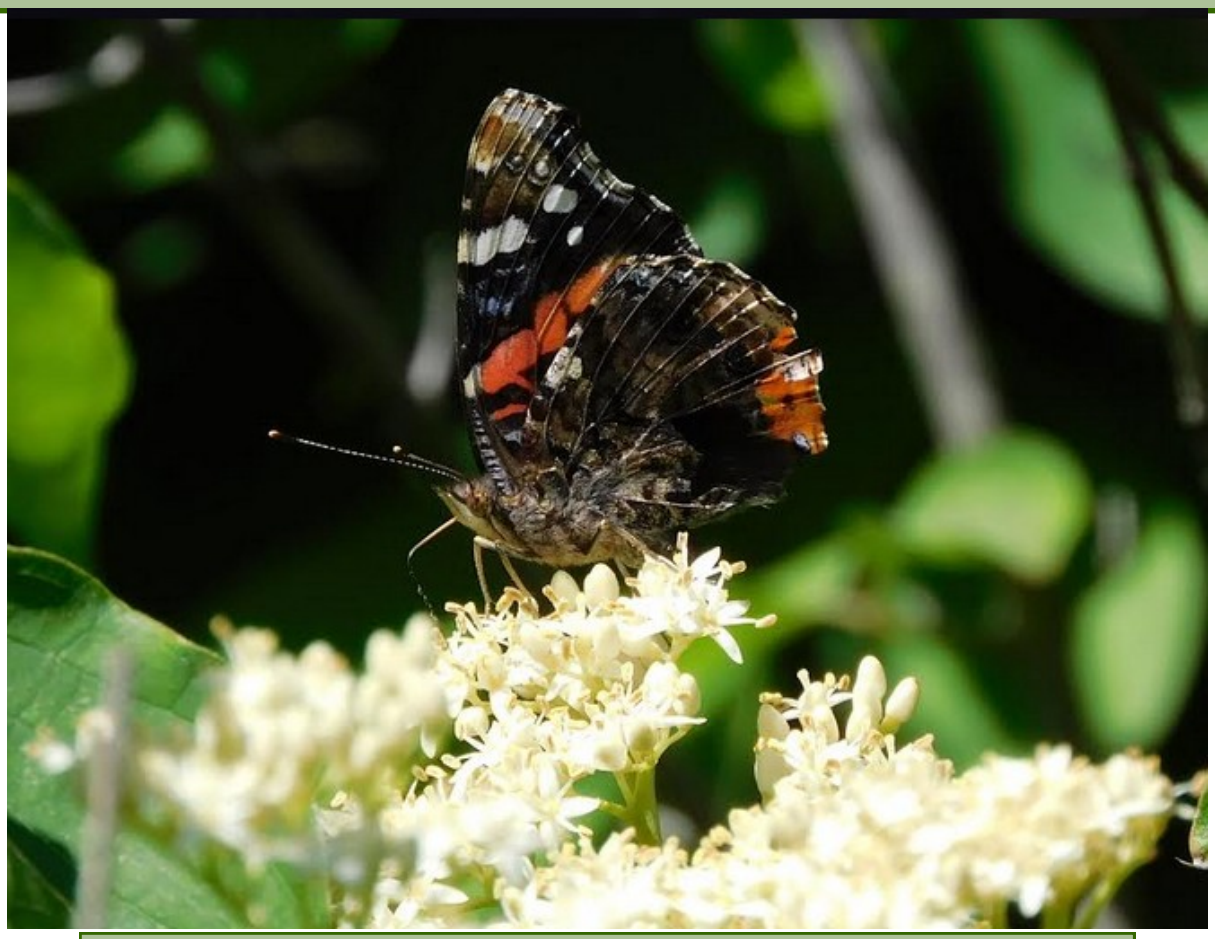
2020 In Photos– Avon Burton

Scissortail Flycatcher (above) and Snowy Egret Casino

2020 In Photos– Avon Burton

Hooded Oriole (above) and Rainbow Grasshopper

2020 In Photos CONT– Avon Burton



Red Admiral on Wild Hydrangea (above) and Sachem Skipper Butterfly

Honorable Mentions in the 2020 Photo Contest

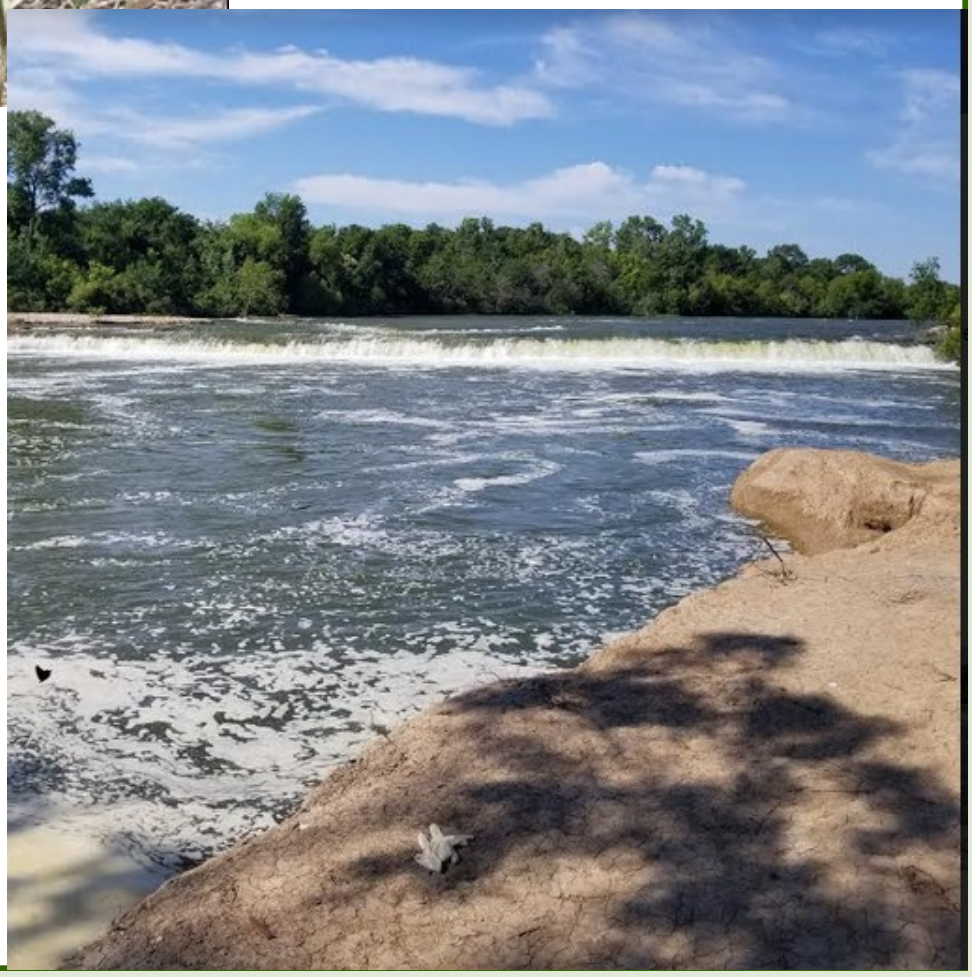
Wildlife
Sharon Hamilton
Come At Me At Your Own Risk

Plant Life
Josephine Keeney
Wildscape Butterfly Garden

Honorable Mentions in the 2020 Photo Contest CONT.

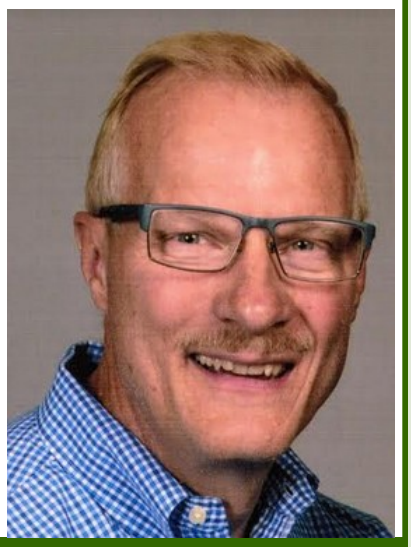
Bird
Donna Haakomp
Bluebird with an Attitude

Scenic
Carol Marcotte
Marian Sansom Park, Lake Worth



Congrats – Carol MArcotte

Congratulations to Larry Mundt Class of 2019!



Larry Mundt has completed all his training classes and field trips. He has logged 40 VH & 8 AT hours to complete his First Year Certification!

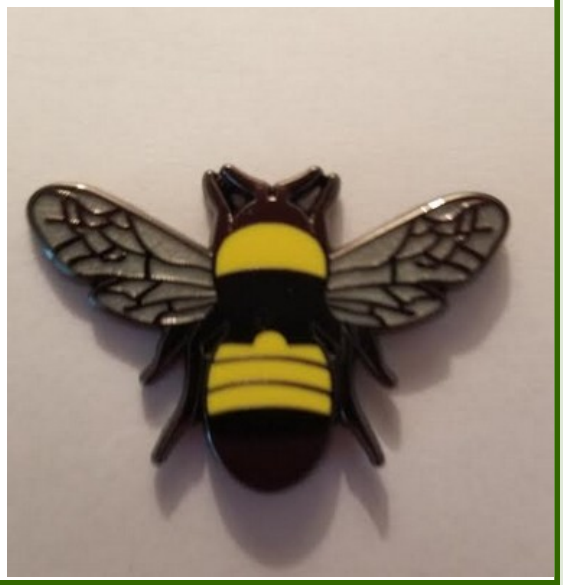
In Recognition of his hard work, he will receive the

- Painted Dragonfly Pin
- Certificate of Completion
- Official Name Tag

Texas Master Naturalist Certificate

Congratulations to Our Members Who Have Already Re-Certified– Carol Marcotte

The following seven members have joined the others in achieving their 2020 certification pen.



Dragon, Sydney
Dragon, Amy
Austin, Terry
Fountain, Sandy
Chernosky, Lori
Fox, Fonda
Sekio, Kay

Calendar Addresses

A- FWNC Restoration Greenhouse - Resource Center, Broadview Dr
B- FWNC Natural Guard - Resource Center, Broadview Dr
F- Molly Hollar Wildscape, 2866 Spanish Trail, Arlington
H- Lake Mineral Wells State Park - 100 Park Rd 71 off Hwy 180
I- Tarrant County SW Sub Courthouse, 6551 Granbury Rd, FW
J- SW Regional Hulen Library, 4001 Library Ln
M- Chisholm Trail Community Park, 4936 McPherson Blvd, FW

Gray Fox at South Llano River State Park—Glenn Butter

Birds of Prey and Let's Talk Turkey Free Webinars

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, are a common sight in the skies. During the program, we will take an up-close look at a live Peregrine Falcon to discuss the important body structures and their functions. We will investigate the falcon's diet, their role in the food web, the habitats in which they are found, and the adaptations that allow them to be such powerful predators and fast fliers.
November 11th (W) 9:00, 10:15, 12:30, 2:00, Recording

Available just in time for Thanksgiving to teach your students all about the Wild Turkey. This program is available as a videoconference on Tuesday, November 17th and anytime as an On-demand Webinar.
Live videoconference: 9:00, 10:15, 12:30, 2:00, Recording

November 2020

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

A– FWNC– Restorative Greenhouse from 9:30– 11:30 AM– this event is a reoccurring event every Thursday
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 via Zoom. Via facebook or Meetup. This counts for an advance hour of training. This is every 3rd Wednesday
D– CTMN Monthly Chapter Meeting Amanda Gobeli, Quail Ecology , you will receive an email from the board with a link.

E– CTMN Board Meeting, contact a board member if you would like the Zoom link.
F– Molly Hollar Wildscape Volunteer Opportunity from 9 am –12 pm. The mini class has been canceled until further notice.
G– Texas Day Arbor Day, go out and plant trees

H– Lake Mineral Wells Pollinator Garden Volunteer Opportunity from 9-11 am, this is every 3rd Saturday of the month at the park administration building. Contact Cynthia Crump
I– Tarrant County SW Sub Courthouse Garden Volunteer Opportunity from 8am –12 pm. Volunteers can take home plants. Contact Gailon Hardin
J-Southwest Regional Hulen Library Native Plant Demonstration Garden on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Saturday can be scheduled with leads. From 8:30 to 12:30 am (Summer 7:30 to 11:30 am). Contact Theresa Thomas
K– Free BRIT Lecture . See page 7

L– Texas Colonial Waterbird Society annual meeting
M– Trash Pickup at Chisholm Trail Park, 7:00-9:00 am . Meet by the dumpster in the front parking lot.
N– Free webinars