

December 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

Inside this Issue

Plant of The Month 2-4

Get To Know CTMN Member 3

Insect of the Month 4

Winter Naturalist 5-6, 11, 13

Announcements 7, 12

Citizen Science Guidelines 8

Get Your Hands Dirty 9-10

Congratulations for Certifying 12

Congratulations to Re-Certifiers 142

Congratulations Milestone 12

Calendar Addresses 13

Calendar 14

Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Bill Collins

Winter is here - maybe.

Well, we have a new slate of officers ready to take over come January 2021. Wish them well and support them as you have supported me. It takes all of us to make this organization great.

Congratulations to you who have competed this year's training and have also certified this year. Not an easy task. It took me an extra year just to complete my training and then be certified.

To all CTMNers, take note that the opportunities are there to complete your AT and VH. Check the NEW webpage (many thanks to Sharon and Mary Beth) for volunteer and advance training opportunities.

Speaking of certifications and recertification, we usually have our awards ceremony in February; the board is looking at ways to make that work where we can gather *and* celebrate.

Talking about celebrations, our December meeting will be on the 14th this year. Please mark your calendar now. It is something you won't want to miss.

Heard from Jeff Quayle. He is looking at knee replacement surgery soon. Wish him well that the surgery goes well and the recovery is short and complete.

To all of you, be safe during the Thanksgiving week.

Agarita, Laredo Mahonia, Mahonia trifoliolata

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

What surprising qualities this plant has!!

It is tough and drought tolerant and the gray green leaves are prickly and resemble holly. They look rather unremarkable most of the year. This evergreen plant can reach 8 feet in height which makes it very impressive.

But come February it bursts into bloom up and down every stem with beautiful tiny yellow flowers that perfume the air in a most delightful way. You can smell them from far away.



If that wasn't enough, the flowers mature into orange red berries which are edible and have a very pleasant lemony flavor. Some people like to make lemonade by crushing and mixing them with water or you can make a delicious jam for your toast.

Be careful if you come close to this plant, you might get a prickly welcome that will have you smarting for a while. What a great plant this would be to set beneath your window and along paths where it could be used to keep away unwelcomed visitors.



Pictures by Josephine: Top Branch with blooms, Left Close Up Berries

More pictures on page 3 and 4

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

1) Class of 2015, Double Certified. Which means I attended classes & training in 2015 and logged initial 40 VH & 8 AT, by Dec 31, 2015.

2) What I've learned about myself in the last 5 years is to let that person inside of me come out and shine. I've always loved being outside, admiring God's handiwork and at awe with nature. Since becoming a Master Naturalist, I've been given permission to accelerate.

3) My advice to new trainees - try everything, do everything. If you have a passion, follow your heart. Become the person you are meant to be.

4) As the Membership Director of CTMN, my goal is to help our members to reach their goals. To appreciate the beauty of each member, encourage and celebrate their achievements. And the importance of logging in your Volunteer Hours.

5) My personal cell phone is (817) 793-3917. Text or call, leave a message. If I don't have an answer, I'll get one for you.



Plant of the Month– Agarita : Josephine Keeney



"Mayflies are aquatic insects belonging to the order Ephemeroptera. This order is part of an ancient group of insects termed the Palaeoptera, which also contains dragonflies and damselflies. Over 3,000 species of mayfly are known worldwide, grouped into over 400 genera in 42 families." [Wikipedia](#)

"A member of a group of insects known for their extremely short life spans and emergence in large numbers in the summer months." [Britannica](#)



Agarita – Josephine Keeney



Close up of Flowers

Full Plant



Spring, Summer and Fall may be the best times for most Naturalists as plants and flowers are in bloom and invertebrates are all about. All one needs to do is step outside and look about the area. These seasons are also good times for herps and birds as well. Wildlife is always close at hand. As Autumn draws to a close and Winter approaches many of us plan to hibernate along with the bulk of nature. After all, who can identify that bare stick in the snow? That brown thing was probably some kind of grass. Darn, there's nothing moving under this old log. You can't remember the last cool snake you saw.



Bald Eagle

Take heart, Naturalists, in the Winter there are still BIRDS. Autumn Migration sends many of our breeding species, such as: buntings, warblers, hummingbirds, herons, egrets, and flycatchers south for the Winter in pursuit of food. Other species also fly south for the Winter such as: waterfowl, raptors, waxwings, sparrows, and finches. The only difference is for this later group, Texas is the south. As an example, in the Summer we normally get one species of duck (Mallard) as a regular species. In the Winter I normally find 14-15 species at the Village Creek Drying Beds. As for raptors, we normally have Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Cooper's Hawk along with Mississippi Kites in the Spring and Summer. Winter adds many more Red-tails and Red-shouldered to the mix and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks can also be found most Winters. Notice I didn't even mention Bald Eagles which occur every Winter on most of the lakes and along the rivers.

Now, let's look at sparrows. In the Summer we may see a Grasshopper Sparrow or two and maybe a Lark Sparrow. Come Winter and we see: Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow,



American Goldfinch

White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco. Cedar Waxwings show up in large flocks to devour those leftover berries. Robins are more numerous in Winter as are Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays. American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins are two of the finches that can show up at your feeder in large numbers.

Where does one go to find and identify the Winter birds? Start In your own backyard. Throw out some seed and a dish of water then sit back and enjoy. Go to any local park or lake. Fort Worth Nature Center and River Legacy Park are two of my favorites. Next door to River Legacy Park is the Village Creek Drying Beds.

The Colleyville Nature Center is always a great place to find Barred Owls and other wintering birds. Remember those beautiful fields of wildflowers that we all loved in the Spring and Summer? Guess what's in those fields now. Seeds (bird food). Watch the medians of the major roads and highways, there are usually some hawks perched on the poles looking for a dining opportunity. Winter birds are easier to see than the Spring birds simply because the leaves will be on the ground instead of in the trees making it much easier to spot their movements.

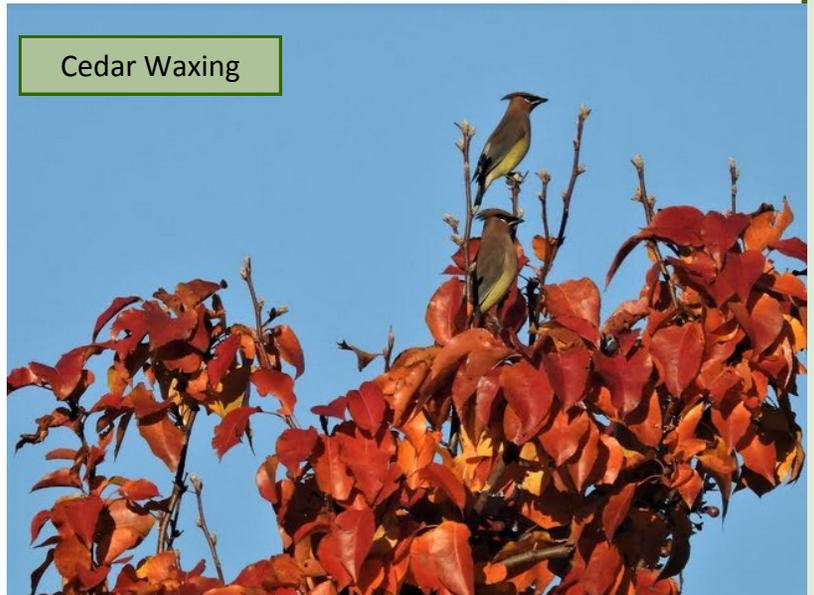
Don't let bad weather deter you. Some of my best birds have been ducks and loons on an icy lake with the wind blowing so hard that my binoculars were iced to my eyes. Even with snow on the ground the Juncos and sparrows will visit the ground beneath a bird feeder. Another good thing about Winter is that you don't need to use bug spray. So, at the end of the day you will smell like sweat and not chemicals (I guess that's a good thing).

It will soon be time to bundle up, grab those binoculars, your favorite bird identification guide or phone app, a thermos of coffee and a couple of taquitos from Whataburger and head outdoors to say hello to some old feathered friends who are back in town.

Charley Amos



Cedar Waxing



Red-Shouldered Hawk



An additional recognition for 2020



Ships in LATE December

- Every hour matters!
- Every hour is important!
- Every hour is valued!
- Your HUSTLE, PASSION and PRESERVERENCE have not gone unnoticed!
- “YOU are an important cog in the Wheel of Conservation” and Stewardship!
- YOU are Valued and YOU Belong!

December BRIT Lecture

BRIT Brown Bag Lecture Series (virtual)
“Textiles from Trees: Ugandan Bark Cloth”
by Lesli Robertson, Tuesday, Dec 1st, noon to 1pm
More info at <https://bit.ly/34R6sB2>

Plant Party Webinar- Megan K. Clayton

Join us for the first webinar training in the **PLANT PARTY** series developed and hosted by three agencies – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – on December 16, 2020 from 10:30 am –to noon. It’s free for all, but you do need to register by entering your name and email at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27XCXN5> to receive the link the day before.

This webinar will be All About Brush! Topics covered include brush ID tips, endemic or rare plant species, brush sprouting mechanisms, restoring brush diversity, and management with Invora herbicide. *Door prizes will be given away!* Feel free to contact Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu with any questions.

Chapters now have statewide guidance for how volunteers can earn and log hours for contributing data and service using Citizen Science Projects such as iNaturalist and eBird.

Read the eight-page document and Quick Guide at:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/guidance-for-community-citizen-science-projects/>

HIGHLIGHTS:

Criteria for Earning Hours Utilizing iNaturalist

- Meet the criteria for a **verifiable observation** with a sound file and/or photographic evidence
- Focus on **wild organisms in Texas** with **emphasis** on Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and/or species of management interest and concern
- **Contain true location information with positional accuracy within 500 meters**
- **Observations must be shared with Texas Nature Tracker projects or other projects approved by the chapter**
- Time spent using iNaturalist on **one's own property cannot** be counted as service hours
- Data collection may come in the form of **chapter-approved projects** including:
 - **Organized** bioblitzes
 - **Organized surveys** (non-bioblitz) on public land or private land
 - Data collection under the umbrella of other projects
 - iNaturalist **species identification efforts** for flora and fauna within Texas that include:
 - SGCN and other priority species
 - Bioblitz results including City Nature Challenge, Texas Pollinator Bioblitz or other TMN bioblitzes approved by chapters
 - **Curation of observations within TNT projects, coordinated with TNT staff.**
See the state documents for details.
 - Scouting, deploying, monitoring, and maintaining **cameras and site locations**
 - **Organizing collected data and uploading to appropriate TNT project**
 - Reporting findings and about research efforts, analysis of results, lessons learned, and best practices

Texas Nature Trackers includes 12 curated projects. See https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/

Data collected in TNT may be used for long term research and population monitoring.

Email TNT staff for guidance at tracker@tpwd.texas.gov

Criteria for Earning Service Hours Entering Data into eBird

- **No service hours** may be collected for birding on casual, incidental, or personal birding trips
- **Time entering data** into eBird **can be counted** as service hours, up to 15 minutes/trip and by only one member of the birding party
- Time spent conducting bird surveys on **approved formal/official surveys** should be logged under the **chapter-approved project** (Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey, etc.).
Time for eBird data entry may not **also** be counted for these.

Featured Project: FW Nature Center & Refuge
Greenhouse Volunteers

Activities: Assist Refuge Staff in collecting, propagating, and maintaining native plants. Plants grown in the greenhouse and shade building are used in restoration projects within the Refuge. Seed and cuttings collection and restoration take place in various parts of the Refuge, as determined by Staff.

Training: On-site and ongoing.

Dates and Times: Thursdays, 9 am—12 noon.

Location: Fort Worth Nature Center

Volunteers begin each work day at the maintenance building, then travel to the greenhouse or other area of the refuge.

How do I participate?

For questions about volunteering, contact Kenneth Nalley
Volunteer Coordinator

Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge

817-392-7411

Or go to:

<https://www.fwnaturecenter.org/serve/> to get more information and to complete an online application.



All Pictures by
Sharon H.

11-2020

See more page 10

**More Fort Worth Nature Center
Greenhouse photos!**

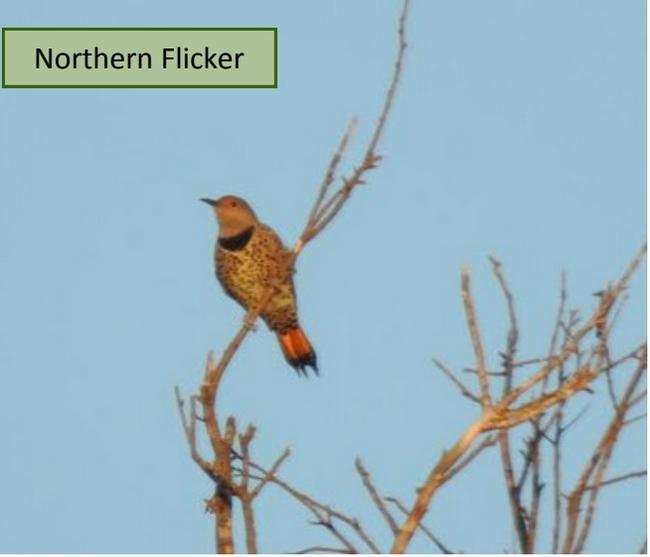




The Winter Naturalist CONT. – Charley Amos



American White Pelican



Northern Flicker

Page 12 **Congrats – Carol Marcotte**

Congratulations to the following who certified this year, Class of 2019!

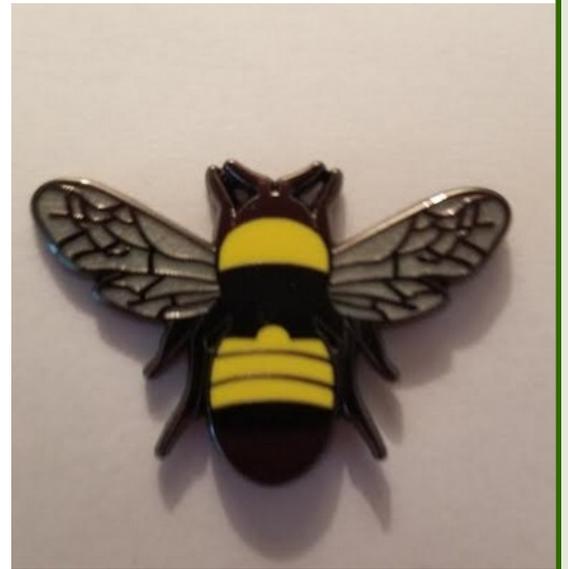
Amy Dragon (Pictured)
Sydney Dragon(Pictured)
Joe Kuderer



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

The following ten members have joined the others from September in achieving their 2020 certification pen.

Joan Carey
Alexis Chernosky
Kim Conrow
Kakkie Cunningham
Brent Franklin
Christopher Honkomp
Kathy Livingston
Carrie Moore
Joe Martinez
Debbie Stilson



Congrats Milestone Award Winnders– Carol Mrcotte

As of November 22, 2020

500 Volunteer Hours - Silver Dragonfly Service Pin- **Kate Morgan**

1000 Volunteer Hours - Gold Dragonfly Service Pin- **Bill Collins**

4000 Volunteer Hours - Polished Gold with Ruby Dragonfly Service Pin- **Martha Mullens**

Gray Fox at South Llano River State Park—Glenn Butter

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

The Winter Naturalist CONT. – Charley Amos



December 2020

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

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

B– FWNC– Natural 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 Holiday Party

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.

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– Plant Party Webinar, see page

M– Trash Pickup at Chisholm Trail Park, 7:00-9:00 am . Meet by the dumpster in the front parking lot.

** For an up to date, flexible calendar, check out the NEW website: <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/events-calendar/>