

December 2021

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Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

President's Pen — Sharon Hamilton

CMOP? See-Mop? What the heck is that?

- What kinds of activities qualify for Volunteer service hours or Advanced Training hours?
- Where are the rules listed for certification and recertification?
- I was unable to recertify last year. How do I remain an active member?
- How does the Board decide whether a new project is approved?
- What are the requirements for Initial Training?
- I'm a Trainee. If I miss a class or field trip, how long do I have to make it up?
- How is the Training Curriculum determined?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of being a Master Naturalist?
- Can I use the TMN Logo or Chapter name on a publication or sign?
- Will the Chapter consider making a donation to a worthy cause?
- I'm a new Board member—**where do I find the answers?**



The answers to these and many other questions are found in the State program's published **CMOP**, or **Chapter Management and Operations Protocols**. This document, along with our **Bylaws** and **Chapter Operating Handbook**, are our principal guides and resources for managing our Chapter.

These documents are found on the state [website](#). CMOP has been revised and updated; the 28-page, November 2021 version will be available on this website soon. For now, Chapter Presidents and Advisors have received the final but unpublished version.

The revision of the CMOP ensures consistent focus on our TMN mission as well as on recruiting and training members for service. Changes and updates have streamlined and clarified the document. A lengthy section on disciplining or removing members (!) was moved out and is now a separate document.

Here is a short version of the Table of Contents:

1. Texas Master Naturalist Program Overview
 2. Structure of the Program
 3. Membership
 4. Training and Certifying Volunteers
 5. Advanced Training Requirements
 6. Volunteer Service Requirements
 7. Chapter Donations
 8. Disciplining or Removing Members General Policy
 9. Protocol Issues and Reference Documents
 - Appendix 1. Role of Chapter Advisor
 - Appendix 2. Federal Opportunity Categories and Examples
 - Appendix 3. Mentor Program
 - Appendix 4. Volunteer Management System (VMS)
 - Appendix 5. Contacts and Program Personnel
- Glossary

<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/181580.htm>

Prairie Phlox, Downy Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*.
Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

This beautiful perennial flower blooms late March through early May and perfumes the garden with a most delightful fragrance.

What a welcome sight it is, after the long dull winter, with its beautiful shades of pink and lavender purple. Together with yellow Columbine it brings lovely pastel color to the garden.

It is easy to propagate by cuttings in the spring and division in the fall. It is very reliable and it spreads itself to make lovely drifts of color.

This plant deserves a very special place in every garden.



I first met Leah Breitenstine early 2020 at the Molly Hollar Wildscape. She was the guest speaker for the March mini class.

She had forged through the Wildscape collecting "delitricals" including RedBud flowers, Chickweed, Violets, Sorrel, Shephard's purse, Dock and many others. She served us salads and hor d'oeuvres while discussing the pros and cons of properly identifying and cleaning the edible plants. Leah has been a certified Texas Master Naturalist since 2018.

When I called Leah Breitenstine a few days ago for an interview, she was busy walking across a frozen lake somewhere near Anchorage, Alaska. My goodness! I listened to background noise. Sure enough, I heard the crunching of ice as she walked.

She is humbled by being a new found celebrity by KERA program Art & Seek. Check out the two links of interviews from KERA Art & Seek by Miquel Perez.

Leah is holding "a large Amanita muscaria or "Fly Agaric" in Alaska. In Texas people may find the beautiful and closely related Amanita persicina."



<https://artandseek.org/2021/11/09/meet-the-mushroom-hunters-behind-north-texas-new-mycology-club/>

<https://artandseek.org/2021/11/15/eager-to-go-mushroom-hunting-in-north-texas-heres-some-advice-from-the-pros/>

Note: It can be hard to tell which wild mushrooms are safe and which are toxic; a mistake can lead to liver failure and even death. CTMN urges you not to eat wild mushrooms unless you have been trained in distinguishing toxic or hallucinogenic mushrooms from nontoxic, edible species. -Sharon Hamilton

Gift of a Native Plant- Alyssa Austin Giliberto

As the holidays are quickly approaching, we are all greeted with the reoccurring question of what to buy for a coworker, a hairdresser, your great Aunt Barbara, and the friend who has everything. We have all purchased gifts on a whim for people that we love and care about, only to find out later that they never used that automatic can opener or wore those cozy slippers. As Master Naturalists, I think it is time for us to rise above this mediocre gift giving trend and give our family and friends something that will brighten their day, will hang around longer than any fad, and will perhaps teach them about the importance of native plants in the North Central Texas area. Yes, you are thinking along the correct line- gift your family and friends with native plants this Christmas. Now before you shoot down my idea, think about this: what if you gave your friend a Yaupon Holly, a Mexican Plum Sapling, a native wildflower seed mix, or a potted Pale-leaf Yucca? All native plants with the ability to brighten their moods long after the holidays are over.

A Yaupon Holly can be a beautiful addition to any yard; it provides blooms in the spring and bright, red berries in the “dead” of winter. These berries are also sought out by native bird species and other area wildlife. Perhaps a Mexican plum sapling for your coworker, which provide beautiful blooms in the spring that when pollinated produce plums during the mid-summer and fall. Grandma may enjoy seeing native wildflowers in the spring, summer, and fall. A native wildflower seed mix will shower her with flowers for years, provide nectar for pollinators, and add to the native seedbank. For the friend who has everything, what about a Pale-leaf Yucca? Pale-leaf Yucca are a low maintenance, often-used-in-landscaping succulent that can withstand Texas weather in summer and winter. Pale-leaf Yucca is also endemic to Texas, so you are providing a gift to a friend and helping this species increase in numbers. By gifting your family and friends with plants, you light a spark that hopefully will turn into a fire as they learn about the importance of native plants.

Christmas is a time for showing others that we care about them, and each of these plant gift ideas show that you are trying to brighten the day of your family member or friend by adding a bit of nature into their lives. Throughout the year, we have faced many stressful situations as a nation, a state, and personally, I am sure. I just want to take a moment to tell each member of The Cross Timbers Chapter that I am thankful to be a member of such an organization as this. Although I may not know many of you personally; collectively, I am participating in our journey towards restoration, conservation, and education of the community of the importance of native plants. Throughout this year, I have learned many additional bits of knowledge about plants, natural resource management, etc., and have met many new people.

Learning new things and getting to be involved in cool volunteer projects is what encourages me to keep working towards re-certification with a full-time job and busy life. You may not decide to purchase plants as gifts this year, and the topic of plants may not even make the conversation at the Christmas table, but one thing I do ask of you is to share your love of nature with your family and friends. Go on a walk and identify a few native tree species, take in the beauty of the migrating waterfowl at The Trinity River, and just enjoy our natural world. If nature reflects one central idea it is this: it takes a tenacious team to accomplish this feat, we call life. Pollinators, plants, animals, and entire ecosystems, all simultaneously work to achieve a goal, kind of like we do as Master Naturalists. This Christmas share that same spirit with your family and friends, and if you do decide to gift a Pale Yucca to Uncle Joe, do not forget to put a bow on it :).

Sources: (wildflower.org , <https://npsot.org/wp/collincounty/files/2021/01/PlantList-DFW.pdf> , and <https://nativebackyards.com/native-texas-plants/>)

During the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting, I had the pleasure to watch virtually a talk on Alien Invaders vs. Insects. The talk was pretty cool! US Fish and Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and other groups use insects as pest control to take on harmful alien invaders.



Adult Salvinia weevil. Photo by Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service

This talk opened my eyes to a different way of thinking. The speaker talked about insects like weevils, beetles and others being used to take out invasive plants like the insidious alligator weed that chokes out waterways the Caddo Lake areas or the water hyacinth with its deviously lovely purple flowers that also choke out waterways.

Weevils and other insects undergo intense testing and scrutiny to see if they are good to be enlisted for this big task of taking on invasive species. It takes researchers a long time to properly test them which is pretty neat.

On Chat, I asked a pretty big multiple part question that has been eating at me for a long time. “If these insects become an invasive themselves?” The fact is that these insects that undergo intensive study are chosen because they are specific enemies of these invasive plants and do not go on massive rampages on their own. They only destroy the plants they are intended to destroy.

I remember as a kid reading about invasive species that humans tried to control using other species; in turn the pest-control species would get out of hand. Sometimes people release animals or plants without thinking and they become problems These special insects are specific to the plan of pest control. Mostly non-native themselves, they don't seem to outcompete native species for food and have natural predators here. The circle of life can continue without it becoming all out of balance

Controlling invasive species is an important aspect of wildlife management. However, you have to play by a plan of action and not go all half-cocked about it. It takes time to plan and find the right species that can fit the bill for safe and efficient pest removal. Some invasive plants are not so easily controlled and that leaves us to be our own breed of Starship Trooper and take on some plants. Privet are a big problem and humans have to lead the fight to restore and help our native plants regain their population. This is no easy fight at all. You have to have a game plan and you have to really know what you are dealing with in order for invasive species removal to be a success.

Photo:

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/service-uses-weevils-to-control-invasive-salvinia-that-threatens-louisiana-coast/>

In my opinion, the Fall is the most spectacular time of the year for trees in the Cross Timbers. Instead of focusing on just one tree this month, I wanted to show you a few trees I see everyday. These are the Cross Timbers Fall Trees in all their glory. Some are Texas native, some are not - they are all beautiful.

- 1) Mexican Buckeye
- 2) Sweet Gum leaves
- 3) Sweet Gum
- 4) Chinese Pistache
- 5) Chinese Pistache
- 6) Texas Ash
- 7) Texas Ash leaves



Chinese Pistache



Chinese Pistache



Texas Ash



Texas Ash



Birds - Robins on Yaupon Holly, Deep Freeze 18Feb21 - Dick Schoech

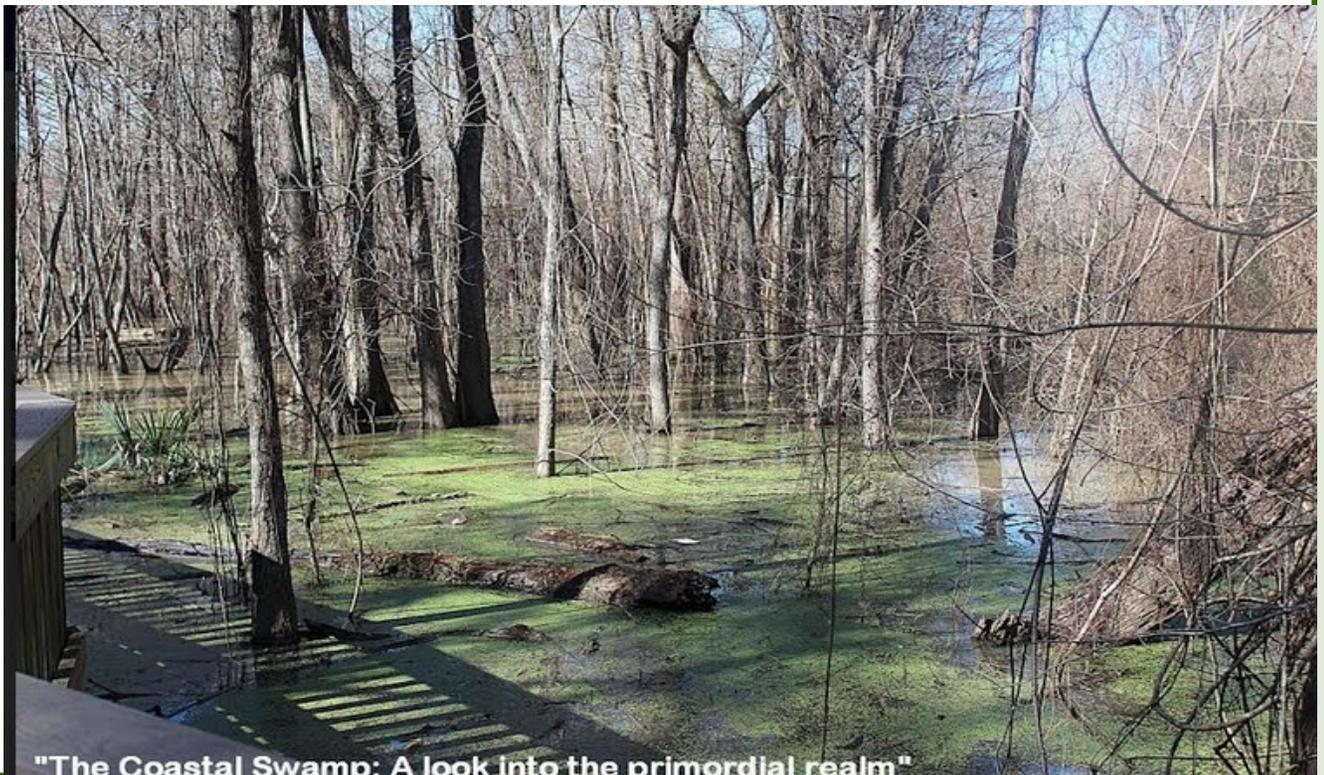
Wildlife - HM -Lizard on Trail - Mary Beth Lampe





Birds: Clean Up, Isle Seven The Black Vulture's Garbage Disposal- Zach Chapman

Scenic Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Zach Chapman



"The Coastal Swamp: A look into the primordial realm"



Wildlife - Two Turtles at Botanic Garden - Mary Beth Lampe

Wildlife - HM- Posing - Hollie Carron





Wildlife- Kern's Flower Beetles
Pollinating *Marshallia caespitosa*-
Suzanne Tuttle

Plant - Red Berries in Overton Park - Mary Beth Lampe





Birds - HM -Lizards Beware - Hollie Carron

2022 Recertification Pin– Carol Marcotte



Texas Master Naturalists announced the 2022 Re-Certification pin at the annual meeting on Sunday October 24, 2021
It's the **Lightning Whelk**, *Busycon perversum pulley*

Greetings Everyone,

It is with a sad heart that I make this announcement; this will be my last CTMN newsletter for you all.

Starting in Spring semester 2022 I will be taking graduate level biology courses and will no longer be able to create/edit the newsletters.

If you would like to take the newsletter editor job contact Sharon Hamilton at president@ctmn.org.

A little bit about the job:

- To create the newsletter I used a super old version of Microsoft Publisher and Microsoft Word. You could use any software that does similar functions to Publisher and Word.
- Set a due date for articles and pictures to come to you so that you have time to create your newsletter and get it sent to Frank Keeney by the 28th-31st of each month.
- You will need to send the final newsletter as a pdf.
- There is no template for the newsletter. So use your creative juices in which ever program you are going to use and create one. On the old [website](#) you can see examples of the previous newsletter format. The newsletters I have created have been put on the new [website](#) for the last three years.
- I would suggest creating a new email specifically for all emails concerning the newsletter to be sent. In the beginning I used my personal email, but some emails went missing. I would recommend a gmail account and to let Frank know so that he can forward all mail sent to newsletter@ctmn.org to your email.
- Making the monthly newsletter takes around 1.5– 3 hours each month (all time counts for volunteer hours). The first newsletter you do will take longer as you create the template you will use for your newsletters.
- You will attend board meetings once a month on the first Monday (also counts for volunteer hours) to keep up with new news.

Farewell and Good Luck,
Carrie Moore

Three Themes of Master Naturalists– Carol Marcotte

- Everything is interconnected
- Everyone makes value judgments
- Nature is dynamic

As a reminder, we all remember our basic training

Contact Sharon Hamilton if you are interested in participating in one of these award winning workshops at shamilton16@gmail.com .

After the success of last year's online workshops, TPWD will offer the WILD series especially for Texas Master Naturalists in 2022:

- Any participating chapter (or cluster of nearby chapters) will designate a coordinator to receive and distribute the Project WILD books
- When a chapter has the minimum of 5 committed participants, they will receive the link for online registration

WILD Workshops:

Aquatic WILD: K-12; primarily aquatic wildlife, habitats, and issues; 6 hours

- Learn how to share your appreciation, understanding and care for aquatic ecosystems and wildlife using tried and true activities designed for learners – Kindergarten to adults.
- When: February 9 and 23, 2022; 6-8 PM
- Where: Zoom
- Fee: \$35/person
- Format: two 2-hour sessions online and 2 hours of independent work
- Registration deadline 2/1/2022

Growing Up WILD: 3-7 yrs. old; general wildlife issues; 3 hours

- Learn how to share your appreciation, understanding and care for ecosystems and wildlife using tried and true activities designed for learners – 3 to 7 years old.
- When: April/May TBD; 9-noon
- Where: Zoom
- Fee: \$35/person
- Format: 3 hours online

Project WILD: K-12; primarily terrestrial wildlife, habitats, and issues; 6 hours

- Learn how to share your appreciation, understanding and care for ecosystems and wildlife using tried and true activities designed for learners – Kindergarten to adults.
- When: June/July/August TBD; 6-8 PM
- Where: Zoom
- Fee: \$35/person
- Format: two 2-hour sessions online and 2 hours of independent work

Kiki Corry, Project WILD Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 389-4369 Kiki.Corry@TPWD.Texas.gov
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/project-wild>

2021 Re-Certified Members earning the American Bumblebee pin

Hollie Carron
Jason Cole
Michele Cyr
Kayla West
Ryan Wiggins

2021 Milestone recipients

Kathy Livingston 250 hours Bronze Dragonfly
Glenda Walker 250 hours Bronze Dragonfly
Dick Schoech 1000 hours Gold Dragonfly

Pay Your Dues– Sharon Hamilton

It's that time of year!
Your 2022 CTMN Annual Dues are \$20, payable on the
www.ctmn.org website.

The Add to Cart button sends you to an external site where
you may use a PayPal account or check out without using
PayPal with your credit card.
Please pay by January 31, 2022.

Note to Class of 2021:
Your 2022 annual dues were included in your
training fee. You have already paid for 2022,
so skip this task until next year.

CTMN Dues

2022 Membership Dues \$20.00 USD ▾

Add to Cart

Order Summary

Item total	\$20.00
Total	\$20.00 USD

 **PayPal** Check out

or

Check Out

Pay without a PayPal account

December 2021

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

- A– FWNC– Restorative Greenhouse from 9:30– 11:30 AM [HERE](#)
 B– FWNC– Natural Guard– Outdoor Conservation from 9 AM to 12 PM [HERE](#)
 C--Sierra Club Monthly Meeting via Zoom. Via Facebook or Meetup.
 D– CTMN Monthly Chapter Meeting via zoom
 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. [HERE](#)
 G– SW Sub Courthouse Garden 9-12 pm [HERE](#)
 H-Mineral Wells State Park, 9-11 am, [HERE](#)
 I– Fall Festival at River Legacy Science Center Garden
 J-Southwest Regional Hulen Library Native Plant Demonstration Garden 8:30 to 12:30 am [HERE](#)
 K– Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Trainings #TMNTuesdays!
 L– Fielder House Butterfly Garden 9-12 am [HERE](#)
 M– OS Gray 9-12 am/pm [HERE](#)
 N– Knapp Heritage Park Garden 9-12 am [HERE](#)
 O– River Legacy Science Center Garden 9-12 am [HERE](#)
 P– Chisholm Trail Community Center Trash Pick Up