

January 2021

**CTMN Board Members:**

Sharon Hamilton -President

Mary Beth Lampe – Vice President

Beverly Moore– Secretary

Christopher Castoro– Treasurer

**CTMN Chair Members:**

Carol Marcotte– Memberships  
– Outreach

Melinda Wolfinbarger Pajak– Education

Theresa Thomas– VOL Service and AT Hours

Sandy Thornburgh– Hospitality  
- Records

Carrie Moore– Newsletter

Frank Keeney– Webmaster

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# Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Newsletter

## *President's Pen* — Sharon Hamilton

Don't Let "Perfect Be the Enemy of Good." - Voltaire

Our Chapter needs and depends on each of us.

You may be, like me, a recovering perfectionist. For most of my life, I have tried to follow rules and do what authority told me (unless the rule made no sense to me, but that's a different column). I did my best to "do my best." Well, my "best" was excellent. I believed had to be excellent all the time, in almost all venues.

"Doing my best" became a recipe for anxiety, procrastination, avoidance, and guilt. I promised colleagues and friends that I'd complete a task or project; but I couldn't keep all of those promises. I imagined perfect holidays for my family, but could not follow through. Now that I understand that perfect can be the enemy of the good, I am getting better.

Each of you reading this is a person willing to use your precious time to volunteer, to build, to grow, to plant, to contribute, and to preserve and restore our amazing natural environment. Most of you want to "do your best," but because of family, job, and other obligations, you cannot do your "best" work on a Chapter project, and you may accomplish less than you'd like to.

So what? So what if you're not the perfect writer, speaker, project leader, or computer whiz? So what if you can't do it all by yourself and you need help? We need your "pretty good" or "adequate" skills anyway! So what if you can't achieve 40 hours of volunteering and 8 hours of Advanced Training this year? You are an important member of our chapter, and are an official Active Member with even one hour of volunteering and paid dues! **We value your presence and contributions.**

One of my goals for our Chapter is that we overflow with "pretty good" projects and events; that we aim for "pretty good" when we try something new. **Please email or text me with an idea that you'd like to see our Chapter do, a speaker you'd like to hear, an article you'd like to read about.** I will likely ask you to take a step or two to get that accomplished, but I don't expect perfection.

As Longfellow said, **"Give what you have... it may be better than you dare think."**

## A Word From the Past President– Bill Collins

Three years - how time flies. It has been a very rich experience. Rich because of the people involved. What a treasure we have in this Cross Timbers Chapter of the Master Naturalists.

It has been great to work with a wonderful board, membership, and sponsors.

Of course, I will still be around, and hope to see you all soon in person, but in the mean time be safe and do the smart thing.

I encourage you to work with your board, especially during these COVID-19 times. Yes, a vaccine is on its way, but it will still be a while before we achieve some sort of normalcy. Please be patient.

Most of all I encourage to keep doing what you have been doing. That is, support those organization that help protect and present nature to the public. Cities, counties, state and federal parks. They all need help to accomplish their missions, in fact those missions will not get done without your help.

Your state office is working on some exciting programs. Virtual Volunteer, TMN Tuesdays, and Annual TMN meeting in Irving next year. If you have done so, sign up on the listserv email list to keep up with all the opportunities and log in occasionally to the [tmn.org](http://tmn.org) website for updates.

Good Luck to Sharon Hamilton, Mary Beth Lampe, Beverly Moore, and Chris Castoro as they direct the board this next year. Help as you can.

Merry Christmas and Happier New Year to you all.

False Willow, Poverty Weed, Roosevelt Weed, *Baccharis neglecta* Asteraceae, (Aster Family)

This native plant grows in disturbed ground and low places and goes unnoticed most of the year, but in the Fall it blooms with tiny white flowers that make it look as if it was covered with snow. The flowers are like little brushes and are borne in great abundance with a most graceful look waving in the breeze. Bees and other pollinators flock to this plant and it makes a lovely statement in the garden when the need for nectar plants is very important to migrating butterflies.



This shrub or small tree is a fast grower and makes a very graceful fencerow or specimen plant where it can be pruned to suit your taste.

If you are looking for an easy to grow plant that does very well in our extreme Texas heat this is the plant for you, ours didn't wilt even once in the over 100 degree temperatures.

The popular name for this plant Poverty Weed comes from the time of the Depression when so many farms were uncultivated and the plant proliferated in great numbers since it likes uncultivated ground. The name Roosevelt Weed refers to president Roosevelt who was in office at the time.

**Above– Close-up**  
**Below– Hedge**



1. When did you get certified?

2017

2. What advice do you have to a new Texas Master Naturalist?

Volunteer where your HEART is and where you feel you can contribute the most!

3. Where do you get most of your Volunteer Hours?

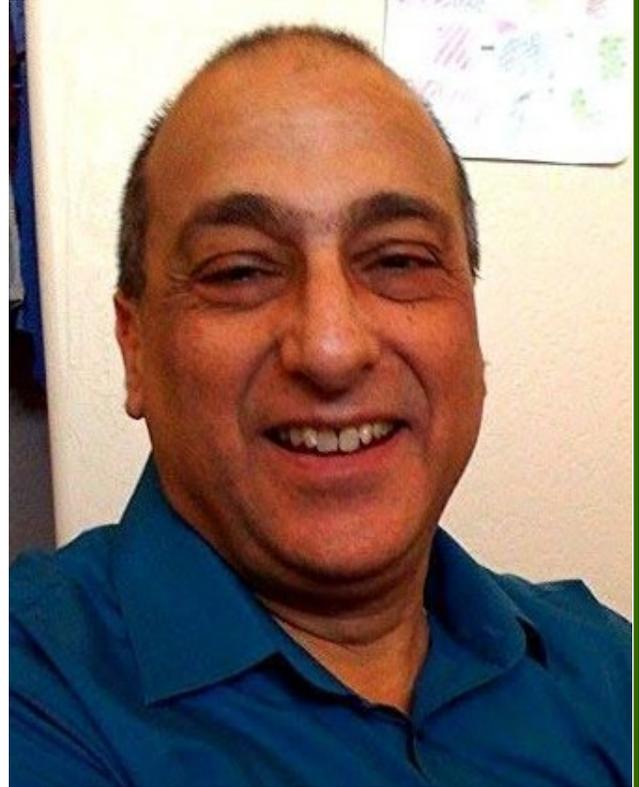
I get most of my hours volunteering as a board member for Fort Worth Audubon Society (Recording Secretary). I also do some Bluebird box work at Benbrook Lake, and clean-up work at Chisholm Trail Park

4. What do you do for fun?

I bird watch, sing in a Senior choir (when Covid restrictions allow,) play Video Golf (don't judge!) and play with my 2 French Bulldogs

5. What have you learned about yourself since being a TMN?

Well, I've learned a lot about the natural world, especially around the North Texas area, and I've learned that I LOVE to give of myself for the (small) betterment of our world.



## #TMNTuesdays—Carol Marcotte

In 2021, The Texas Master Naturalist Program is kicking off a NEW event series – #TMNTuesdays!

On the Second Tuesday of each month at noon hour (12PM CST), the TMN State Office will offer an hour-long virtual advanced training, AT, event (sometimes including some fantastic new and returning guest speakers). More information about each of these monthly events is pending, but in the meantime - save the dates!

January 12 | February 9 | March 9 | April 13 | May 11 | June 8 | July 13 | August 10 | September 14 | November 9 | December 14

## Featured Project: OS Gray Natural Area, Arlington– Sharon Hamilton

**About OSGNA:** This 20-acre natural area includes woodlands, old growth post oak forest, and meadows in the heart of Arlington. Previously the area were properties of longtime Arlington landowners, Oscar (OS) Gray and the Rosser family. Now the area is maintained by the City of Arlington and the Friends of the OS Gray Natural Area. Mr. Gray ran a successful pecan nursery, bred new varieties of pecans on this land, and served as a leader among pecan growers.

**Activities:** Tasks vary. Volunteers may restore, preserve, and maintain native grasses, trees, and other herbaceous species; remove invasive species; construct mulch trails; or maintain the pollinator garden.

**Training:** No training required before beginning the day's project. Learn as you help!

**Dates and Times:** Second Saturday of each month, 9am-12 noon

**Location:** 2021 W. Abram Street, Arlington, TX 76013

**How do I participate?** Contact Project Leader, Kevin Donovan, [kevindonovan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kevindonovan@sbcglobal.net)

**Featured Project:** OS Gray Natural Area, Arlington

More information and photos

Resources: <http://www.friendsofosgray.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/OSGrayNaturalArea>





**Photos by Sharon Hamilton and Jim Domke 11-14-2020**

A New Pollinator Garden was installed in Randol Mill Park, Arlington on November 30, 2020. A grant from Fort Worth Audubon Society made it possible to purchase supplies. The garden is located in front of the greenhouses, where native plant sale is held in the fall each year. Several Cross Timber Chapter members took part in the installation, under the direction of Josephine Keeney. Those members are: Jane Oosterhuis, Josephine Keeney, Denise Pederson. Carol Marcotte, Phyl Baloga, Charley Amos, Dick Schoech and Denise Carter (a future member).

Volunteers braved the cold, windy weather to clear the area of weeds, grass and non-native lantana. We planted Wild Petunia (*Ruellia nudiflora*) and Prairie Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*). And we spread the seeds of Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Brazos Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*) and Lemon Horsemint (*Monarda citriodora*).

Next time you are at Randol Mill Park in Arlington, take a stroll to visit a new home for the bees, beetles, wasps & butterflies. A fun time was had by all.



Left Above– Members  
Right Above– Members in the cold  
Left Below– Spread Seeds

Beginning January 2021 a new series describing 12 trees of the Cross Timbers will be featured in the CTMN monthly newsletter.

I thought it appropriate to honor the name of our TMN chapter by describing some of the trees of Cross Timbers. Although there are hundreds of native trees of the Cross Timbers, this series will focus on 12 of them. In this series, you'll discover the reason the early pioneers of our area named the Cross Timbers, Cast Iron Forest.

Each month January – December a different tree will be featured, found in Tarrant and Parker counties.

I'd like to thank the many people & organizations for their input, editing, online reference resources and valuable suggestions. All have given permission to use as content and/will be credited in the 12 month tree discussions.

Jan = Live Oak

Feb = Blackjack Oak

March = Mexican Plum

April = Texas Ash

May = Cedar Elm

June = Hercules Club

July = Bois D'arc

Aug = Western Soapberry

Sept = Post Oak

Oct = Chinquapin Oak

Nov = Bur Oak

Dec = Flameleaf Sumac

Several different species of Live Oak tree are found in Cross Timbers area. This month, I am concentrating on the *Quercus virginiana* and *Quercus fusiformis* because they are both commonly found in our Tarrant and Parker counties.

The canopy of a Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) can spread to well over 100 feet and its short stout trunk can be up to 4 feet in diameter. It is considered a medium tree.

Live Oaks are evergreen and have a fairly rapid growth rate with moderate water needs. (<https://www.pcmg-texas.org/info/best-of-parker-county/best-trees-of-parker-county>)



Live oaks are different from the other oak species in several ways. They are evergreen or semi-deciduous. They drop their leaves in February/March instead of the fall. Their leaves are simple nondescript ovals, 1-4" long with an entire margin. White oaks have rounded lobes. Eugene Gehring, <http://ctufc.org/native-trees/live-oak-tree/> (Dec 12, 2018 )

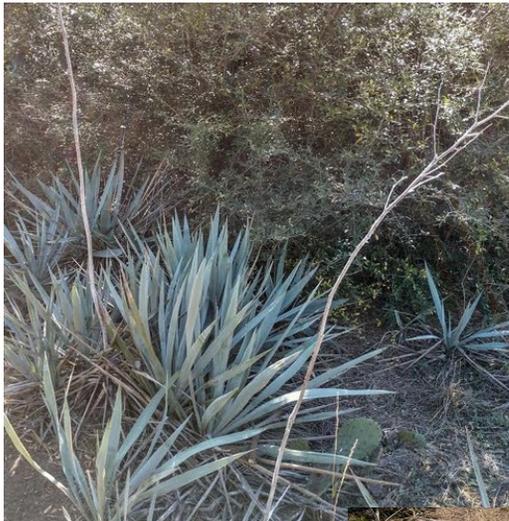


Chandor Gardens is best known for its 3 1/2 acre estate with displays of Chinese architecture and English gardens. However, a new interpretive nature trail is being developed.

On Nov. 19th, Holly Carron, Christie Tull, and myself, Glenda Walker from CTMN were able to preview the trail. Our guides were Shannon Goodman, director of the Weatherford Parks and Recreation Dept and assistant director, Jacob Kirkpatrick. Last but not least, we were also accompanied by Luke Skywalker - Christie's puppy dog!

Hollie was a world of knowledge! She identified the yuccas there as a species only found in this part of Texas - the yellow yucca. Hollie also experimented with the white residue on the prickly pear. She had heard that it became red when rubbed between the fingers. And sure enough it did! It is from the cochineal insect which feeds on the prickly pear and then forms the cotton- like white residue as a protection from predators. Once dried and taken off of the cactus it was- and still is- used as a dye. The Aztecs used this to dye their ceremonial clothing, pottery and as a body paint. Today it is used in dye in nutritional drinks!

The trail which is about one and a half miles in length will form a loop and was close to completion when we took our walk. I am sure it has been completed by now. In time there will be plant species and tree identification posted along the trail. So there is a volunteer possibility there! The trail is not open to the general public yet. But tentatively it will be open late spring - early summer. That will be a perfect time to visit the gardens and check out the new hiking trail!



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Pyrrhuloxia at San Angelo State Park  
By Glenn Butler



Eastern Screech Owl my backyard  
By Carrie Moore

**Trivia Contest**

- Zach Chapman
- Brent Franklin
- Avon Burton
- Kimberly Sasson
- Chris Rouhier
- Donna Felton
- Troy and Marth Mullens

**Costume– Most Creative**

- Avon Burton
- Glenda Walker

**Costume– Most Nature Oriented**

- Zach Chapman
- Nancy Curl
- Donna and Chris Honkomp

**Costume– Ugly Sweater**

- Lori Chernosky
- Megan McConnell
- Fonda Fox
- Joe Martinez

**Chapter Dues Paid Before December 15th Contest Winners:**

- Sandy Thornburgh
- Charlene McMorrow



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

Phyl Baloga  
Leah Breitenstine  
Mary Beth Lampe  
Banjo Moore  
Dick Pafford  
Dick Schoech



## **CTMN Announcements– Carol Marcotte**

### **Watch TPW Television**

Serving: Dallas-Fort Worth, Abilene, Denton, Longview, Marshall, San Angelo, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls and Sherman.

[KERA-TV](#), Channel 13  
Saturday 9:00 AM  
(October-April only)

### **Start 2021 off right - Review & Update your VMS Profile**

- Check your mailing address and email address
- Correct home and / or cell phone numbers
- Add your birth date, Texas Drivers License number
- Update your emergency contact information
- and more . . . .

Don't have the time to make changes to your VMS profile? Email [membership@ctmn.org](mailto:membership@ctmn.org) with your updates. ~~~ I'll make the changes for you! Carol Marcotte, Membership Director

### **Don't Forget Members**

Volunteer Hours (VH) & Advanced Training (AT) hours earned by December 31, 2020, must be logged into Volunteer Management System (VMS) by January 30, 2021. <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>

# January 2021

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

A– FWNC– Restorative Greenhouse from 9:30– 11:30 AM

B– FWNC– Natural Guard– Outdoor Conservation from 9 AM to 12 PM

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. 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. 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– Texas Master Naturalist Virtual Trainings #TMNTuesdays!

L– Deadline to submit Virtual Volunteer Opportunities; submit [HERE](#)

M– OS Gray 9-12 am/pm.

\*The State has imposed significant restrictions to all face to face events due to Covid-19, allowing only mission critical activities.

Guidelines are in effect until January xx and will likely be extended beyond that date. Contact project leader for information specific to the worksite before traveling to any event listed below.

\*\* For contact numbers and more information check out the [website calendar](#)