



# CROSS TIMBERS MASTER NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

**February 2022**

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# Presidents Pen: The Great Backyard Bird Count

## Sharon Hamilton, President

Looking for a few “easy and fun” Volunteer or Advanced Training hours?

A great way to start the year is the **2022 Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21**. With a little effort you can be part of this global event sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada

Organizers offer a free **livestreaming webinar** Wednesday, February 16 at 1 pm Central (2 pm Eastern). Bird experts will help viewers brush up on bird ID, unlock the mystery of bird songs, and practice counting birds no matter how large the flock or busy the feeder. According to the website, this webinar is designed for birders of all ages and experience—you'll leave confident and ready to be part of the GBBC!

Since it's sponsored by the National Audubon Society, this event qualifies for an Advanced Training hour if you **participate live and stay for questions and answers**.

**How to record the AT hours** for this event—

Go to your **VMS menu** and click on **\_AT: Audubon Society: TMN AT Report hours**.

In the description section, give the title of the program and be sure to note you watched live.



American black culture, *Coragyps atratus*,

Then follow these steps!

**Step 1** – Decide where you will watch birds.

**Step 2** – Watch birds for **15 minutes or more, at least once** over the four days, February 18-21, 2022.

**Step 3** – Count all the birds you **see or hear** within your planned time/location and use an online tool for sharing your sightings. As a beginner, you may want to use the [Merlin Bird ID app](#). If you are experienced, [eBird Mobile app](#) or **skip the smartphone apps** and go straight to the [eBird website for laptop or desktop](#).

Remember, your number of volunteer hours is **equal** to the amount of time you're observing, counting, and submitting your bird list.

**How to record your Volunteer hours** for the Great Backyard Bird Count—

Go to your VMS menu and click on

**Citizen science/data collection (\*your\* County):TMN Field Research Hours**

In your description, note that you participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count and include the location.

**\*Note:** our VMS menu lists ten specific counties, so please **choose the county where you observed**. In a county not listed? There's an entry for "all other Texas Counties!"

I'm inspired to participate thanks to encouragement from **Carol Marcotte**, whose 2021 Newsletter article made it seem simple. Carol used an old pair of binoculars and bird guide books to count birds in her own backyard and at the Randol Mill Park Duck



Pond. Carol told us the website is user-friendly for recording observations! It was easy to observe and learn the names of more local birds.

Watch, learn, count, and celebrate, **whether you see one or 100 birds.**

As the organizers say, **your participation matters.**

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# Announcements

## February Meeting:

Our upcoming meeting on February 21, 2022 will be held via **ZOOM ONLY**. We hope everyone is staying safe and cannot wait to meet up again in person soon.

## To all Members:

**Your hours matter. Please record them within 45 days of service.**

Hours may qualify as \$74 worth of matching funds so the State of Texas can receive money from the Federal Government. Let's get our tax dollars back in Texas!

For **December 31, 2021** hours the VMS Window Closes **February 14, 2022**.

## Looking for the monthly Calendar of Events?

**Please go to <https://txmn.org/crosstimbers/events-calendar> for a readable, upgraded calendar**

Help us include as many Master Naturalist activities as possible to our online calendar.

If you have CTMN items to add or corrections, contact Mary Beth Lampe at [mblampe@gmail.com](mailto:mblampe@gmail.com)

Thank you!



# #TMNTuesday



February 8, 2022  
12pm CST

ANNA  
STRONG,

Seed Collections for  
Conservation

MINNETTE  
MARR



ANDREW  
MCNEIL-  
MARSHALL

Join TMN Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm CST for a zoomed-in glance at the world of seed conservation!

## #TMNTuesday- Seed Collections for Conservation

Humans have been collecting and saving seeds for thousands of years, and it's vitally important that we as Texans utilize this timeless skill to help protect our nature heritage. Join TPWD Botanist Anna Strong, along with Minnette Marr (Conservation Botanist) and Andrew McNeil-Marshall (Arborist) from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center as we learn about the best practices of creating seed and living collections for conservation purposes. Start making those seed collections today!

**You must register** for this WebEx event:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#february2022>

Qualifies for Advanced Training: See **AT: TMN Tuesday: MN Report Hours**

Note: this menu option is not among the list starting with \_AT. Scroll down below the Arlington Fielder Butterfly Garden... option to find the correct item.

You may earn credit for 2022 #TMN Tuesday events whether you watch live or watch the recording posted on [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org) in sometime in 2022.



## Flower of the Month: Agarita, Laredo Mahonia, *Mahonia trifoliolata*

Josephine Keeney



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.





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## February 2022 Guest Speaker

### Jared Williams

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Dr. Jared Williams will be joining us for our February 21 meeting to discuss “Land Conservation and Prairies in Fort Worth”. This meeting will be held via Zoom only.

Dr. Williams grew up in southwest Fort Worth and was raised by two working parents: both were public school teachers, and his dad a pastor in District 6. Dr. Williams is a graduate of North Crowley High School and holds a bachelor’s degree in Biotechnology from Fort Valley State University - a historically black college and university, a master’s degree in Environmental Science from Texas Christian University, and a doctorate in Environmental Science and Science Education from the University of North Texas.



Dr. Williams has extensive experience leading education initiatives, organizing nonprofit and corporate stakeholders around common good, and vision-casting equitable public education reform. He actively supports various local non-profits and initiatives with organizations such as the Tarrant Area Food Bank, DRC Housing Solutions, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Crowley ISD, Friends of I.M. Terrell Foundation and others.

Rooted in the values his family instilled in him, Dr. Williams has dedicated his life-work to making a difference in Fort Worth on local and state issues like public education, hunger, housing and the environment.

In his spare time, he loves spending time with his wife, Scioscia, and their two dogs, vagabonding for scenic landscapes, failing forward in socially responsible entrepreneurship, and exercising his green thumb growing Texas native plants, strong neighborhoods, and prosperous cities.



# Volunteer Opportunity: The Second 5th Anniversary Savage Cabbage Bash

## JoAnn Collins



Greetings fellow MNs,

Ten years ago after watching the movie, *The Lorax*, with my child we rode our bikes along the Trinity Trail and saw “Bastard” Cabbage, *Rapistrum rugosum*, for the first time. I was unsure of what plant it was but we thought that it looked like mini Truffula Trees!

I later found out it was an invasive species. Because of its unique name, I told students about it. Once when I was substituting, I told a 6th grade class at Young Women’s Leadership Academy about it. Students said that they could help pull it out. I knew that Tarrant Regional Water District held trash cleanups where they gave out gloves and trash bags and I suggested to the young women that we ask them to sponsor us. TRWD agreed and for four years we found big stands of BC and pulled it up. After our second year, the superintendent of the river maintenance contacted us to see if we were going to do the event because it

worked so well! In 2020 we had a big event planned and that was cancelled due to Covid and cancelled again in 2021.

**We are finally getting to have the 5th anniversary this year!** TRWD is totally behind the event and is expanding the Adopt a River program to help control the BC! We have always pulled it along the trail between The Press Cafe and Trinity Park. I’m not sure yet where we will be concentrating our efforts this year, but I do need volunteers to assist with the event. I am hoping to get more students and groups involved. There may be a contingent that does the event at Marine Creek Lake. So I may need someone to be in charge out there. Basically to pass out trash bags and gloves, and send a picture of where TRWD needs to come pick up the bags when the event is over. Here is the link to sign up: [Savage Cabbage Bash sign up](#) I hope you can join us in eradicating this plant along the Trinity and elsewhere!

**Any questions? Please contact me at the number below, texting is better.**  
**JoAnn Collins—817.689.0098**

BTW....TRWD made me signs that we put up when we are pulling BC. I can lend these out to anyone who wants to put on their own Savage Cabbage Bash!

**CTMN will have a seedball making station at this event. We can use 2-3 more volunteers to help volunteers and visitors make seed balls.**  
**Contact Sharon Hamilton at [shamilton16@gmail.com](mailto:shamilton16@gmail.com) if you’re interested.**



## Featured Project: North Prairie Restoration Project

### Jim Frisinger

**Featured Project:** North Prairie Restoration Project, Friends of Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, Arlington

**Activities:** Woody plant clearing, soil preparation, planting.

**Training:** Getting to know both non-native and native invasive species population of the prairie and how they threaten the prairie ecology in the absence of prairie fires and animal browsers. Learning techniques for woody plant removal and working as a team.

**Dates and Times:** Informal, alternat Sunday mornings, 9-noon

**Location:** Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve, 5201 S. Bowman Springs Rd., Arlington.

#### **How do I participate?**

Contact project leader Jim Frisinger, [jimfrisinger@yahoo.com](mailto:jimfrisinger@yahoo.com)

#### **Or go to:**

[www.scnpfriends.org](http://www.scnpfriends.org)

#### **Brief project overview**

2.4-acre prairie was former cattle ranch abandoned at least two decades ago. Restoration project initiated January 2021. CTMN Class of 2021 team members began volunteering in October clearing honey locust, Chinaberry, Greenbriar and privet to recreate savannah prairie with a few native oaks, elms and hackberries remaining. Special attention is being made to several post oaks, each more than a hundred years old, which were being swallowed up and threatened by unmanaged trees, brush and vines.

“The conviviality of everyone in the crew and our banter while we slog through the undergrowth has certainly been one of the things that keeps me coming back every other week,” says CTMN Class of 2021 volunteer Morgan Chivers. “I knew long before I started with Master Naturalists that invasive species removal is a real passion for me, so I got a lot of satisfaction out of pushing back the privet and Chinaberry.” He has mixed feelings about removing native Greenbriar and immature post oaks but recognizes that the public’s use of and interest in these spaces is key for potential expansions and preserving more land.

“This is a space so close to suburbia that can’t truly be wild -- and a space so close to gas infrastructure that can’t be burned to handle the encroachment naturally,” he says. “I’m happy to put my body and time into helping restore the North Prairie and encourage the endemic Glen Rose yucca.”



## Featured Project: North Prairie Restoration Project

Jim Frisinger



Morgan Chivers grabbing Greenbriar



Post Oak Before...



Karen Shubak with a Katanaboy 500 hand saw



Post Oak After!!



## Countering Ignorance - Master Naturalists Owe it to the Environment

Glenda Walker

**Mark de Kiewiet**, President of Guadalupe chapter, presented "Countering Ignorance - Master Naturalists Owe it to the Environment" at the October 2021 TMN Annual meeting. He stated that countering ignorance is the most important thing we can do as Master Naturalists and urged a two-pronged approach—providing knowledge and facts.

People of all ages are going to be presented "facts" by someone, and those facts are not always going to be accurate. Mr. de Kiewiet believes in providing each generation with the skills to help protect our environment. He breaks down specific actions for each age group that will help develop them into strong environmental advocates.

**Kids 6 -11:** We need to develop youngsters' minds to observe, note, and see things as interacting, and how everything is related. I was fascinated to hear him say that this age group is the most targeted by marketers!

**Adolescents 12 -18:** They have a lot of energy and are not afraid to voice their convictions. It is at this age that we can encourage them to protect and help the environment instead of destroying it.

**Young adults 18 and older:** Young adults have the energy, but not necessarily the time or resources. So we must enlist their participation by encouraging them and finding opportunities for them to work with nature.

**Middle-aged 35 and 40:** This age group has the mental capacity, time, and resources to work on a consistent basis with conservation and ongoing projects.

**60 ±:** These are seasoned adults that have the patience and wisdom to mentor. They have a strong desire to be needed and helpful to all ages.

Often our efforts are well-meaning but we focus on isolated age groups. Mr. de Kiewiet's thoughts are that we need to develop programs that serve each different group, and provide to connection between each group.

### **What should we be doing and how?**

#### **Share, learn, and grow.**

We should contact civic organizations, urban planners, and others, and have online debates through social media. Research those that are successful at this and follow their lead.

**Offer monthly activities that appeal to all age groups.** Monitor needs and abilities to contribute lots of facts and be open to interpretation and ideas.

**Link kids to adults** – perhaps night hikes- and have a quiz at the end of these activities to keep the kids engaged. We can also schedule programs that take place outdoors. These can be broken into separate stations, and provide exhibits and activities to take home. Advertise the programs at libraries, city parks, and wildlife organizations.

**Develop a Discovery Series for kids 6- 11 years** old, perhaps a year-long program with a different theme every month. Each module can build off of the previous one. This would be particularly good for developing a future Junior Master Naturalist program!

By utilizing this strategy, we can be highly effective to position and educate the public, and to develop interpretive minds. We will help protect our precious environment and preserve it for future generations!



## CTMN Board Members

- SHARON HAMILTON - PRESIDENT
- MARY BETH LAMPE - VICE PRESIDENT
- GLENDA WALKER - SECRETARY
- CHRISITOPHER CASTORO - TREASURER

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- DEBBIE STILSON - MEMBERSHIPS
- SHARON HAMILTON - OUTREACH
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- THEREA THOMAS - VOL SERVICES AND AT HOURS
- SANDY THORNBURGH - HOSPITALITY
- THERESA THOMAS - RECORDS
- EVAN VAUGHN - NEWSLETTER
- FRANK KEENEY - WEBMASTER

## Citations

- "COVER PAGE" PHOTO - BIRD PHOTO - WEBSITE: [HTTPS://DIGITAL-PHOTOGRAPHY-SCHOOL.COM/BACKYARD-BIRD-PHOTOGRAPHY-TIPS/](https://digital-photography-school.com/backyard-bird-photography-tips/); PLANT PHOTO - PHOTOGRAPHER: JOSEPHINE KEENEY; GROUP PHOTO - PHOTOGRAPHER: JIM DOMKE
- "PRESIDENT'S PEN" PHOTO - PHOTOGRAPHER: SHARON HAMILTON, JULY 18, 2021—SHARON'S FORT WORTH BACKYARD
- "TMNTUESDAY" CLIPART PHOTO - WEBSITE: [HTTPS://TXMN.EDU/TMNTUESDAYS/#FEBRUARY2022](https://txmn.edu/tmntuesdays/#february2022)
- "FLOWER OF THE MONTH" PHOTOS - PHOTOGRAPHER: JOSEPHINE KEENEY
- "FEBRUARY 2022 GUEST SPEAKER" - BIOGRAPHY INFORMATION: [HTTPS://WWW.FORTWORTHTEXAS.GOV/GOVERNMENT/ELECTED-OFFICIALS/JARED-WILLIAMS](https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/government/elected-officials/jared-williams); PHOTO: [HTTPS://WWW.DRJAREDWILLIAMS.COM/ABOUT](https://www.drjaredwilliams.com/about)
- "VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY" PHOTO - WEBSITE: [HTTP://NPSOT.ORG/WP/FREDERICKSBURG/FILES/2016/05/ENDS-LIKE.JPG](http://npsot.org/wp/fredericksburg/files/2016/05/ends-like.jpg)
- "FEATURED PROJECT" PHOTOS - JIM FRISINGER