

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Cross Timbers



Spring into
LUCKY March!



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In this Issue:



Month Speaker

April's speaker, Jim Jones, will discuss how citizen scientists aid wildlife and migration research. A seasoned birder, he brings decades of conservation experience.

Current Events

Upcoming events include a Migration talk (4/15-4/19), a Chandor Gardens BioBlitz (4/19), and plant surveys at Chalk Mountain Ranch (4/21) and Stewart Ranch (4/28), along with a BioBlitz at Fort Worth Nature Center (4/26).



Featured Project

CA's Lights Out, DFW! protects migratory birds from light pollution. Since 2020, volunteers have collected 3,000+ bird mortalities and rescued 324. The initiative urges lights-off efforts, conducts surveys, and partners with schools for education. Spring 2025 surveys run March 13–May 31.



CTMN Announcements



WE ARE HIRING!

Education and Volunteer Coordinator



Native **Prairies**
Association of Texas

TEXASPRAIRIE.ORG/EMPLOYMENT



Monarch Watch Milkweed Market

Monarchs need milkweed! By planting milkweeds and nectar plants, you can help maintain the monarch migration and sustain insects whose pollination services maintain our ecosystems.

 Monarch Watch Milkweed Market



2025!

City Nature Challenge



City Nature Challenge 2025: Global Project

Apr 25, 2025 - Apr 28, 2025

GET READY!!!!

Speakers

April's Speaker

**Presentation: Monday, April 21, 2025 |
7pm**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

**Jim Jones, Fort Worth Audubon
Society Education Chair**

Bird Migration: Using Technology to Track Their Journey Through North Texas



[Zoom Link](#)

Over the past 24 years, various tools have been developed to provide scientists with valuable data on local habitats and wildlife migration patterns. Much of this information comes from citizen scientists, including Master Naturalists and National Audubon Society members. In this presentation, Jim will discuss how you can contribute to online data platforms and use this information to deepen your understanding of the wildlife around us.

Jim moved to Texas in 1998 after an extensive career working on engineering projects across 15 states and the Middle East. An avid traveler, he has camped and hiked in 47 U.S. states, eight Canadian provinces, and 14 other countries, including Nepal and Kenya. His love for the outdoors and wildlife began in his hometown, a small Appalachian community in north-central Pennsylvania, where he spent his teenage summers as a counselor at scout camps.

Though not initially an avid birder, Jim's interest in birding took off after moving to Texas. In 1999, while researching Mississippi Kites nesting above his home in Bedford, he discovered the Fort Worth Audubon Society (FWAS) and quickly became involved in field trips, bird counts, and conservation projects. By 2001, he had joined the FWAS board of directors.

TMN Tuesdays

On the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00pm Central Standard Time, the TMN State Office offers an hour-long virtual advanced training event – with fantastic new and returning guest speakers.

This Month's Speakers



Title: Stewards & Statutes: The Legal Side of Texas Wildlife Education

Description: Discover when wildlife education activities require permits and navigate the maze of Texas state laws and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regulations that affect your work. Learn how permits function, what activities they can authorize, and the surprising benefits they offer to wildlife educators. Learn practical strategies for Texas Master Naturalist chapters to effectively manage permits, ensuring smooth operations and maximum educational impact.

Join Benjamin Anderson and Lindsay Garza, TPWD License and Permitting Specialists, as they discuss the ins and outs of the permitting process!

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

[View Past #TMNTuesday
Presentations Here for
Advanced Training Hrs.](#)

[Register Here](#)

[Webex Guide](#)

[FAQ](#)



Native of the Month



Texas Mountain Laurel (*Dermatophyllum secundiflorum*)

by Madison Gover



Texas Mountain Laurel is a beautiful shrub that is one of the first plants to bloom. The purple, grape soda-smelling flowers begin flowering in February and continue until mid-April.

They are evergreen, and are extremely slow-growing. In the wild, their seeds have such a thick, solid coating that it can take the seeds up to 10 years to scarify and germinate.

These red seeds are beautifully vibrant, yet toxic. Native Americans used this seed for jewelry, clothing, and ceremonial uses. The seeds inside the shell contain cytisine/sophorine, which is related to nicotine. It causes hallucinogens. Keep these away from children and pets!

It enjoys full sun and deep infrequent watering.

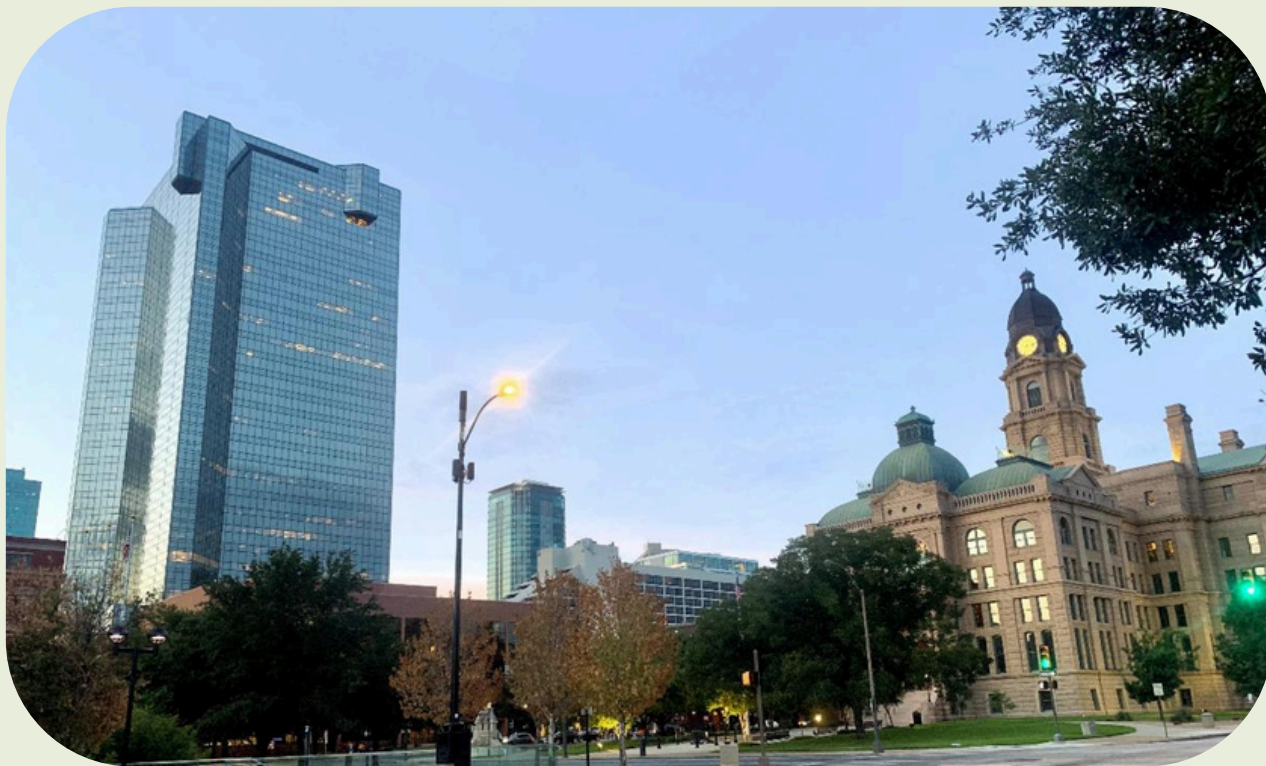


My partner has a video on his scarification process that he's used to help scarify and germinate mountain laurel seeds. Take a look if you want! :)



Featured Project

Lights Out Fort Worth



When:

March 13 - April 19

Thu, Fri, Sat mornings

April 23 - May 10 (Peak Migration)

Wed- Sat mornings

May 15 - May 31

Thu, Fri, Sat mornings

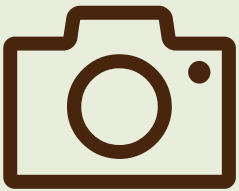
ALL surveys begin at 6 am and end around 8 am!

Where:

Surveys will start and end at the Tarrant County College - Trinity River Campus East Parking lot (see Parking Map). Upon arrival to the parking lot, Lights Out Fort Worth Coordinators and/or Survey Leaders will give you a temporary parking permit. This parking permit is required!

[Parking Map](#)

[FULL DETAILS](#)



Art & Photography Gallery



Finds

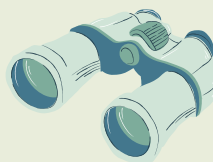
I was working in my backyard veggie garden at the end of January planting red onion slips when this Greater Roadrunner came for a visit. It didn't seem too worried by my presence and just hung out for a bit. - **Suzanne Tuttle**



Teddi Zonker



I found a rattlesnake rattle and skull in coyote scat! - **Madison Gover**





Current Events

March 2025

Plant Survey Dates

Stewart Ranch (Graham/Young County)
Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com
Monday, 3/25, 9am

Rare plant survey for Quayle's Ragwort

Parker County Brookshire's
Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com
Saturday, 3/29, 9am

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center
Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org
3/29, 730am

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Village Creek Drying Beds
Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org
4/9, 830am

Mosque Point Park/Camp Leroy Shuman BioBlitz

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com
Saturday, 4/12, 9am - REGISTER
**Saturday, 4/12, 8pm Mothing event -
REGISTER**

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Foster Park
Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org
4/12, 830am

April 2025

Fort Worth Audubon Society
Kelley Park
Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org
4/4, 830am

Fort Worth Nature Center

\$6 Nature Center entry fee applies
Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com
Saturday, 4/5, 9am

Plant Survey Dates

Chalk Mountain Ranch (Walnut
Springs/Somervell County)
Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com
Tuesday, 4/8, 9am

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Trinity Bird Walk and Count
Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org
4/13, 730am

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Parr Park, Grapevine
Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org
4/13, 8am

Plant Survey Dates

Stewart Ranch (Graham/Young County)
Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com
Monday, 4/14, 9am

Migration throughout the Lower Rio Grand Valley

tom.haase@sbcglobal.net, 817-229-4987

Tuesday, 4/15-Saturday 4/19

Chandor Gardens Natural Area BioBlitz

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Saturday, 4/19, 9am

Plant Survey Dates

Chalk Mountain Ranch (Walnut Springs/Somervell County)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Monday, 4/21, 9am

Fort Worth Nature Center

Bioblitz at the old Camp Jarvis site

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Saturday, 4/26, 9am

Plant Survey Dates

Stewart Ranch (Graham/Young County)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Monday, 4/28, 9am

May 2025

Lake Proctor (Comanche Co)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Saturday, 5/3, 9am

Plant Survey Dates

Chalk Mountain Ranch (Walnut Springs/Somervell County)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Tuesday, 5/6, 9am

April 2025

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Kelley Park

Michael Francis, mfrancis@fwas.org

4/4, 830am

Fort Worth Nature Center

\$6 Nature Center entry fee applies

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Saturday, 4/5, 9am

Plant Survey Dates

Chalk Mountain Ranch (Walnut Springs/Somervell County)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Tuesday, 4/8, 9am

Stewart Ranch tour in Graham

Tour offered by donations (NPAT)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Saturday, 5/10, 9am

Fort Worth Audubon Society

Earbirding with your phone workshop

Debbie Branch, djbranch2@yahoo.com

5/10, 730am

Plant Survey Dates

Stewart Ranch (Graham/Young County)

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Monday, 5/12, 9am

LBJ Natl Grasslands - unit #31

Jeff Quayle - squaylei2000@gmail.com

Saturday, 5/17, 9am



Board Members

CTMN Board Members

- Mary Beth Lampe - President
- Teddi Zonker - Vice President
 - Bill Collins - Secretary
- Dee Ann McGinnis- Treasurer

For submissions, nominations or announcements, please put the subject line as the newsletter category you are entering for and email to newsletter@ctmn.org

CTMN Directors

- Carol Marcotte - Membership
- Sharon Hamilton - Past President
- Melinda Wolfinbarger - Training
- Theresa Thomas - VMS Admin & Vol and AT Hours
 - Sandy Thornburgh - Hospitality
 - Theresa Thomas - Records
 - Madison Gover - Newsletter
- Frank Keeney - Announcement eblasts
- Mary Beth Lampe - Webmaster
- Julio Corralejo - Class of 2024 Rep.

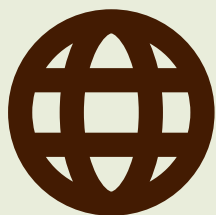


Inclusivity:

Together we can make the newsletter inclusive to the visually impaired. Consider providing a text description of your photos for screen-reader software.



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Facebook Group**



**Cross Timbers
Master Naturalists
Website**

CTMN Sponsors

- **Rachel Richter**, TPWD, Urban Biologist,
Rachel.Richter@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jacklyn Jones Doyle**, Texas AgriLife, County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources,
jacklyn.jones@ag.tamu.edu
- **Michael Perez**, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge
michael.perez@fortworthtexas.gov