

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Cross TimbersJuly '25
Issue!

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In this Issue:



August Speaker

Learn how CoCoRaHS volunteers support weather forecasting through daily rain reports, with insights from retired meteorologist Greg Story.

Current Events

Explore nature this August and September with bird walks, prairie tours, garden talks, and more from FWAS, NPSOT, NPAT, and Wild Ones DFW.



Adventurous Anecdotes

CTMN members explored seven beautiful private gardens during the Secret Gardens Tour of Parker County, including a stop at Chandor Gardens and a native plant display by NPSOT. The tour highlighted creative landscapes, native flora, and the community's ongoing conservation efforts.





**Texas Master Naturalist
Annual Meeting
October 16-19**

**Contests and Awards
Enter your photos and
videos before September
1, 2025**



Speakers

Month Speaker



**CTMN Chapter Meeting/Presentation –
August 18, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Greg Story - Retired Hydrometeorologist

CoCoRaHS

The Importance of CoCoRaHS in NWS Operations

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a nationwide volunteer program that provides valuable precipitation data to the National Weather Service (NWS). In this talk, Greg Story, North Texas Regional Coordinator for CoCoRaHS, will share how citizen scientists support forecasting and climate research by reporting daily precipitation. Learn how this data improves NWS operations, enhances flood monitoring, and helps meteorologists better understand local rainfall patterns. Whether you're a weather enthusiast or just curious, discover the vital role of CoCoRaHS in weather science.

Greg Story, North Texas Regional Coordinator for CoCoRaHS

Greg Story is a retired meteorologist who served as a Hydrometeorologist at the NWS's West Gulf River Forecast Center in Fort Worth, specializing in radar-based precipitation estimation. Before joining the NWS in 1993, he spent 14 years as a broadcast meteorologist.

Now the North Texas Regional Coordinator for CoCoRaHS, Greg leads volunteer efforts in precipitation data collection. He is also a past President of the North Texas Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association.

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: Coastal Fisheries and The Saltwater Fishes of the Texas Gulf Coast

Description: Texas has over 300 miles of Gulf shoreline and thousands more along bays and estuaries. But what lives in these waters, and how does Texas Parks and Wildlife protect them? Join Tia Offner from TPWD Coastal Fisheries to learn about coastal conservation, common fish ID, and how you can help with monitoring!

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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

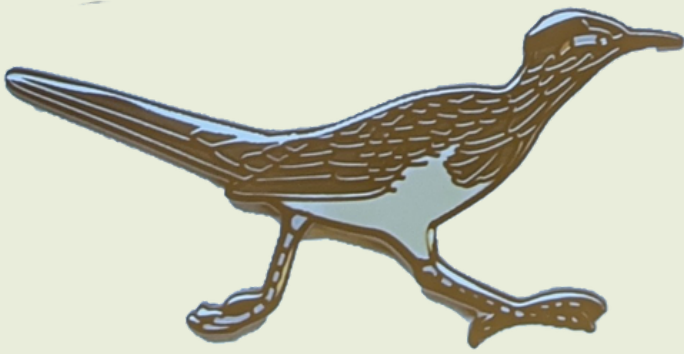
Tia is a Fish and Wildlife Technician in the Brownsville office. She holds a B.S. from Cornell and an M.S. from Mississippi State. Her background includes work with freshwater and marine fish, oyster aquaculture, and aquariums. She's a TX Master Naturalist (2025) and MS Master Naturalist (2022), and enjoys birding and iNaturalist in her free time.

[Register Here](#)

[Webex Guide](#)

[FAQ](#)

Member Milestones



**Let's take a moment to help us
congratulate members that recertified
this year!**

They have completed, logged, and had
approved 40 volunteer hours and 8
advanced training hours. They will all
receive the Greater Roadrunner pin.

C/O 2006

Josephine Keeney

C/O 2010

Theresa Thomas

C/O 2012

Suzanne Tuttle

C/O 2014

Banjo Moore

C/O 2017

Dee Ann McGinnis
Kate Morgan

C/O 2020

Michele Cyr

C/O 2023

Tina Olivas
Eleanor Pate

C/O 2024

Karen Eiland
Sandra Milfeld
Ann Serrano
Jo Williams

continued ->



Member Milestone Achievements

250 Hours (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)

Jo Williams



1000 Hours (Gold Dragonfly Pin)

Mary Beth Lampe

Sally McCoy



Adventurous Anecdotes



CTMN Members take in the Secret Gardens Tour of Parker County

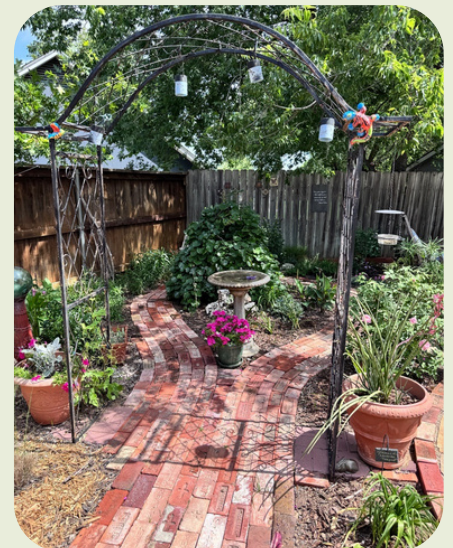
by Karen Harden, Class of 2023

For a fourth consecutive year, The Friends of Chandor Gardens hosted a self-guided tour of seven secret gardens throughout Parker County on June 7. Funds received from this event help support the Chandor Gardens Foundation, Inc. which benefits the enhancement of these lovely gardens located in Weatherford, Texas.



Since I had never been on this tour before, I gladly accepted an invite to go along with some friends. The four of us met up in Weatherford and begin our garden tour in Hudson Oaks. This yard was heavily shaded. The designated garden beds with whimsical yard art, off-set sitting areas, pathways to the pool, and its many container plantings is going to be a welcome retreat when summer hits.

Our next stop was near Holland Lake Park. This was perhaps my favorite garden with its well-defined pathways through designated flower beds, a secret garden with an arbor entrance that was tucked away between the house and an outside building, a wooden fence with wrought iron window openings that overlooked a large vacant field, and a stone lined walkway that separated the landscaped gardens from the yard. I was enchanted.




Our third stop, the gardens were set around an inviting pool. A wooden boardwalk led from the house to the gardens which served as a break from the upper yard before you reached the pool. A stroll around the pool brought you to a waterfall pond with fish and to another landscaped waterfall at one end of the pool. This yard and its gardens had a very relaxing feel to it. I loved the birdhouse garden.



Halfway through, our next stop was Chandor Gardens. From the brochure we were given, “Chandor Gardens captures both the elegance of a formal English garden and the ornate design of ancient Chinese architecture and ornamentation.” Douglas Chandor blended these two design philosophies well as one flowed seamlessly into the other as you walked the shaded paths.


After lunch we arrived at Christi Tull’s home to visit her gardens. Here, a hardscape path off the driveway led you through gardens that were laid out between the house and a fence line to the front of the house, where more gardens welcomed visitors to her craftsman-style home. There is also a small woodland area with a rock lined dry creek bed off the driveway. Here, a bench invites you to sit and enjoy the outdoors. We also saw Amanda Brinkley and her mother there who were hosting a native plant table for the Native Plant Society of Texas-Cross Timbers Chapter. Their display of an abundant assortment of native plants was outstanding.





The next garden was a small Texas English garden with curving flowerbeds laid out around the house and along the white picket fence line. The colors, textures, and varying heights of the plants serves these gardens well. In the backyard, a fountain flows to help block the sound of street noise while the owners enjoy their time outdoors.

Our last stop brought us to the largest gardens of the tour. Massive tree shaded gardens greeted us as we pulled up to this house. Yuccas, sotols, and agave were the focus here. The gardens all around the house were wide and full of colorful flowers. A garden along one side of the driveway was planted with about thirty trees. Down by the pool, there was a massive rock garden filled with various cacti. The size and scope of these gardens were impressive, and the owners say their backyard is still a work in progress. This is a new home, and I would love to see their gardens again in a few years when the landscape is fully mature.



Many Cross Timbers Master Naturalists volunteer at Chandor Gardens and Chandor Nature Trail. Your time and effort in helping to keep the trail clear and the gardens beautiful are very much appreciated.



Plant of the Month



Texas Vervain (*Verbena halei*)

by Madison Gover



I wanted to highlight a plant this month that is one of my favorites. Texas vervain is still out there blooming on the prairies. This species is a member of the Verbena family. It is a perennial that can supposedly be considered a shrub, but I have never seen it grown to that size. I am a huge fan of the tiny lavender flowers that bloom. They bloom from March to June, but of course with all the rain, they are still blooming.

They use little water and need a good amount of sun. They are found in dry soil that is Sandy, Sandy Loam, Medium Loam, or Clay Loam. They make a really good candidate to make your xeriscape pop with purple. Use it in a wildflower meadow or your pocket prairie as well.

You can propagate them by seed or root division. Personally, I have never seen what their seeds look like. Butterflies love them and they are deer-resistant.



iNaturalist Observation of the Month

Each month we will choose an iNaturalist observation made the previous month in Tarrant or Parker County*. Make an observation on iNaturalist to be in the running for this achievement! Please go to the observation itself to congratulate the user, add your identification, or favorite (star) the observation.

Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

mother_night



Time: 8:01PM
Date: 7/4/2025
Location:
Fort Worth, Texas

*Observation copyright settings must not be set to full rights reserved so that the photo can be used for the newsletter.



Current Events

August & September 2025

Fort Worth Audubon Society (FWAS) Bird Walks

Aug 1 • 7:30 AM – First Friday Feathers at Kelley Park, Arlington

Aug 9 • 7:30 AM – Birding at Foster Park, Fort Worth

Aug 13 • 6:30 AM – Birding at Village Creek Drying Beds, North Arlington

 fwas.org

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Canoe Tours • Moonlight Paddles • Outdoor Yoga • Early Bird Hikes & More
Explore wild Fort Worth all month long!

 fwnaturecenter.org

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Quiet Hour Walks • Gentle Yoga • Drawing in the Garden • Forest Bathing
Rejuvenate in the gardens.

 fwbg.org

Native Plant Society of Texas – North Central Chapter (NPSOT)

Aug 7 • 6:30 PM – Heather Bass: Gardening for Stormwater – Rain Gardens and Beyond

Sep 4 • 6:30 PM – Mary Jo Greene: Texas Natives in School Garden Programs

 info@txnativeplants.org

 npsot.org/chapters/north-central

Native Prairies Association of Texas – Fort Worth Chapter (NPAT)

Sep 13 • 9:00 AM–12:00 PM – Lake Whitney Aquatic Habitat & Prairie Tour, Bosque County

Sep 20 • 9:00 AM–12:00 PM – Rock Creek Ranch Park BioBlitz, Tarrant County


Sep 30 • 9:00 AM–12:00 PM – Randol Mill Park BioBlitz (co-led with Dana Austin), Tarrant County

 texasprairie.org/fort-worth-chapter

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Aug 7 – Russ Killingsworth: Metro Beekeepers (Beekeeping)

Sep 4 – Steven Chamblee: Retired Arboretum Director & Garden Writer

 tarrantmg.org

Wild Ones DFW – Native Plant Education

Aug 21 • 7:00 PM – Certified Native Habitat Program

Sep 18 • 6:00 PM – Wild Ones National Webinar

 dfw.wildones.org

eBird & Merlin Webinars with Blaine Carnes (Zoom – Free)

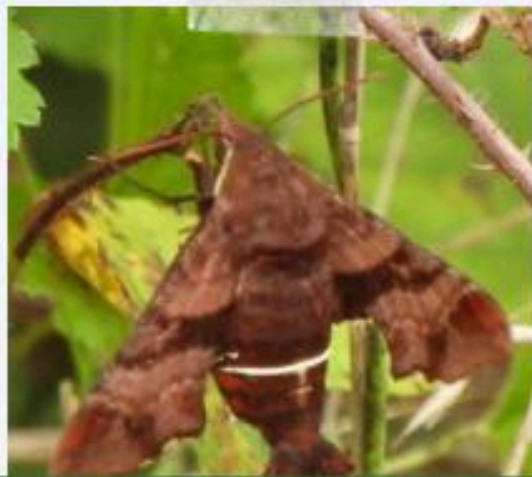
 Recordings available to all registrants

Jul 31 • 7:00 PM – Getting Started with eBird and Merlin

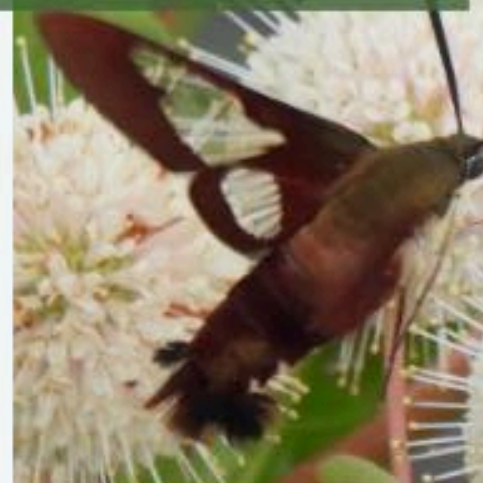
 [Register](#)

Aug 1 • 7:00 PM – Improving the Scientific Value of Your eBird Checklists

 [Register](#)



Happy National Moth Week!





Board Members

CTMN Board Members

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

CTMN Directors

- Annamarie Fresta - Membership
- Sharon Hamilton - Past President
 - Erika Swyryn - 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.
- Erika Swyryn - Education Director

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

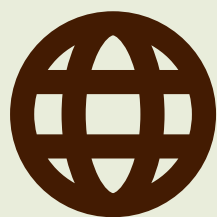


Inclusivity:

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,
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- **Jacklyn Jones Doyle**, Texas AgriLife, County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources,
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- **Michael Perez**, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge
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