Message Forum Replaces BPTMN Yahoo Groups by Deborah Canterbury

BPTMN has a new message forum that will be taking the place of the Yahoo Groups system we now use. A few of the features of the new forum:

- Search all past topics to find exactly what you’re looking for
- Browse just those topics you are interested in
- You can get notified whenever someone posts something of interest to you after you click Notify in each opportunity
- You can set it so you don’t get notified whenever someone posts something NOT of interest to you
- Easily follow a conversation from beginning to end
- Email other BPTMN registered users; and
- See only those new topics and messages that are new since the last time you visited rather than wading through every message.

From time to time Randy will highlight a new feature with instructions on using it.

But first, you must visit the forum and register as a user. Here’s how to do that.

Two sets of instructions. The Quick Start Guide and the Step by Step. Don’t be put off by the number of steps. It is broken down into very small pieces!

**How to register for the new BPTMN Message Forum,**

**Quick Start Guide**
1. Visit forum.bptmn.org
2. Click Register
3. Fill out the Registration Form
4. Click on the Activation link in the email you receive
5. Login

**Step by Step**
1. Visit the forum in your browser at forum.bptmn.org
2. In the upper left corner under the login fields, click on “Register”
3. Read the agreement form and Click on “I accept the terms of the agreement.” at the bottom
4. Enter in the Username you would like to use.
   a. We recommend the traditional first initial, last name, such as “jsmith” for John Smith (no quotes) OR b. If you’d like to, you can use the same username you use for VMS, such as “BP-JSmith”
5. Enter your email address. Use the one you’d like BPTMN to use to communicate with you for things like announcements, and notifications that someone has answered a question you posted.
6. Check the “Allow users to email me”: if you want to allow other BPTMN members to be able to send you email. Non-members will not be able to see your email address or email you whether this is clicked or not.
7. Choose a password. It must be at least 8 characters long.
   a. Pick any 8 characters or more that you can remember as your password.
8. Verify your password by typing it again.
9. Type in your Real Name, meaning your real First and Last name that BPTMN knows you by. For example, John Smith.
10. Type in the class you attended, such as: 2016.
11. Answer the verification question about VH/AT (Volunteer Hours/Advanced Training)
12. Click “Register”
13. At this point, you should receive an email from “Texas Master Naturalists” with the subject, “Welcome to Texas Master Naturalists.” If you don’t see it within a minute or two, check your junk folder. If you can’t find the email anywhere, send an email to webteam@bptmn.org and explain the situation and we’ll get it fixed for you.
   a. You should keep this email for the links it includes which might come in handy later.
14. Click on the second link in the email to activate your account. This will take you back to the website at the login screen.
15. Now login with your new UserName and Password that you just set up.
Chapter Officers
President: Deborah Canterbury
Vice President: Patti Tuck
Secretary: Beverly Carpenter
Treasurer: Nancy Davis

Chapter Committee Chairs
Education: LuAnne Ray
Membership: Joyce Wilson
Outreach Education and Community: Donna Cole
Outreach Program Manager: Greg Hayden
Volunteer Hours/Advanced Training: Yvette Justice
Class Representative: Elly Tittle
State Representative: Dave Powell
Webteam: Randy Robinson, Susan Smith, Deborah Canterbury (more tbd)
Communications: Jodi Hodak
Immed. Past President: Clyde Camp
Nominations Committee: Clyde Camp

Other Contacts
Facebook Editor: Lorry Cole
Photo Editor: Mike Roome
Newsletter Editor: Mary Gazioglu
Librarian: Mark Baver
Hospitality: Carolyn and Larry Curfman

Advisors
LeRoy Thompson, Jr.: Collin County Game Warden
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Greg Church: AgriLife

2017 Officers and Committee Chairpersons

The Blackland Prairie Chapter lost a dedicated and loyal naturalist and many a dear friend with the passing of Bill Cornette. When you go to the Wylie Prairie Project give one of the many trees he trimmed a hug and when you are at the Heard go by and say hi to the elbow bush just above the amphitheatre. He loved that bush and started his trail walks from there. He served on the Education Committee and always had a “teacher’s pet” attitude for helping with whatever you asked. A memorial service will be in late April at the Heard and we will make available the details as they are confirmed. If you have an idea about something the chapter can do to honor his life as a proud master naturalist, please let me know.

Bill was proud of the 1,000 hour pin he received in December. He had a macho swag using his battery powered chain saw to get rid of low growth and underbrush at the Erwin Prairie Project.

Bill Cornette
Look What Our Members Accomplished in 2016!

9 Double Certifications!

100,167 - TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 10 YEARS!

71 RECERTIFICATIONS!

2,200 ADVANCED TRAINING HOURS!

20,358 OPPORTUNITY HOURS!

18 INITIAL CERTIFICATIONS!

Milestone Pins to Members for achieving...

<table>
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<td>Welty, Kristen</td>
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Recent Recertifications

Barraclough, Bette  
Baumann, Gwen  
Binnings, Jim  
Bodenhamer, Bebe  
Cole, Donna  
Cole, Lorry  
Dessert, Amy  
Gazioglu, Mary  
Graham, Phyllis  
Hoke, Nancy  
McBee, Linda  
Metcalf, Maureen  
Salsgiver, Mikel  
Skinner, Jane  
Smith, Susan  
Stierlen, Lorelei  
Tittle, Elly  
Tuck, Patricia  
Welty, Kristen

Recent Milestones

250 hours
- Deerman, Sarah  
- Dulian, James  
- Hoke, Nancy  
- Metcalf, Maureen  
- Smith, Susan  
- Tuck, Patricia

500 hours
- Baver, Mark  
- Hamrick, Vickie  
- Hayden, Greg  
- Mulkerin, Tom  
- Westmoreland, Cathy

1,000 hours
- Clark, Carol  
- Cornette, William  
- Manasseri, Tony  
- Ray, LuAnne  
- Zartler, Richard

2,500 hours
- Davis, Nancy  
- Ellerbe, Ed  
- Roome, Mike

4,000 hours
- Mitchell, Karen

Karen Mitchell receives a certificate from Deborah Canterbury for attaining 4,000 hours of volunteer service.
I get more junk than I should on Facebook and through email because I cannot stop my curious mind from forcing my fingers to wade through some sites. Recently I received information about the origin of the term Tree Hugger.

Huh. I thought it would have come from the 60’s and was used by developers placing disparaging labels on those who disagreed with their plow-it-all-down-and-cover-it-with-concrete-and-cheap-plants ways that lead to their definition of progress and profit.

According to a long-time editor and environmental writer, Bryan Farrell, the first tree huggers were 294 men and 69 women belonging to the Bishnois branch of Hinduism, who, in 1730, **died while trying to protect the trees in their village from** being turned into the raw material for building a palace. They literally clung to the trees, while being slaughtered. But their action led to a royal decree prohibiting the cutting of trees in any Bishnoi village. And now those villages are virtual wooded oases amidst an otherwise desert landscape.

The Bishnois inspired the **Chipko movement** (“to cling” in Hindi) that started in the 1970s. Peasant women in the Himalayan hills of northern India threw their arms around trees designated to be cut down. Within a few years, this tactic, also known as tree satyagraha, had spread across India, ultimately forcing reforms in forestry and a moratorium on tree felling in Himalayan regions.

Reading this gave me pause about my travels as a tree hugger and naturalist. My first tree hugging experience was when in high school. In southeastern New Mexico trees are precious. There was a beautiful old tree that had a branch maybe a yard off the ground and 15 feet long that invited me to come sit and talk. It was alongside an abandoned air strip and was the devil to get to via unpaved roads. I always escaped what was then the problems of the world by roaming those roads and when I found this tree I was in heaven. It had experienced a hard life, misshapen, scuffed up, but was still there. I shared it with few people. I haven’t a clue as to what type of tree it was.

On one visit I was met with parts of the old strip bulldozed and survey flags, flags, flags everywhere. I was crestfallen. I discovered that they were enlarging the footprint of our little Hobbs Country Club and everything was planned to be bulldozed that lay between the flags. My tree. A few nights later I went out and pulled up every survey stake I could see and took them with me. It was close to homecoming bonfire time – well, you get the picture. I left a sign in the crook of that limb and the trunk that said “leave me alone.”

There was a headline in the newspaper a few days later that said “Vandals Delay Country Club Development”. I kept an eye out and as they resurveyed, the tree was spared. Now, I know that I did not deter the development and that probably a new survey just messed up a bit on the stakes.

But it felt good that my tree would be there a while longer. It was there when I would come back to visit from college and even until my parents retired and moved away.

Every time in my life when I have had too much demand from a job, from personal situations or the situations of others I have sought sanctuary in nature. I did not realize at those times just how important nature and the environment was and still is to me. It only took 64 years and the Blackland Prairie Chapter to point that out to me.
The Mammoths of Texas by Patti Tuck

The demise of our Waco Mammoths has been the subject of extensive research. Most recent studies of sediments and surround rock support flash flood activity. The site in Waco along the Bosque River basin shows sediments formed from rapidly rising waters approximately 65,000 years ago. This was the first of at least three similar events. During this event, 19 mammoths from a nursery were trapped and could not escape.

The Heard Paleo Lab has recently acquired a mammoth, Murphy. Murphy was found along Pin Oak Creek in Central Texas. More information to come!

“It isn’t easy to become a fossil...only about one bone in a billion, it is thought, becomes fossilized. If that is so, it means that the complete fossil legacy of all the Americans alive today - that's 270 million people with 206 bones each - will only be about 50 bones, one-quarter of a complete skeleton. That's not to say, of course, that any of these bones will ever actually be found.”

— Bill Bryson
In A Short History of Nearly Everything (2003), 321-322

Bibliography


BPTMN Volunteers by Mary Gazioglu

Patti Tuck

Patti begins her tenure of vice president this year and brings a wealth of experience in the sciences.

She grew up in Central and South America. “My dad worked for the State Department, and similar to a military background, we were transferred to a new post every two to five years,” she said. She was an educator for 40 years working in San Antonio ISD, Plano ISD, Little Rock Magnet School program in Arkansas, and Frisco ISD. “I taught all grade levels but spent most of my years teaching 8th grade science. I retired out of Frisco as science department chair, instructional coach and sponsor of several academic competitions and programs.”

Her path to becoming a master naturalist began with Sally Evans. “She recruited me as I was looking for a place to land that would allow me to work in areas I was interested in. Many of the programs that I worked with were in environmental science, so BPTMN gave me a chance to do the things I had been teaching.”

During her time as a naturalist, Patti has volunteered at the Heard Museum paleo lab, Children’s Hospital pollinators and native plant garden, and the monarch project, to list a few.

Patti states her philosophy about our environment. “The earth is dynamic,” she said. “No one event occurs without affecting a multitude of subsequent events; some good, some bad. As master naturalists, we need to be aware of as many factors as possible to address their impact effectively.”

Beverly Carpenter

Our new Recording Secretary, Beverly Carpenter, grew up in the Air Force until Jr. High when her father went to work for the FAA in Oklahoma City. She went to high school and college in Oklahoma and worked there until 1974 then moved to Texas.

Beverly taught English in junior high and high school and then became a school librarian in Oklahoma. In Texas, she worked at Dallas Public Library on a federally-funded project called the Northeast Texas Library System then took a teaching position at Baylor University in Waco teaching Library Science. In 1978, she returned to Dallas and opened Brookhaven College as the Director of Library Services. Beverly later also taught Business and Developmental Reading and Writing classes before retiring after 25 yrs. at Brookhaven College.

“I became a master naturalist after learning about the goals, activities and experiences from several friends in Plano Garden Club who had completed their course work and were busy volunteering,” said Beverly. “It sounded like a good combination for continuing to learn and giving back to the community, which were two of my goals in retirement.”

Beverly currently volunteers at the Fossil Lab of the Heard Museum, Jr. Naturalist program at Wilson Middle School, and BP Raptor Center. Other areas where she has volunteered include Children’s Meadow, Holfield Learning Center and Heritage Farmstead.

“I have found this organization to be one of the best experiences for continuing to learn in an atmosphere of collegial support and fun while feeling I am also contributing something to the community,” said Beverly. “I have met wonderful people and developed valued relationships and friendships around our shared priority of educating others about and protecting our natural resources.”
While snuggled in our cabin on New Year’s Day, our son asked what books my husband and I read last year. It took some time to recall all the titles, but I finally had my reading log. Then I reflected on the question I asked my students as they looked at their logs, “What do you notice?” Hmmm, I could beef up the quality of my fiction choices, no doubt. Then I studied my favorite non-fiction choices: The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey by Candice Millard, In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick, Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer, and Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free by Hector Tobar. These are some heavy-duty choices! Why do I love those books?

As I thought about my favorite non-fiction choices, I realized most of them centered on the conflict “Man vs. Nature.” What? How can a master naturalist be drawn to books that pit us against nature? That is very UNnaturalist! Slowly it dawned on me – I love being outside, hiking in a forest or desert, rafting a wild river, swimming in the ocean, or climbing a mountain. And yet, every minute I’m outside, buried in the pit of my stomach, I know my adventure can go horribly wrong. When I read this type of non-fiction, I relive that tension as I put myself in the place of the characters. I can relate to their helplessness as they grapple with the sheer power of Mother Nature. I am in awe of Her power and their bravery.

If you’re ready to live vicariously, I suggest you start with my absolute top pick in the “Man vs. Nature” category, The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey. I love how the author, Candice Millard, made Theodore Roosevelt come to life. This isn’t a dry historical novel! She goes to the trouble of developing Roosevelt’s state of mind so the reader can understand what drove him to explore The River of Doubt, one of the last uncharted tributaries of the Amazon River. This is the kind of challenge Roosevelt can’t resist, especially as a way to recover from his embarrassing presidential defeat. You may grow weary waiting for Teddy’s adventure to begin, but without some background on TR, his family, and circle of well-meaning friends and guides, I don’t think we could appreciate the magnitude of their endeavor. Be patient!

Once the expedition kicks off, it doesn’t take long before the group encounters problems. Too much weight on too few animals. Deciding what to keep and what to leave behind. Deciding WHO to keep and who to leave behind! Can we relate to not having the right gear for the job? Oh yes! The men on this expedition went so far as to carve their own canoe when their ill-suited boats were smashed or washed downstream. Numerous waterfalls on the river lead to unexpected delays, and even death, as the men portage their boats and gear. The delays mount and soon food is running low. Hunting trips rarely yield food, the animals are so well camouflaged. Fishing? The River of Doubt rarely gives. Soon malaria plagues the group, especially TR’s son, Kermit. The list of obstacles goes on and on until you are left wondering if this perilous journey will ever end. I was exhausted by the end of the book and I didn’t even take a step!

I hope you will consider reading this novel or one of my other favorites. What’s next on my reading list? Why more man vs. nature choices – Endurance by Alfred Lansing or David Welky’s A Wretched and Precarious Situation: In search of the Last Arctic Frontier. Time to leave the jungle behind!
Gather together on 70 acres of heavily wooded land at the Briarwood Retreat Center in Argyle. Learn from leading experts in the field. Enjoy hikes through the woods, stroll around the pond, view April wildflowers, identify insects, listen for bird calls, observe wildlife... all while networking with fellow master naturalists. Earn up to 9 hours of AT in one weekend!

Featured speakers include:
- Keynote Speaker - Eugene Hargrove, Professor, Center for Environmental Philosophy, University of North Texas
- David Todd, Founder and Executive Director, Conservation History Association of Texas and co-author of “The Texas Landscape Project – Nature and People”
- Michelle Bertelsen – Land Steward, Research & Ecological Design Team, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Sharlene Leurig – Project Director, Texas Environmental Flows Project, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University

Outdoor Sessions:
- Bird Walk – Charley Amos, former Executive Director of the Fort Worth Audubon Society
- Pollinator Walk – Randy Johnson, Randy Johnson Organics
- Pond Walk – Omar Bocanegra, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tree Walk – David Powell, Heard Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary
- Wildflower Walk – Suzanne Tuttle, Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, retired

Afternoon Panel Session:
- Sam Kieschnick, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – iNaturalist
- Donna Cole – Blackland Prairie Chapter Outreach Chair – Educating HOAs
- Others TBD

S-A-T-U-R-D-A-Y Night – Yeah! Join in the fun on Saturday night, April 8th for dinner, Naturalist Jeopardy, an update from Teaming with Wildlife: True to Texas, moth identification with Sam Kieschnick, campfire, stars and s'mores. We have an option for spending the night at Briarwood too!

Registration Opens: February 1st! Details coming soon.
- $55 - Early Bird Registration - February 1st – 28th
- $75 - Late Registration – March 1st – 23rd
- $20 – Saturday Evening Dinner & Activities

Lodging at Briarwood is separate. Lodging information coming soon.

For more information, contact:
Gwen Thomas – gmthomas29@fastmail.fm or Laura Simpson – SimpsonL@tx.rr.com
The Junior Naturalists meet on Wednesdays, after school, at Wilson Middle School, Plano ISD.

We had about 12-15 students at most of our fall meetings last semester. We certified 10 students at our December 7, 2016, meeting. Junior Naturalists had to attend 80% of the meetings for fall and participate in a service project to qualify for certification. They made milkweed seed packets for distribution, worked on cleaning up the butterfly garden at Wilson, and helped with the Heritage Farmstead gardens.

We visited the farmstead for a tour of the house that belonged to Ammie Wilson (Wilson Middle School is named after Aimee). We also had a presentation on turkeys by Amethyst Romney at the Farmstead, where we also helped catalog plants in the prairie garden and collect seeds.

Plano Garden Club Scholarship and Garden Tour April 29 and 30

Plano Garden Club gives scholarship consideration to Collin County residents who are a college level Sophomore or above.

A student must be currently enrolled in a field pertaining to horticulture or the environment. Fields of study qualifying include, but not limited to, Agronomy, Agriculture Education, Floriculture, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Forestry, Wildlife Science, Plant Pathology, City (rural and urban) Planning, Habitat or Forest Systems Ecology, Environmental conservation, Land Management, and other allied subjects. Application forms and additional information maybe found on our website: http://www.planogardenclub.org/scholarship/

The club will have a garden tour April 29 and 30, which raises funds for the scholarship. It features five unique gardens in northwest Plano. See www.planogardenclub.org, for ticket information.

$2,000 Scholarship Available from Collin County Master Gardeners

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Collin County Horticulture Agent
825 N. McDonald Street, Suite 150
McKinney, TX 75069
January 6, 2017

TO: Graduating Seniors
SUBJECT: $2,000 Scholarship

The Collin County Master Gardeners Association, an integral part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System, is pleased to announce that TWO individual $2,000 scholarships will be awarded to two eligible Collin County Texas high school seniors for the 2016-2017 academic year.

ELIGIBILITY: The award is available to graduating high school seniors (Class of 2017) who are verifiable residents of Collin County, plan on attending a Texas college or university, and who intend to select any one of the following as their college major: Botany, Entomology, Environmental Science, Forestry, or Horticulture.

TO APPLY: Submit your complete application to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (address above) no later than 4:00 pm on April 14, 2017. The scholarship will be awarded on or before May 19, 2017. The application form may be obtained on the internet at: https://www.ccmgatx.org/scholarship

We look forward to receiving your application.

Laurie Jay
Scholarship Committee Chairman
Wylie Project  by Dave Powell

I was not at the Wylie Project in January, but it is time to get back to work. The small trees will begin growing soon, and this year I want to spray the stumps with herbicide when they are cut down I will have spray bottles after the Erwin Park spray day, and I will make sure we have chemicals. Here is my schedule for February. Park down by the dumpsters when you join me—that leaves the other parking for Wylie residents.

Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 9:30 to 12:00

We always try to pick up trash, this year I want to try to cut the forbs out of the sample grass plots. We have now seeded in six areas not counting the seed donated by other members of our chapter. The last area seeded should not do much this year.

The two areas that Davis Middle School seeded for us last year should be growing this year. There are restrooms and water fountains in the building complex. I always have my camera, work gloves, pruning shears and trash bag (plastic bag).

Erwin Park  by Dave Powell

We are just starting our second year at Erwin Park, it has been interesting to see what has grown this year. Now we look forward to the next growing season. We have done a lot of work on clearing the under story of the treed areas, however, there is plenty more to do. I had a great day out there today with Greg, Mark and Mike R. Greg and I walked the trail inside the prairie to see how it looked and were very satisfied. I need to find out when the restroom will be reopened—my guess would be after the chance of freezes, I will let you know. Following is my schedule for February.

Feb 4th from 9:30 to 12:00 meet at the Hill Top Pavilion
Feb 7th from 9:30 to 12:00 meet at the tree line we are working on
Feb 11th from 1:30 to 4:00 meet at the Hill Top Pavilion we will be spraying Scabiosa, I will have chemical concentrated and spray bottles so if you are going to help let me know so I will know how many bottles to buy.

Feb 14th, 21 and 28 from 9:30 to 12:00 meet at the tree line we are working on

Bring and water, wear long sleeves and long pants, bring loppers and pruning saws if you have them.

A Book You Might Like to Read  reviewed by Mark Baver

WINTER WORLD The Ingenuity of Animal Survival  by Bernd Heinrich

Heinrich, a professor of biology at the University of Vermont, is a keen observer of all things natural. In this book he examines how creatures, from insects to birds to bears, adapt to plunging temperatures: some freeze, some nap, while others remain active.

Ever wonder why bears can hibernate up to six months with no loss of muscle or bone density? How turtles can take a deep breath and burrow into the mud of pond bottoms before the pond freezes and remain buried until the ice thaws? And what happens to bees?

All and more is revealed in this most enjoyable book. The author “delights in the seemingly infinite feats of animal inventiveness.” While the woods Heinrich roams are located in Vermont and southern Maine, I had no difficulty in relating his observations and experiences to some of my own in northern Texas. The book has been added to our chapter library.

The TMN program, initiated statewide by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, develops corps of ‘master volunteers’ who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated toward the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas. With over 400 local, state and national partners, the TMN program continues to result in a unique master volunteer organization. Volunteers gain the Texas Master Naturalist designation after completing a 40-hour training series of combined field and classroom instruction, engaging in 8 hours of approved advanced training, and providing at least 40 hours of volunteer service in their local communities. Volunteers maintain their certification by completing an additional 40 hours of service and 8 hours of advanced training annually. The most common volunteer activities include: public education programs, wildscape development and demonstrations, citizen science, species inventories, habitat management projects, and assistance in agency research studies. Since 1998, the program has grown from 4 chapters and 150 volunteers to 46 chapters and over 10,400 volunteers. Today the program serves a multitude of diverse Texas communities with additional expansion taking place continually. Program volunteers have provided over 3.2 million hours of service valued at more than $75 million given back to the state since its inception. This service has resulted in 221,200 acres of enhanced wildlife and native plant habitats, reaching over 2.5 million youth, adults and private landowners through overwhelmingly positive conservation education programs, and restored wildlife and habitat conservation initiatives in the minds of the public in Texas. More news to come on this as it develops.

https://www.innovations.harvard.edu/2017-innovations-american-government-awards-bright-ideas
As the temperatures rise and things start turning green again, opportunities abound in North Texas. Remember to call ahead to confirm, wear sunscreen, and pack water for your outdoor adventures. Happy trails!

**Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary**, McKinney. 972-562-5566 heardmuseum.org

**Third Saturday Nature Talks.** Call about prices.

Feb 18, 9:30am Extracting Life from a Plant
March 18, 9:30am Your Buggy Backyard
April 15, TBA

**Owl Prowl Night Hike**

March 11, 6:30pm. Cost: $19/non-member; $16/ Members. See a live owl presentation and stay for a guided night hike. Pre-registration required.

**Heard Nature Photography Contest**
The photo contest is open to photographers of all levels. Submissions are accepted Feb 4 - Feb 26. The contest reception will be held Saturday March 19, 2-4pm at the Heard. Proceeds from the contest benefit the Heard Museum. For more information, please visit http://www.heardnaturephotographers.com/about-the-contest/

**Heard Annual Spring Plant Sale**

You’ll find native plants, hard-to-find herbs, well-adapted plants, and native milkweed! All sales are tax free. Admission to museum not required to attend Plant Sale.

Members Only Sale, Fri April 21, 4-7pm
Public Sale, April 22, 9am-5pm and April 23, 1-5pm

More info about the Heard Plant Sale can be found at www.heardmuseum.org/plantsale

Volunteer opportunities for the plant sale are available by contacting lragan@heardmuseum.org

**Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Plano.** To avoid cancellation, please register for walks/hikes at planoparks.org

**Bird Walks.** Free.
March 4, 8-9am. and April 1, 8-9am.

**Family Night Hikes.** Free, bring a flashlight.
Feb 18, 6-7:30pm., March 18, 7-8:30pm. and April 15, 7:30-9pm.

**Guided Nature Walks.**
Free.
Feb 15, 10-11:30am.,
March 15, 10-11:30am.
April 19, 10-11:30am.

**Volunteer to help clean up trash.** You pick the date and time. The city requires a 7 day advance notice.
Contact Heather Harrington at heatherha@plano.gov or (972) 769-4313.

**Oak Point Park is also a popular venue** for concerts and fund-raising races. For a calendar of upcoming events, go here: http://dallas.eventful.com/venues/oak-point-park-nature-reserve-/V0-001-000407025-5

**Arbor Hills Nature Preserve. Plano.**
The preserve features a designated off-road cycling trail, as well as paved and unpaved hiking trails with an interpretive trail marker system. Arbor Hills contains Backland Prairie, Riparian Forest and Upland Forest.

**Arbor Hills Adventures.** 8:30-10am. To avoid cancellation, please register for adventures at planoparks.org
Feb 4, What’s Under Arbor Hills?
March 4, Birds of Early Spring
April 1, Wildflowers

**Outdoor Educators**
The Plano Parks and Recreation Department is looking for qualified and innovative instructors for outdoor recreation. If you have a unique talent, skill or idea for a class, please visit http://www.plano.gov/2230/Outdoor-Recreation

(Contd. pg. 13)
Lake Lavon, Wylie
For Volunteer opportunities, please contact Ranger Perrin at Lavon Lake Headquarters. 972-442-3141.

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, 1625 Brockdale Park Road

Little Elm Public Library Harry Potter Event
Feb 2, 6-7pm.

First Saturday - Feb 4, 10am-3pm. Guided hikes, kid’s activities. And don’t miss the raptor programs at 11am and 1pm.

Schimelpfenig Public Library - Feb. 18-3, 4pm.

2nd Annual Feather Fest, Nature Center, Granbury. (817) 326-6005
March 25., 10am-3pm. Free. Come celebrate birds! Don’t forget to visit the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center booth.

Earth Day Texas, Fair Park, Dallas.
April 21-23, 10am-6pm.
Earth Day Texas features three days of hands-on activities, green speakers, a film series, an eco expo, and a celebration of the National Parks System’s 100th year, among many other exciting things to see and do! http://earthdaytx.org

Connemara Meadow Nature Preserve
Open daily, from dawn to dusk.

Bird Walks. Free. Alma Gate directly opposite Tatum Road
Feb 5, 8am., March 4, 7am. and April 2, 8am.

Astronomy and Night Hikes
Schedule your group with Clyde Camp ccamp@ieee.org

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, Seagoville.
Open the first and third Saturday of each month, 9am-4pm. Check website for fees and event details. http://www.wetlandcenter.com

First Saturday Bird Walk and Talks (thru Feb), 9am.
Third Saturday Bunker’s Pond Trail Walk, 10am.

Exciting news! The wetland eagle breeding season has begun. The first egg was laid Jan 25!

Mad Island Marsh Christmas Bird Count

We thought you would enjoy seeing some of the bird photos taken at the annual Christmas Bird Count held in Matagorda County every December. One of our fellow master naturalists shared them with us.

Ash throated flycatcher photo by Dennis Shepler
Great Horned Owl photo by Dora Ortega
Palm Warbler photo by Mark Scheuerman
Prairie Partner Update is published quarterly by Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalists.

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Past issues can be found on our website at: http://bptmn.org/_BOARD_FTP/newsletter/

Other BPTMN communications are at:
Smugmug - http://bptmn.smugmug.com/
Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/bptmn_forum.bptmn.org

The Mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a partnership between the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife and other local partners.

Upcoming BPTMN Meetings
2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.,
Heard Museum Science Center

February 14: Monica Morrison – Texas Wild Cats

March 14: Corp of Engineers – New Wetlands in Frisco

April 11: Daphne Lynch, Epidemiologist for Collin County – Zika and Other Issues

Websites of Interest...

All About Birds:
https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/features/birdanatomy/

Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalist Calendar
http://bptmn.org/calendar/

Cornell Lab of Ornithology –
http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478

Earthkind Landscaping
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/

Green Source DFW
http://www.greensourcedfw.org/

Insects in the City - http://citybugs.tamu.edu/

Ladybird Johnson Wildlife Center
https://www.wildflower.org/

Prairie Partner Update past issues
http://bptmn.org/_BOARD_FTP/newsletter/

Texas Aggi Horticulture
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/

Texas Parks & Wildlife Updates
https://tpwd.texas.gov/

Texas Smartscape http://www.txsmartscape.com/

Texas Superstar Plants http://www.texassuperstar.com/plants/

Texas Tree Planting
http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/