

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

This Newsletter:

- * Meetings & Announcements Pg 1-2
- * Volunteer Opportunities & AT Pgs 2-4
- * Activities of Interest Pg 5
- * Did you Know? Texas State Parks Pg 5
- * In the Spotlight: Texas Highways Pg 6
- * Just For Fun Pg 7

April Meeting at the Extension Office 9:30AM, 4/19/07:

The speaker will be our own Linda Bush. Linda is a leadership coach and trainer and has agreed to speak to us about leading ad hoc groups more effectively by understanding a few key concepts and applying them to virtually any gathering we naturalists might lead. Every group of two or more people has some common characteristics no matter the task at hand. A leader attends to both the content and the process of the situation in order to produce desired outcomes. A leader prepares for leading the group's dynamics by understanding the appropriate use of directive and supportive behaviors. Crafting an impactful opening, sharing, and closing phase helps lend credibility to the leader's talk and focuses the attendees on both learning and enjoying the event. Methods for facilitating rapport and inclusion, for remaining neutral if conflict arises, and for handling interruptions will also be discussed.

May Meeting at the Extension Office 9:30 AM, 5/17/07:

Our own Dr. Betsy Schenck will be giving a talk on the medical challenges EFCMNS may face in the field.

Here's her bio: Dr. Betsy Schenck opened The Family Practice in 1979 but sold it in 1984 to work in emergency medicine. She worked for the Denton Regional Emergency Department from 1991 to her retirement in 2005. In 2006, she came out of retirement to work at UNT's health center where she now works 2-3 days a week. Dr. Schenck is a member of the EFCMN class of 2006.

The Community of Master Naturalists:

Please continue to send your strength to Fritz Poppe who recently lost his daughter, Andrea. Home phone : (940) 387-9351 or email wfpoppe1@verizon.net

EFCMN Photo Gallery: The Publicity Committee is going to assemble a photo gallery display to put in various venues within the county, i.e., banks, libraries, restaurants, etc. We are needing your wonderful photos that everyone has come upon, I know you know what I'm talking about - gorgeous closeups of butterflies, bugs, flowers, plants, students learning, Master Naturalists sweating and working hard - ya know what I mean. Any and all are acceptable for consideration.

We want to get this started as soon as possible. Please look through your collection and pick ones you think are the best then bring them to the April MN meeting or drop them off to Donna Wolfe. There's a few rules to follow though;

Prints must be at least 8X10
(Put the following on an index card or something similar)

Your name

Place and time taken (year is adequate)

Subject of photo

That's it - you don't have to frame it or attach it to anything, the committee will take care of that.

We want to start out with at least 20 good prints and expand that as time goes on. You see how valuable your amateur photography projects are to us? We really, really need your input and help with this. It will be a great way to advertise who we are and what we do and gives everyone a chance to play photographer.

Please be aware that we cannot afford to reimburse you for the cost of the photo itself.

If you have questions feel free to email me. Thanks, Cheryl Kesterson,
greengardengal@yahoo.com

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

Lost & Found: We are looking for a cheese knife/slicer and a blue cooler that went missing from the Party in the Wild on April 3 at Clear Creek. Please let Jan Thompson know if you know where these items are.

but will receive SH credit (vs. AT hours). If there are questions, call me @ 940-382-9344 or email @ <dthetford@mailstation.com>. Dorothy Thetford
Chair, City Nature Hikes

Reimbursements: Please check with our Treasurer, LeeAnn Jernigan before expending any costs on behalf of the organization. LeeAnn has to ensure that there is money budgeted for any item before she can reimburse it.

WorkDays at Clear Creek SH Location: Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center Collins St. parking lot .

Work Days: May 2, 19, 30, 2007. No workdays in April because Wonder Woman needs a break.

Service Hour Opportunities (SH)

Denton ISD (SH) will be field testing 5th grade curriculum at Clear Creek on 4/23. There will be 108 kids going to the wetlands that day. We can use all the volunteers we can get to help with this event.

Also, DISD will field test 2nd grade Prairie curriculum at CC on the 30th. There will only be about 20 kids for this one but a few volunteers would still be nice to have.

Let me know if you can help out on either of those days. Cheryl Kesterson

Confirm work dates with Jan Thompson before coming to the worksite. Jan Thompson Cell - 972-757-5715
Email frickthompson@aol.com

LLELA OP (SH): Hello! I'd appreciate your help spreading the word on an program I've got scheduled on April 24.

DeLay Middle School here in Lewisville will be bringing their 7th graders--204 of them--to tour the homestead. They'll be at LLELA from 9:15 am to noon. That's way too many kids to fit through the homestead buildings in such a short time, but I've figured out a way we can do it, by rotating them between activities, allowing us to divide the group into progressively smaller groups several times to get manageable numbers of kids. But all the dividing up means I'm going to need additional presenters besides myself. Here's what I'm going to need:

City Nature Hikes (SH): I've been asked by the City of Denton Recreational Leader to conduct Nature Hikes at Clear Creek park Jan-May. I've chaired a committee of MN members for our docent-training sessions (w/qualified trainers), and, those members who have participated in the training sessions have received AT hours.

The City Nature Hikes are advertised in the City of Denton PLAY magazine, and are scheduled on Saturdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on March 31, April 28, and May 19. For more information, call Tracy, Denton Parks & Recreation, at 940-349-8285. Hikes are open to the public. Cost: \$3. Invite a friend.

MN members-at-large are welcomed to join our Nature Hike docents on any/all of the above dates by wearing your MN name tags,

1. At least three, but preferably five, trail guides. These folks will guide students on the Redbud and Cicada Trails to discuss historic and current Denton County ecosystems. They will present the same hike twice; once from 9:15 to 10:30 and again from 10:30 to noon.

2. One or 2 volunteers to do a 15-minute presentation on the barn, dugout, and smokehouse. If there's one person here, they'll do the same presentation 8 times. If two volunteers--

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

four times each.

3. One or 2 volunteers to do a 15-minute presentation on the log home. Again, one person will do the presentation 8 times; with two they'll do it four times each.
4. Two volunteers to assist with a hands-on spinning and dyeing activity being taught by Emily Tennill from the Corps of Engineers. They'll be helping with 4 presentations of the activity.

Folks who are interested can contact me at this email or at my office # (972-219-3930). I'll be grateful to each and every one!

Regards,

Lisa Cole, Education Coordinator

probably use your help. Please get in touch with the contact person listed on the list if you would like to help out.

Note: Standard service hours are available at any time at the Fort Worth Nature Center, BRIT, LLELA and at LISDOLA. It is highly recommended that you contact these sites and let them know you want to help out before you go there. Please see the Fort Worth Nature Center's calendar at www.fwnaturecenter.org, & BRIT's website at www.BRIT.org for details about their service opportunities. You can also contact Rica Potenz at 972-874-7514 about service opportunities available on an ongoing basis at Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA).

Newsletter Articles (SH): You can receive service hour credit for the time it takes you to research and write articles for the EFCMN newsletter. Articles must pertain to Chapter interests and cannot be political in nature. Furthermore, copyrighted materials cannot be used without the original author's written permission. Send submissions to Theresa Kavi at TLKavi@earthlink.net.

Volunteer for the DFW Wildlife Rescue hotline (SH)! Answer hotline calls from the comfort of your own home. Commit to as little as two hours per week. This is the most convenient, rewarding volunteer work you'll ever do. Hotline volunteers help to reunite juvenile animals with their parents by providing simple instructions to callers who have found a baby bird, squirrel, raccoon or cottontail rabbit. For callers who have found an animal that is injured or orphaned, hotline volunteers connect them with wildlife rehabilitators who can give the animal immediate care. **Call 972-234-WILD today.**

Project List (SH): There is a project list online at our webpage www.efcmn.org. Just about any of these projects can

Advanced Training Opportunities (AT):

Topic: The Dinosaur in Your Backyard! (AT)

Speaker: Our very own DFW Wildlife Coalition & North Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, Beverly Guthrie and Karla Vargas

Date and time: Sunday, April 29th from 2 - 4 pm

Meeting location: REI Store at 4515 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX (North of LBJ Freeway between Midway & the Tollway (Upstairs community room)

DINOSAURS!! In "my" backyard??? Did you know the birds in your backyard have an evolutionary history that goes back as far as the dinosaurs? Learn all about their amazing natural history and behaviors, as well as how they fit into our Dallas-Fort Worth urban ecosystems. You'll also learn what you can do to coexist with these ferocious dinosaurs living in your backyard. This workshop is the first in a series of WildSpeak! presentations offered by the DFW Wildlife Coalition to educate the local public about . . . sharing our cities with wildlife. The training is free

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

to all Master Naturalists. No RSVP's required. Contact the DFW Wildlife Coalition at info@DFWwildlife.org or visit our website www.DFWwildlife.org

Saturdays, 3pm: April 7, April 21
Saturdays, 4pm: May 5, May 12, May 19, May 26

Please call 940-686-2080 or email don.whited@tpwd.state.tx.us for more information.

Dinosaur Valley State Park Birding Trip (AT)

Saturday, May 19, 2007 @ 7:30am Dinosaur Valley State Park "In Search of the Golden-cheeked Warbler" Bird Hike & Plant Hike

Join Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council on a bird hike in search of a glimpse of the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler at Dinosaur Valley State Park. Don't miss your chance to see a very special bird that breeds nowhere else in the world besides central Texas. Golden-cheeked Warblers are neotropical migrant birds who are listed as federally endangered species. They winter in southern Mexico down to Honduras and spend the spring and summer (their breeding season) in central Texas. Their range reaches up into north central Texas. Cost of the excursion is \$10. Plus there is a \$5 entrance fee into the park - payable at the gate. Please RSVP with Michelle Villafranca (ecoexcursion@ctufo.org) no later than Friday, May 11. Excursion limited to 10 people.

For those of you who like to camp out & backpack, some CTUFC members will be camping out Friday & Saturday nights. If you would like to join us, please contact Michelle so she can give you more details.

Michelle Villafranca
Forester, City of Fort Worth
4200 S. Freeway, Suite 2200
Fort Worth, Texas 76115
Ph: 817.871.5729
Fax: 817.871.5724
<http://www.fortworthgov.org/pacs/fwpcsd/forestry/index.htm>

Ray Roberts Lake Guided Nature Hikes, Isle du Bois Unit, Bluestem Grove Camping Area

Earthkind Online Modules (AT): If you are short on advanced training hours, we now have a way for you to earn 4 hours of AT from the comfort of your own home. Go to <http://earthkind.tamu.edu/EKOnlineModules.html>, complete all three Earthkind modules online ("Roses" is not available) and pass the quiz at the end of each of the 3 available sections. Once the 3 quizzes are passed, please print out the certificates of completion to attach to your service record when you go to record your 4 hours. If you are already getting credit for these modules as a Master Gardener, you may not also get credit for the same modules as a Master Naturalist.

Ongoing bird talks at the LBJ grasslands count as AT. Please contact Mary Curry at mary@lookingout.net for more info.

Activities of Interest: May qualify for AT

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PRACTICES
Carrie Dubberley with Dubberley Landscape Design is teaching a "Sustainable Landscaping Practices" class on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 beginning May 9 through May 30 at Collin County Community College Courtyard Center (at Park and Preston.) This Continuing Education class is just \$69.00. For more information and to register, call (972) 985-3790 or visit the school's website at: www.ccccd.edu. The class will cover the basics of drought tolerant plant choices for North Texas, water and rainwater harvesting/rain gardens, maintenance/care, and alternatives to highly maintained lawns.

Organic in the City is from 6-9pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Grand Hall

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

and on the Veranda at Texas Discovery Gardens. We will be offering organic and local food and beverages. Admission is \$10.00 for TDG members Admission is \$15.00 for non-members. www.texasdiscoverygardens.org

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bo/w/schedule.phtml#rrc>
Ashley Mathews (512) 970-9247
BAOW@tpwd.state.tx.us

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop

April 27-29, 2007
Camp Carter Fort Worth, TX Texas Parks and Wildlife
Visit the facility:
<http://www.campcarter.org/>.

Every workshop includes a core curriculum of classes which include the shooting sports, camping, backpacking, outdoor cooking, archery, plant ID., birdwatching, introduction to firearms and hunting, map & compass, outdoor survival, orienteering, flytying and outdoor first-aid.

How do I register for a workshop?

Registration materials are mailed (e-mail and regular mail) out 4-5 weeks before the date of the workshop. Or you can print off a digital version of the forms from this website. The electronic forms are accessible at the same time as the materials are mailed.

To add yourself to our mailing list, complete and submit this form.

How much is the fee?

The fee for participation is \$185.00 per person (payable by check, money order or credit card). This includes two nights lodging, meals, instruction and equipment use. A few classes will require an additional fee but these fees are known upfront during the registration process.

I have other questions - Who do I call?
Phone: (512) 970-9247
E-mail: BAOW@tpwd.state.tx.us

MORE AT:

Ray Roberts Lake Stargazing Parties (dusk - 11pm), Isle du Bois Unit
Saturdays: Apr. 21, May 12, June 16, and Aug. 4
Please call 940-686-2080 or email don.whited@tpwd.state.tx.us for more information.

Birding on the Greenbelt, Elm Fork Park (just east of dam on FM 455)
Saturdays, 7-9am, June 9, July 14, August 11
Please call 940-686-2080 or email don.whited@tpwd.state.tx.us for more information.

Did You Know? Texas State Parks

Texas State Parks:

Among all 50 states, Texas ranks 49 in per capita expenditure for state park operations.

Without increased funding, proposed closure of up to 18 state parks plus consideration of selling off Texas State Railway Park and parts of Big Bend State Park. Since 2005, there are reduced operations in at least 50 parks.

Funding for our community local parks through the TPWD (state parks) matching grants program has been reduced by 2/3 in just the past 3 years.

The cost of operating state parks is a small fraction of state finances: currently only fifteen one-hundredths of one percent (.15) of the state budget.

Voters in 2001 approved \$101 million in bonds to support repairs in the State Parks, but barely more than one half of that money has been made available so far.

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

The state budget increased by 68% between 1990 and 2003 but spending on parks has been reduced by 34%.

The Armchair Master Naturalist by Theresa Kavi: PBS Tall Grass Prairie Documentary available for purchase on website.

<http://www.lostlandscapefilm.com/lostland/>

America's Lost Landscape
The Tallgrass Prairie

America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie tells the rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history.

The film also highlights prairie preservation efforts and explores how the tallgrass prairie ecosystem may serve as a model for a sustainable agriculture of the future.

From Phil Joines: This is a link to a newspaper article about the timber industry and the destruction of valuable ecosystems.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/31/AR2007033101287_pf.html

If you know of any good books, movies, webpages or art exhibits that feature nature, email me at TLKavi@earthlink.net and I will try to pass on your suggestions to our fellow members.

Spotlight on : Texas Highways & Wildflowers:

AUSTIN - Motorists searching for the best wildflower locations along Texas highways have help at their fingertips. The Texas Department of Transportation's wildflower hotline (800-452-9292) and Internet site (www.txdot.gov) give users information on the best spots to find wildflowers along the

Texas highway system. The wildflower hotline, available as part of the menu for the road conditions hotline is active through early May. The hotline has a recording available 24-hours-a-day telling where wildflowers are by selecting option two. Travel counselors are also available as a new hotline feature from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. seven-days-a week, except Easter Sunday. The counselors can be reached by selecting options three, four or five. Spanish-speaking Texans should press option five for a Spanish translator. To make it easier to find wildflowers in bloom, hotline callers may request information by seven regions of the state: Big Bend, Gulf Coast, Hill Country, Panhandle, Piney-Woods (East Texas), Prairies and Lakes (North Central Texas), and Southwest Texas. Information on the hotline and Internet comes from TxDOT's maintenance offices, chambers of commerce and parks officials. "Wildflower growth will probably be above average due to the most recent rain although the drought did reduce germination in the fall in much of the state," said Dennis Markwardt director of TxDOT Vegetation Management. April is considered the prime month for blooming wildflowers. TxDOT spreads more than 20,000 pounds of wildflower seeds along Texas highway rights of way each year. Each pound contains 30 or more varieties of wildflowers. The statewide locator map for wildflower blossoms is available on the TxDOT webpage at www.txdot.gov by clicking on Travel on "Wildflowers." This area has a written summary of wildflower growth as well as an enlargeable map featuring "wildflower-power" sites, marked with colored circles representing wildflower varieties in bloom. The department's wildflower effort is part of a vegetation-management program encouraging the growth of native species that require less mowing and care. Explore solutions to "Keep Texas Moving" at the Texas Transportation Forum, July 18-20, in Austin, Texas. Find out more at www.texastransportationforum.com from: North Texas e-News (Fannin and nearby counties) <http://www.ntxe-news.com/>

Just For Fun: By George Kragle

The EFCTMN Newsletter

April, 2007

Vol 8, No.4

I discovered a rather interesting research project for the naturalist that may be of interest to others. I call it "Fishing for go fast bass boats".

There has always been symbiotic relationships that exist between the different species of animals that inhabit this planet. We can readily examine this relationship between insect and fungus, bacteria and man, anemone and clown fish such as Nemo.

What is not known as well is the relationship between the common gray gull (*Larus modestus*), the soft taco (*buyatus walmartus*), man (*homo sapiens*), and the recently evolved species, the go-fast bass boat (*fiberglassus bigger motorus*).

While the relationship can be difficult to understand for the lay person, it has been extensively researched by master naturalists at Ray Roberts Lake and State Park. The optimal time of the week for study is Saturday and Sunday when *fiberglassus* seems to be more numerous.

With the gray gull on the wing surfing above the waters, it is important to gently remove the tacos from the bag. Once this is accomplished, each taco must be delicately ripped into pieces measuring two centimeters square. A number of these pieces must then be flung out over the water at least five to ten meters from the shoreline. It is important that this distance from the rocks be maintained as *Larus modestus* will not land but prefers to take the taco on the wing. When one or more *modestus* (gray gulls) establish the existence of fare and commences feeding other members of this loosely defined flock will conjugate and form a rather large collection of members. It is this collection that is the subject of further study.

As the noise and movement of the flock increases, *fiberglassus*, visually or vocally sensing the presents of the assemble of *Larus*, will race to the area wrongly interpreting the excitement as a sign that small mouth bass (*microterpus dolomieu*) exist in the area and that the gulls are

feeding on the surface fish. *Fiberglassus* will arrive and begin a slow pattern search of the water for signs small mouth bass. After a few passes and unable to locate *microterpus*, the go fast *fiberglassus* will lose interest and depart, reestablish itself a hundred meters or so from the activity.

However, because *fiberglassus* tend to be less intelligent than the gray gull or for that matter the bass, they forget quickly that they had searched the waters and they will return a number of times, each time initiating a more extensive search of the gulls' feeding area. Confused by the lack of prey when their rather primitive instincts tell them otherwise, they will circle in a frantic pattern until after about a half hour they will accelerate from the area.

At this time if the researcher replenishes the supply of soft tacos on the surface of the water, *Larus* will return in greater numbers and once again the go-fast *fiberglassus* will rush back to the area and once again start a search for small mouth.

It is quite amusing to watch this relationship and it can be repeated a number of times each time drawing numerous brightly colored and different go-fast *fiberglassus*. (scientists have now broken these into a number of subspecies). We do recommend that the researcher not continue the experiment too long as it is simply not ethical to subject such a primitive species as *fiberglassus* to such humiliation.

Be advised to show extreme caution and not fall off the rocks laughing as this unique symbiotic relationship unfolds again and again. And again.

George Kragle
Gkragle1@verizon.net