

MAY 2008

Volume 9, Number 5

EFCMN Newsletter

Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists

EVENTS

MAY MEETING

Social Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting: 9:30 AM

Date: 5/15/2008

Location: Extension
Office Conference Room

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Time: 9:30 AM

Date: 6/12/2008

Location: Extension Office
Conference Room
Board meetings are open
to members.

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected

President: Alex Lieban

Past President: Dave Rowley

Vice President: Lee Ann
Jernigan

Secretary: Lynne List

Treasurer: George Kragle

2007 Class Rep: Christana
Coleman

2007 Class Rep: Andrea
Krofina

Appointed Chairs/editor

Training: Sherrill Campbell

Publicity: Cheryl Kesterson

Projects: Dave Ford

Newsletter: Theresa Page

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are \$15 per year and
are due by January 31. A \$5
late fee is added after that
date.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Submission of material for
publication is welcomed and
encouraged. The deadline is
always the second Friday of
each month that the
newsletter is published.

PROJECTS IN THE NEWS

The Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA) is an 80+ acre tract, part of the Lewisville Lake Corps of Engineers managed area, located just off of State Highway 121 and east of the Lake Lewisville Dam in Denton County. The Lewisville Independent School District services the cities of Lewisville, Carrollton, The Colony, Flower Mound, and Highland Village. LISDOLA boasts wetlands, forests, fields, rivers, and streams, and contains approximately five miles of hiking trails. Steven Spurger, district environmental education specialist, teaches students daily at the site.

Karen Archambault and Rica Potenz have been the co-project managers for this project since 1999, when Karen was a Master Gardener intern and Rica was a Master Naturalist intern. Our initial goals were to make the site an attractive asset to the community, educate the public about the benefits of using Texas native plants in landscaping, and to create a wildlife habitat, specifically focusing on birds and butterflies, thereby providing teachers, students, and visitors with outdoor, hands-on educational experiences. In 2001, LISDOLA was awarded outstanding project for the year 2000 at the annual Master Gardener State Conference.

Over the years, both Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists have continued to work side by side on this project. Master Naturalists have constructed and maintained a pond located between the two portable classrooms, arbors and trellises located in the rose garden, and assisted with constructing a brick walkway throughout the rose garden. They have constructed and maintained trails and designed maps of the various hiking trails along with trail sign posts keyed to the maps.

In addition to helping construct all of the perennial beds that highlight native and adaptive plants, the Master Naturalists created an educational butterfly garden that provides teachers and students opportunities to observe the various host plants as well as the entire life cycle of the butterfly. A very popular past Master Naturalist project at LISDOLA utilized a motion-activated camera to photograph the abundant wildlife on the property and revealed the animals that live on the site but hide during the day. Plaster casts of animal tracks were made as well, and both night photographs and plaster casts are prominently displayed near the public restrooms.

Rica Potenz has resigned from the project and moved on to other activities; and consequently, we no longer have a Master Naturalist co-project manager for LISDOLA. Master Naturalists are critical to the

ONGOING SERVICE HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Newsletter Articles (SH): You can receive credit for researching and writing articles for the EFCMN Newsletter. Articles must pertain to Chapter interests and cannot be political in nature. Copyrighted materials may not be included without permission of the author. Send submissions to Theresa Page, EFCMN Editor, at theresapage3@mac.com

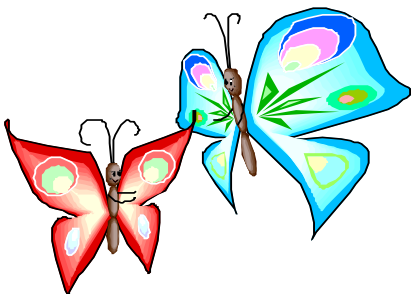
EFCMN Publicity (SH): If you have Master Naturalist activities or projects that are open to the public, please help publicize EFCMN by submitting calendar events for publication in the Denton Connection magazine to Wanda Odum at: WOdum10043@aol.com

EFCMN Projects (SH): A list of projects can be found online at our website: www.efcmn.org Please consider volunteering for one or more projects to help your community, enjoy activities with like-minded people, and earn service hour credit. Contact the manager for a given project to volunteer. *(For those members who have difficulty with physically demanding tasks or with working outdoors, the chapter offers service opportunities such as data entry and copying. Contact LeeAnn Jernigan at texasgirl@pwhome.com for information.)*

Other Organizations Offering Service Hour Opportunities: Service hours are available at any time with Fort Worth Nature Center (FWNC), www.fwnaturecenter.org Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), www.BRIT.org Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA), www.ias.unt.edu/llela and Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA) spurgers@lisd.net

continued success of this great outdoor learning area and without their assistance we are beginning to see age deterioration of arbors and trellises, the pond is becoming overgrown with invasive plants, and aggressive perennials as well as weeds are destroying our butterfly garden. The shade garden needs a natural barrier to fence in the area, and the trails are constantly in need of maintenance. We are always looking for fresh, new ideas to continue our commitment to educate the public; for example, wildflower, bird, and tree identifications could be created.

LISDOLA is an excellent opportunity for both veterans and interns to obtain their service hours. Our next scheduled work date is Tuesday, May 27th beginning at 8:00 AM. We hope that you will join us in supporting this project. If you think you would be interested in being a co-manager of an existing project, please contact either Karen Archambault or Steve Spurger. We are always looking for new ideas, lots of enthusiasm, and support of this ongoing school-related project. Contact Information: Karen Archambault: 972-874-8005, txgardener1999@yahoo.com and Steve Spurger: 972-395-3449, spurgers@lisd.net



BUTTERFLIES at the MAY MEETING

9:00 AM SOCIAL; 9:30 AM MEETING

Joanne Fellows will speak on her experiences in studying and collecting butterflies. Fellows has a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Fine Arts and Art History from the University of California at Irvine. She retired from Graphic/Web Design and moved to Texas in October 2001. This is home number twelve for her, but she has lived in a wide range of climates and growing conditions. Wherever she has lived, Fellows has always built habitats for herself, wildlife, birds and butterflies. She joined Denton County Master Gardener Association in 2004 and took Master Gardener Entomology Specialist training this past August. One of her recent projects was to collect and mount 45 species of butterflies that were regulars in her current garden.

RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARK ACTIVITIES

Interpretative Center: Hours are Fridays, 3-8 PM, Saturdays, 10 AM-4 PM, and Sundays, 11 AM-3 PM, March 1-July 6. The center is located across from the Park entrance at the Isle du Bois Unit.

Stargazing Parties (AT): Learn more about the night sky. The fun begins at dusk and lasts until 11:00 PM on Saturday, June 28. This event is being held at the Isle du Bois Unit.

Guided Nature Hikes (AT or S*): *Isle du Bois Unit, Bluestem Grove Camping Area, Saturdays, 4 PM, May 24 and May 31. Johnson Branch Unit, Dogwood Camping Area, Saturdays, 1 PM, May 24 and May 31.*

Kids n' Nature Outdoor Classroom (AT or S*): *May 31, 10-12 AM.* At the Interpretative Center. Learn about Texas soil types, eco-regions, wildflowers, the big four native prairie grasses, and their connection to wildlife and man. Then take a walk with us on Lost Pines trail to look for native plants.

WalMart Kid's All American Fishing Derby: Saturday, June 7, 9 AM-12:00 Noon, *Isle du Bois Unit, fishing pier.*

Birding on the Greenbelt: (AT) Saturday, June 14, 7-9 AM, Elm Fork Park (east of dam on FM 455)

Summer Solstice Celebration: Saturday, June 21, 6-9 PM, *Isle du Bois Unit, day use beach area.*

Contact Don Whited for more information about any of these events at 940-686-2148. To volunteer to assist with nature hikes and other activities, you may also contact EFCMN (Ray Roberts) Project Manager, Jan Hodson, at janhodson@ntin.net

**First time volunteers/attendees may count it as advanced training; for trained volunteers, it counts as service.*

WORKDAYS at Clear Creek

Location: Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center at Collins Rd.

When: Saturday, May 24

Time: 9:00 – 12:30 (but we're flexible)

If you have hand tools please bring them. There will also be some tools at the site. Bottled water will be provided.

See ya there!

Contact Jan Thompson at 972-757-5715 or frickthompson@aol.com
Cheryl Kesterson at 940-387-2029
or greengardengal@yahoo.com

EFCMN MAYFEST

It's time to celebrate!

And

Enjoy nature and some wine, some food and of course great conversation with our Master Naturalist family and friends.

May 22

6:00 -8:30

*Andy Krofina's House
370 Canyon Oaks Dr. Argyle*

RSVP/Contact: *Jan Thompson, 972-757-5715
frickthompson@aol.com or Andy Krofina, 940-455-7470 akrofina@verizon.net*

[*DEAR JOHN*]

Unfortunately, not every relationship lives up to our hopes and dreams. That has certainly been the case with the EFCMN and its founding advisor, you, John Cooper. We had hoped and dreamed that our collaboration would last forever, but instead it has turned out to be fleeting like so many of our other relationships (not due to the fault of the EFCMN organization. It was always the other guy's fault.).

Over the years, we have found you to be a truly wonderful man. As our advisor, you have been our mission keeper, provider of scientific facts, chapter ambassador, and our troublemaker (oops, we meant trouble shooter). We have also come to appreciate some of your lesser-known talents: an unusually dry sense of humor and a special talent for map creation.

But as fabulous as our time together has been that does not mean you are right for us forever. So we find ourselves in the precarious situation of having to break it off.

Breaking the news in person is never easy. So we are taking the low road out and writing to you instead. But this letter can't be too much of a shock. We did throw you a party at our April general meeting where we did a particularly sappy walk down memory lane. Our Master of Ceremony, Sonny Arnold, gave a talk about the current status of the Texas Master Naturalists in general of which you have been an integral part in bringing about:

41 Chapters now in operation
 300 plus partners
 4500 volunteers
 769 trail miles created
 750,000 volunteer hours expended

So, John, There's nothing more to say at this point, but goodbye. Should you have any complaint about how you have been treated over the years by the organization, please contact one of our board members (I know you know their names.). If you have a complaint about how you were treated at the party, please contact one of the following members (but not me):

Dave Ford--the "Here is your life" dvd/cd with input from several others in this group
 Lynne List--memory book and cards; narrator for the event
 Jan Thompson, Cheryl Kesterson, Sherril Campbell, Lee Ann Jernigan--the order of how things were organized; the gifts
 Carolyn Richard-- potluck (food portion) planning
 Lynne Brown--party designer who also helped with potluck
 Theresa Page--cake decoration design, the photo table displays, and helped with potluck
 Donna Wolfe--organizer who contacted and invited the non-MN speakers.

Hopefully, we can still be friends.

Sincerely,

Theresa Kavi (For the EFCMNs)

P.S. You can keep the ring. Well, actually, I think we just gave you a pin and a scrapbook, This is Your Life CD and a special nametag, but it's the thought that counts.

EARN **AT** BY LEARNING CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)

Certify for CPR training in one training session--a boost to all of you who need **Advanced Training** hours!

When: Saturday May 31st, 2007

This will be the first scheduled class. Future classes may be scheduled as needed for those who miss this one or for those Master Naturalists who wish to maintain their year-to-year certification.

Where: County Extension Office meeting room

Time: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. This provides up to 5 hours training (that's without a lunch break) with one student per manikin.

What's included?: 2-year Red Cross CPR certification, AED (defibrillator), and Red Cross First Aid Training

Class size: Minimum of 6 and maximum of 25.

Cost: \$35.00 per person if enough people sign up for the course. This is a reduction from the standard cost of \$55.00.

Instructors: Captain David Becker (Station 7) will be the lead instructor along with other personnel from the City of Denton Fire Department.

Class starts at 9 AM then moves to the CPR-AED portion of the class. Instead of taking a lunch break, the group can elect to order pizza, subs, etc. and watch a medical emergency video while eating. We would finish up the class with a session on treating injuries.

Sign up by contacting: Russell Gaddie at daddieg@msn.com or 940-565-6545 Be sure to sign-up early!

ACTIVITIES AT THE FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER (AT)

Wildflower Walk: Sunday, May 18 at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 PM. Come and join us for a delightful look at the unbelievable number of wildflowers that appear each spring at the Nature Center. Some are big and showy while others are small and hard to find. They also come in a wide variety of shapes and colors. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring water for this program. FREE (with paid admission).

Snakes of Tarrant County: Saturday, May 24, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Sunday, May 25, Noon-4:00 PM, Monday, May 26, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Join members of the Dallas-Fort Worth Herpetological Society as they answer your questions and you view their live specimens. It is a great opportunity to learn about one of the most misunderstood groups of animals found living in North Texas, the snakes. FREE (with paid admission). For information: <http://www.fwnaturecenter.org>

LEELA ACTIVITIES (AT)

Kayak down the Elm Fork with

KayakPower.com: Third Saturday of each month. Whether you've got lots of river time under your belt or have never set foot in a kayak, you're welcome here! Kayak Power will provide equipment and instruction followed by a six-mile trip down the Elm Fork to a shuttle vehicle. Contact info@kayakpower.com or 214-562-0769 for information. **Reservation required.** *"This is a great opportunity to observe wildlife along the river."*

Bison Tour: Saturday, May 25, 2:00 PM (last Sunday each month). You are invited to roam over to LLELA's bison area for a guided tour. Participants will meet herd owner Robert Vaughan at the gatehouse, then drive out for an opportunity to see the bison up close (great photo opportunity!) and learn more about bison natural history and husbandry. All ages are welcome; **registration is required at 972-219-7980.** The tour is available for only \$2/person in addition to LLELA's regular gate fee of \$3/person. The bison are normally off view in a secure area of LLELA, so this is a chance to visit a part of the preserve most people don't get to see.

THE ARMCHAIR MASTER NATURALIST

ARE YOU A PART OF THE PROBLEM OR THE SOLUTION? Ponder this for a moment: What could conceivably survive longer than gold rush Levi denims, grandma's effects of castor oil, a fire ant colony, cockroaches, or maybe even King Tut's treasures? Hmm. Good question, huh? While thinking about that, are you sipping a little from that ... whoa ... plastic ... gulp ... bottle?

According to an article in the April 14, 2008, *Businessweek* magazine, the nonprofit group "Food and Water Watch" based in Washington, D.C., released a report last year concerning bottled water that stated in part that many Americans "think it is somehow safer or better than tap water...but it is generally no cleaner, or safer, or healthier than tap water. In fact the federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of municipal drinking water."

They further reported that approximately 31.2 billion liters of bottled water was consumed last year in America alone. The Pacific Institute based in Oakland, CA, estimates that to make all those water bottles required about 17 million barrels of oil. That, according to the Institute, would supply enough fuel to operate 1 million cars and light trucks for a one-year period.

So, bottled water or tap water? Neither is necessarily better or worse, and more often than not, they are one and the same. The America public is conditioned by, and made gullible, from the constant bombardment of ads for products guaranteed to make one wealthy, healthy, and happy. If the ad said it, it must be true. Don't fall for the adman's pitch. Trust your own intellect and sensibilities.

If, however, you are one who already has plastic bottles, and choose from time-to-time to refill them with tap water, be sure to disinfect them often as bacteria can grow inside the bottle. Better yet, get yourself a reusable cup with a lid, and you're good to go any time, anywhere.

To answer the posed question, it is really unknown how long these plastic bottles will remain in the landfills before they disintegrate, as it appears no one has yet lived long enough to observe that!

By Wanda Odum, MN 2005 class

**ELM FORK CHAPTER OF
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