

Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter



DENTON COUNTY MASTER NATURALIST SHARING KNOWLEDGE

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Who was Aldo Leopold?

{See p. 7 for details}



www.aldoleopold.org/programs/shack



Photo courtesy D. Thetford

CHERYL KESTERSON, experienced educator and longtime Master Naturalist education liaison with DISD at Clear Creek Heritage Center, considers some consequences.

—To read more, go to p. 6—

Inside this issue:

A Time for Recognition	P. 2
Plug Into LLELA	P. 3
Preservation Through Education	P. 6
Who Was Aldo Leopold?	P. 7
“Green Fire” Movie Critique	P. 8
Announcements	P. 9
More Than Just Monarchs	P. 12
Field Notes in Focus	P. 14
Special Announcement	P. 15
About the Chapter	P. 16

Special points of interest:

- *More than just monarchs*
- *Preservation and education*
- *“Green Fire” attendees*
- *Chapter photographers page*
- *April speaker biographical sketch (p. 11)*
- *Walking LLELA*

A TIME FOR RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION



Sydney Wells receives Certificate of Appreciation from Rob Roy, Vice-President

At March 17, 2011, regular meeting, Vice-President Rob Roy presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Sydney Wells, Captain and Founder of the Argyle High School Green Team for the Team's contribution to Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter. Rather than offering the traditional sale of "mums" as a fundraiser, the Green Team sold buttons and donated the proceeds to the Elm Fork Chapter. From the donation, microscopes were purchased to be used by both children and adults at LLELA for training and research.



Diane Wetherbee (right) thanks Sydney Wells

Additional recognition included:



Dave Rowley receives Certificate of Appreciation for longtime service as Chapter president



Gift of framed photograph presented to speaker, Kenneth W. Mayben, P.E.

All photos on this page, courtesy Owen Richards

Carl Patrick-left & right

**Planting Inland
Seoats at LLELA,
March 2011**

Carl Patrick, Deborah Estes and Dave Ford are at LLELA planting Broadleaf woodoats, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, (also called Inland seoats) in a forested area which was recently cleared of chinese privet. This area is part of a lowland which is a remnant of Stewart Creek below Lewisville Lake Dam.

*Report from Dave
Ford—"down under"*

Dave Ford



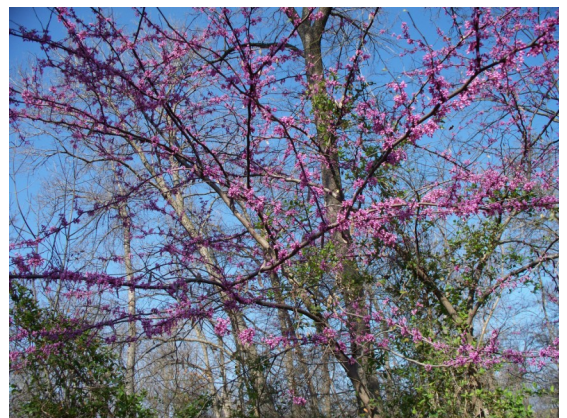
Deborah Estes

*Photos courtesy
Owen Richards*



Photos w. odum

Down the Cicada
Trail
On Trail Guide
Training at
LLELA



—More on Trail Guide Training following—

Interpretation Basics for Trail Guides

Diane Wetherbee

Lisa Cole, education director of LLELA, recently conducted a series of five trail guide training classes for about 35 Master Naturalists and other volunteers. While the training was mostly specific to LLELA, its trails, ecosystems, and special features, there was a lot of advice on what makes a good trail guide, in general. First and foremost, a walk that's memorable to the visitors will be the result of good interpretive techniques by the tour guide.

Many of you know that I am working on my Ph.D. in forestry, but my specific area of study is resource interpretation. Obviously, I think interpretation is important. So, what is interpretation? I'm going to shamelessly lift material from Lisa's trail guide handbook (which she, no doubt, shamelessly lifted from other sources, so I don't feel too guilty) to give a quick overview of the basics of good interpretation and how we, as Master Naturalists, can use it to become better trail guides.

Freeman Tilden was one of the first to set down the principles of good interpretation. In his book, *Interpreting Our Heritage*, he defined interpretation as:

“An educational activity which aims to reveal meaning and relationships through the use of original objects, by first-hand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.”

The important point to notice here is that interpretation is not just passing on the facts. It's actually trying, as Lisa says, “to strengthen those connections to the natural world which so many people have begun to lose.” David Larsen, another interpretation stalwart who has done a lot of work improving the interpretive skills of National Park Service interpreters, says this about interpretation in his book, *Meaningful Interpretation: How to Connect Hearts and Minds to Places, Objects, and Other Resources*:

“Interpretation is a guide, leading audiences from physical resources to their underlying meanings, from the tangible to the intangible, from sight to insight. By providing opportunities to connect to the meaning of the resource, interpretation provokes the public's participation in resource stewardship. It helps them to understand their relationships to, and impact upon, those resources. And it helps them to care.”

And, as Master Naturalists, isn't that what we're really trying to do – help others care as much about our resource, whether it's LLELA or Clear Creek or Old Alton Bridge, as much as we do, so that it will be preserved for generations to come?

How can we go about becoming good interpreters, helping others to forge connections to our resources? In a nutshell, here are some basics.

Theme: A good hike or tour will have a strong theme; otherwise, it is just a series of disjointed facts. Your theme is one or two sentences that state what you want your visitors to take away with them. People will forget most of the facts, but they will remember the “feeling,” the theme. A theme is different than a topic. While your topic may be something like “Plants and Seeds,” your theme might be, “Plants have several different ways of moving their

seeds to new locations: riding the wind, hitchhiking with animals, floating, or even being eaten.”

Objects or Props: Whenever possible, don’t just talk about something, *show* it. If it’s safe to both the people and the resource, let visitors touch or smell an object. Break a leaf from a milkweed plant to show the milky toxic sap, blow seeds from a dandelion to show them riding the wind, crush a wild onion leaf and let the visitors sniff.

Use of Questions: You can use questions to involve visitors and make your walk a discussion rather than a lecture. Just be sure not to turn it into an inquisition; keep it conversational. Be encouraging, even if the answer isn’t quite right. “That’s a great idea, but not quite what I’m looking for.” Also, encourage visitors to ask you questions, too. Always answer politely and respectfully, remembering that there are no dumb questions (even when there are).

Interpretation for Children: Freeman Tilden wrote: “Interpretation addressed to children should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach.” Children have a shorter attention span, are less inhibited, want to personally examine items using all their senses, and are generally more curious than adults. They will see more per linear foot of trail than any adult will, if encouraged. Don’t be afraid to introduce and define a new word. Children don’t like being talked down to. If you have a mixed group of children and adults, generally direct your efforts at the children, with an occasional aside to the adults.

Trail Activities: Not only children learn best by doing. There are a number of good resources for trail activities. One excellent book is Joseph Cornell’s *Sharing Nature with Children*, which has activities that are good for not only children, but adults, as well.

Audience Comfort: If your audience isn’t comfortable, they won’t be focused on what you’re trying to convey. Make sure they know where the restrooms are and have had an opportunity to use them. If it’s hot, make sure they have water. When you stop to talk, walk half the group past the point where you want to stop and talk, and then you walk back so you are standing in the middle. If the sun is bright, make sure your audience’s backs are to the sun. Watch out for trail hazards – fire ants, hanging branches, poison ivy, snakes, etc. If you have a group of children, set boundaries for their behavior up front, and enforce those boundaries. At LLELA, we have three: children must stay beside or behind the trail guide, keep their feet on the trail, and follow the two parts of leave no trace – don’t litter, and all natural objects remain where they’re found (maybe after picking it up and examining it).



Photo-odum

Guiding a trail walk is a lot of fun, because it gives us a chance to share our passion with our visitors. Using good interpretive techniques will help convey that passion in a way that helps our visitors come to care about our resources as much as we do.

Lisa Cole on the trail

“Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach.” Aristotle

Preservation through Education By Cheryl Kesterson

How did you get your start? What's your story?

We all have them and they most likely form the reasons for our becoming a Master Naturalist. Wanda Odum gave us hers in the last EFCMN newsletter sharing her adventures with her brother exploring the outdoors where she grew up. It's fun to share these adventures with others, especially with the younger generation. It also helps to bridge the generation gap with our grandchildren. What better way to get your grandchildren to give you their complete attention than to talk about "how it was way back then!" The question is, will your grandchildren or even your children have similar stories to share in their older years?

"Just a generation ago children spent most of their time outdoors and being called indoors for the night was the worst thing imaginable."

To me, there is no higher, more important or more demanding calling than helping children get a good start in life shared with nature and the outdoors.

I think everyone is aware of the need to reach the children in order to preserve their future. However, if a child has never had those unique outdoor experiences then what frame of reference will they draw from when making decisions about natural resources as adults? I hope it is through our efforts as Master Naturalists that these experiences will become part of this generation of children's decision making in the future.



Theresa Page teaching about wildflowers

MASTER NATURALIST PASSING ON THE KNOWLEDGE



Dave Ford focusing on soils



Jan Hodson explaining insects



Dorothy Thetford getting at eye-level with the twins

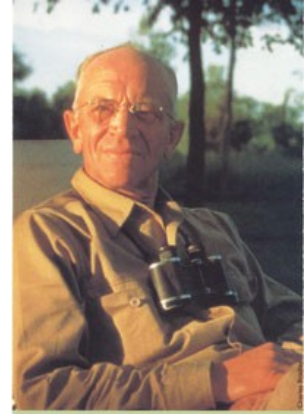
Photos courtesy Cheryl Kesterson



Sherrill Campbell tracking mammals

Who was Aldo Leopold?

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is considered the father of wildlife ecology and a true Wisconsin hero. He was a renowned scientist and scholar, exceptional teacher, philosopher, and gifted writer. It is for his book, *A Sand County Almanac*, that Leopold is best known by millions of people around the globe. *The Almanac*, often acclaimed as the century's literary landmark in conservation, melds exceptional poetic prose with keen observations of the natural world. The *Almanac* reflects an evolution of a lifetime of love, observation, and thought. It led to a philosophy that has guided many to discovering what it means to live in harmony with the land and with one another.



The roots of Leopold's concept of a "land ethic" can be traced to his birthplace on the bluffs of the Mississippi River near Burlington, Iowa. As a youngster, he developed a zealous appreciation and interest in the natural world, spending countless hours on adventures in the woods, prairies, and river backwaters of a then relatively wild Iowa. This early attachment to the natural world, coupled with an uncommon skill for both observation and writing, led him to pursue a degree in forestry at Yale.

After Yale, Leopold joined the U.S. Forest Service and was assigned to the Arizona Territories. During his tenure, he began to see the land as a living organism and develop the concept of community. This concept became the foundation upon which he became conservation's most influential advocate. In 1924, he accepted a transfer to the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison where he served as associate director, and began teaching at the University of Wisconsin in 1928.

Often credited as the founding father of wildlife ecology, Leopold's cornerstone book *Game Management* (1933) defined the fundamental skills and techniques for managing and restoring wildlife populations. This landmark work created a new science that intertwined forestry, agriculture, biology, zoology, ecology, education and communication. Soon after its publication, the University of Wisconsin created a new department, the Department of Game Management, and appointed Leopold as its first chair.

Leopold's unique gift for communicating scientific concepts was only equal to his fervor for putting theories into practice. In 1935, the Leopold family purchased a worn-out farm near Baraboo, in an area known as the sand counties. It is here Leopold put into action his beliefs that the same tools people used to disrupt the landscape could also be used to rebuild it. An old chicken coop, fondly known as the Shack, served as a haven and land laboratory for the Leopold family, friends, and graduate students. And it was here Leopold visualized many of the essays of what was to become his most influential work, *A Sand County Almanac*.

Reprint permission granted by Kelley Van Egeren, Aldo Leopold
Nature Center—March 2011

Those who attended the March 7, 2011, showing of “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time” at the Flower Mound Library must have indeed felt empowered after the viewing and subsequent panel discussion. Reports were that it was inspiring, educational, and time well spent.

Additionally, Van Elliott, training coordinator, has recently purchased for the chapter a DVD entitled “Learning from the Land” that is presently being previewed by some members of the board. In this DVD, a daughter of Aldo Leopold “recalls the story of the Leopold family and their Wisconsin ‘Shack’ experience.” This DVD is expected to be available for member check-out very soon.

If you had rather read than watch, Denton Public Library has an in-depth biography entitled [Aldo Leopold's Odyssey](#) by Julianne Lutz Newton that gives one a good knowledge base of Aldo Leopold. Although it is a bit “academic” in places and not a fast read, it is worthwhile.

Visit the Aldo Leopold official website at www.aldoleopold.org for more information on the “Green Fire” film and the Aldo Leopold Foundation.



Pictured above are those who attended the “Green Fire” viewing.

Photo Lynne Richards

From left—Katie Jo Hammon, Judi Elliott, Van Elliott, Bill Hammon, Owen Richards, Ruth Ann Morrison, Don Morrison, Phyllis Ford (Master Naturalist guest), Dave Ford, Diane Wetherbee, and Fritz Poppe.

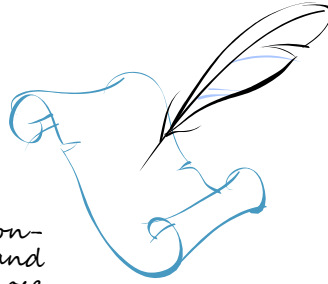
Introducing a new feature

Field Notes in Focus

Being the brain child of Alex Lieban, he starts us off in fine fashion p. 14



Once again I want to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter—photos, articles and other items of interest—and apologize to those who wanted to contribute, but because of space limitations, they were not included. Take heart, however, anything left out will be included in May issue—something for all of us to look forward to!



DON'T BE SHY Class of 2010—Help us get to know you. Send me a short bio/profile, and I will publish one or more each month. A single paragraph (or more) will do it.

Reminders

- ◆ Chapter membership directory is now available on disc—see Donna Wolfe. Thanks, Alex Lieban, for putting this together—big job!
- ◆ Webinar Series—1 hr. advanced training—<http://forestrywebinars.net>—click “Wildlife for Lunch” link.
- ◆ Please keep your hours posted regularly to aid in record keeping.
- ◆ Lake Ray Roberts project is still lacking a project manager.
- ◆ Publicity chair position is still vacant and needs everyone’s serious consideration.
- ◆ Betty Zajac, chapter historian, is continually in need of your project photos with information tags.

Announcements and Opportunities



SPRING CLEANING AT LLELA'S HOMESTEAD

Even 140-year-old log houses need a good spring cleaning now and then, and the homestead area at LLELA is no exception.

have plenty of rags, buckets, and Murphy's Oil Soap on hand, along with needles and thread.

When: Monday, April 25, from 10 a.m. - noon. Please be sure to meet at the entrance gate promptly at 10, since someone will have to man the gate to let us in. Feel free to bring a lunch and we'll dine *al fresco* at the picnic tables under the massive pecan trees at the homestead area and maybe take a stroll to the Beaver Pond to try to catch a glimpse of one of our resident beavers or herons, or we can go searching for the uncommon green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) that was recently discovered just off the trail.

Plan on coming? Questions or need more info? RSVP to Diane Wetherbee at dwetherb@verizon.net or 469-322-4795 if you plan on coming, so we know to hold the gate for you or so we can contact you in case we need to cancel because of weather.

What we'll be doing: clearing cobwebs and wasp nests, sweeping, washing furniture and floors, weeding the yard, sewing up holes in the mattresses.

What to bring: gloves (leather and rubber), broom, knife and/or scraper, your favorite weeding tool. We'll

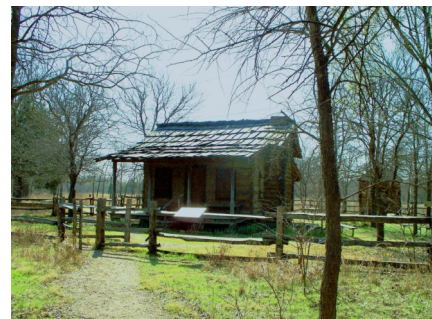


Photo-odum

LAERF Opens Its Doors to Master Naturalists



This is an e-mail from Dian Smith, contact person for LAERF:

Good morning you wonderful nature lovers. I just wanted to catch you up on who is volunteering at LAERF.

***Assisting Julie Nachtrieb with Biocontrol
Zachary Owens
Mary Hooser***

***Assisting Dian Smith in the analytical laboratory and with ecological greenhouse research studies
Kim McKibben
Paula McCormick
Renee Province***

***Assisting Lynde Dodd with the aquatic plant nursery and habitat restoration of the Trinity River
Richard Johnson***

Thank you for finding such wonderful volunteers to help us.

***Dian H. Smith
Dian H. Smith, Ph.D.
Research Scientist II
University of North Texas at Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility
201 East Jones Street
Lewisville, TX 75057
972 436 2215 ext 231***

Thank you, Dian!

And thanks to our volunteers, three of whom are from the 2010 class (right out of the chute, so to speak)!

Special thanks to Van Elliott, our Training Coordinator, for his fine work helping to fill Dian's requests for volunteers to work at LAERF. Van, as always, has really been on top of things.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility, you may contact Dian Smith directly. She's cool, and LAERF's a cool place to volunteer.

Mary Hooser
Project Manager
edenwoodplace@gmail.com
469-222-9465

April Meeting — Come light your candle.



Ron Fellows (Master Naturalist class of 2008) will be the presenter at our April general meeting on April 21, 2011. He will be taking everyone on a unique guided tour of some very special places.

Ever tried to tell someone about the natural assets of Ray Roberts Lake State Park, LLELA, or Clear Creek? **Now you can show them!**

Need a trail map? Want to know where you are on the trail? **Now there's an App for that!**

Ron's project, **The Trails of Denton County – Mobile**, is a new mobile application for Master Naturalists to create interpretive self-guided tours for our many natural assets and trails in Denton County. With our smartphones, we can develop tours to share with teachers and others who enjoy life outdoors.



Ron Fellows is a graduate of San Diego State University with degrees in Business Management, Physics-Electronics, and Mathematics - Information Technology. His career included 26 years with GE Information Services in a variety of senior management positions in technology, engineering, marketing and sales in the US and Europe. He was Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for WOMEX an early global internet company, followed by Vice President of Technology at American International Group (AIG) and VP and Chief Technology Officer for CitiGroup in New York. He retired to North Texas in 2003.

Submitted by Rob Roy, Vice President

Brush-footed butterflies (Nymphalidae) are distributed worldwide, and some of the adults are the most long-lived, surviving 6 to 11 months. These butterflies get their name from their little brushy forelegs. The front legs are reduced, and they are unable to use them to walk. Their usual colors are browns, oranges, yellows, and blacks. Monarchs get a lot of notice because of their migrations, but the ladies, admirals, angel wings, and American Snout members are just as fascinating.

The Monarchs (Milkweed butterflies):

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*; <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/>



In Australia they are called Wanderer. The caterpillars have black, yellow, and white stripes with fleshy tentacles on the front and rear. They feed on milkweeds.

Queen *Danaus gilippus*

Queen caterpillars have black, yellow, and white stripes with fleshy tentacles on the front, **middle**, and rear. They feed beside the Monarchs on milkweeds.



Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*



The Painted Lady is the most recognized and found world wide. It, along with monarchs are raised in elementary classrooms as a science project. It lays its eggs on over 100 different host plants.



Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Red Admirals prefer sap flows on trees, fermenting fruit, and bird droppings; visiting flowers only when these are not available. Then they will nectar at common milkweed, red clover, aster, and alfalfa, among others. You can recognize them by the broad red bands on the forewings and hindwings.

Question Mark (angel wing) *Polygonia interrogationis*



Angel wings are butterflies with punctuation marks as part of their patterns. You will find a tiny white question mark on the hind underwing. Can you find it in the second photo? They feed on carrion, dung, rotting fruit, and tree sap.

Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia*



Buckeye males will rest on the ground, and fly up at you as you come near. This is their normal patrolling behavior. You can easily recognize them by the several eyespots on their wings

Snouts look like a dead leaf by sitting with their wings closed and nose down. They use Hackberry trees as their host plant. The adults feed on rotting fruit and wildflowers.

American Snout *Libytheana carinenta*



Rotting fruit stinks, and the smell calls butterflies from long distances away. Butterflies that like tree sap usually like rotting fruit. Put a small dish in a shady spot, and add those soft bruised chunks of bananas, peaches, plums, or strawberries. See who shows up to drink the ooze.

Photos: Pinned specimens from Joanne Fellows' butterfly collection.

“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS” will be a periodic feature showcasing member photographers. No people pictures here, please — just flora and fauna as you see them! —



From his portfolio, Alex Lieban shares this photograph of “Bumblebee with Pollen”.

To see your photos in cyber print, submit to wodum10043@aol.com

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The following information is provided at request of Shirley Lusk as an aid to those interested in accessing the BRIT Digital Herbarium website.

HOW TO ACCESS THE COLLECTIONS VIA THE BRIT DIGITAL HERBARIUM

1. Visit the BRIT Digital Herbarium at <http://atrium.britor> (please omit the "www" as that will take you to an incorrect address).
2. Click on "Digital Herbarium"
3. Select "Browse by Project"
4. Scroll down until you have located the project that you are looking for (in this case, either "Flora of Denton County, Texas," "Flora of Montague County, Texas," "Flora of Gillespie County, Texas", "Flora of Kendall County, Texas" or "Flora of Wise County, Texas"). Click on the number immediately to the right of the project name (this is the number of specimens within that project).
5. You will now see a table of collections within that project and can choose to do various things:
 - a. You are able to sort by the collector name, collection number, family, genus, or specific epithet, simply by clicking on the column heading.
 - b. You are able to export the entire list in a tab-delimited format, including all collections data from this window, by scrolling to the bottom and selecting "Export List". You can open your downloaded lists in Excel.
 - c. You are able to filter by various fields (e.g. family, collector, collection date) by clicking on "Show Filters", which is located above the table of collections.
6. To view an individual collection record, click on the collection number within the table of collections.
 - a. You should now see all the text from the specimen label, including any label headings. Note that you are in the "Collection Data" tab. You can also click on "View Annotation History" to see previous species identifications applied to the specimen.
 - b. Click on the "Specimens" tab, and you will see the BRIT accession number. This is the place where we can record the duplicates of a collection that exist at other herbaria.
7. Click on the "Collection Images" tab to view any associated images.
 - a. You can choose to view a mid-sized image, larger image, and a zoomable image by selecting the appropriate icon beneath any images that appear.

Meet Your Board



Photo Judi Elliott

From left (seated) Doug Chadwick, Van Elliott, Susan Pohlen, Monica Chaffin, Wanda Odum, Kay Crowe, George Kragle, Marian Kester, and Rob Roy. Not pictured Sharon Barr and Deborah Estes.

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

Monthly Chapter Meetings:

9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month.



ELM FORK CHAPTER

Texas AgriLife Extension
306 North Loop 288, Suite 222
Denton, TX 76209-4887
Phone: 940-349-2883

*Education, Conservation,
Preservation, Restoration*

We're on the web
www.efcmn.org

Meetings are held at the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office Conference Room unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to the public.

April 21st - Ron Fellows (Master Naturalist class of 2008) will be the presenter at our April general meeting on April 21, 2011. He will be taking everyone on a unique guided tour of some very special places.

May 19th - To be announced.

Board Meetings:

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m., Denton County AgriLife Extension Office. The Board last met April 14, 2011. Next meeting is May 12, 2011. Board meetings are open to members.

Members of the Board 2011

Elected:

President: George Kragle
Vice-President: Rob Roy
Secretary: Marian Kester
Treasurer: Kay Crowe
Class Representative:
Deborah Estes
Member-at-Large:
Doug Chadwick

Advisor: Janet Laminack

Appointed Committee Chairs-

2-year terms:

Communications: Monica Chaffin
Newsletter: Wanda Odum
Projects: Susan Pohlen
Publicity: Open
Training: Van Elliott
Website: Sharon Barr

Appointed Standing Committee Chairs:

Education: Cheryl Kesterson
Historian: Betty Zajac
Hospitality: Linda Cox
Resource: Jan Hodson

OUR MISSION . . .

to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community"