

## Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter



# N E W S L E T T E R

—Much Ado About Much To-do—  
Master Naturalist Busier Than Ever



### **Blackland Prairie Raptor Center provides program for “Lunch In the Park”**

Photo Jan Thompson

p. 10 for details

*Hey, can't a guy get a little  
privacy here?*

*See progress report on Lake Ray  
Roberts pond project—p. 11*



Photo-Susan Pohlen

#### **Inside this issue:**

April meeting - Trails of Denton County	P. 2
Plug In To LLELA	P. 3
Birding 101	P. 4
Announcements	P. 5
Meet the Speaker	P. 7
Keeping the Legacy Alive	P. 7
Field Notes In Focus	P. 9
Lunch in the Park	P. 10
Butterfly Gardening	P. 11
Rebirth of a Pond	P. 11
Booths Around the County	P. 13
Who We Are	P. 14

- ♦ *Trails of Denton County update*
- ♦ *Photos to amaze*
- ♦ *Speaker bio*
- ♦ *Lunch with the seniors*
- ♦ *What's in a scrapbook*
- ♦ *Caterpillars at lunch*
- ♦ *New pond emerges*
- ♦ *A trip to the woods*
- ♦ *Getting the message out*

### TRAILS OF DENTON COUNTY

*By Joanne Fellows*

At the April general meeting **Ron Fellows** gave an update on the progress of the Trails of Denton County. This Elm Fork Master Naturalist project was started in March of 2009. In its short history many milestones and technological advances have been achieved. In the beginning there were only 4 documented trails in all of Texas. Today there are numerous trails, nature centers, and city parks. The Trails of Denton County has contributed 80% of the Denton County information.

The Trails of Denton County website, <http://sites.google.com/site/trailsofdentoncounty/>, is still the focus where all information can be viewed or downloaded. Whether you are looking for a trail map, want to preview an area, or find a park, the information is there.

At the beginning of the project, information was acquired by GPS, and Google Earth files were laboriously created. The best example was the creation of files for Lake Ray Roberts. Many hours were spent collecting and converting GPS points. Matching photography and words to those points, added another layer to the information files, but required carrying a camera, note pad, GPS unit and more than one trip over the same trail. Now all you need is a smart phone and a simple app called EveryTrail Pro. Today self-guided tours are made by opening the app on our smart phone, walking along, pointing and clicking to take a photo, adding a note, and when done, uploading the file to your personal account on EveryTrail.com, <http://www.everytrail.com/>. There the information can be edited and expanded before being made public.

Having information about trails, nature centers, and city parks in many forms, allows the public to have just the right information. Teachers can use the smart phone self-guided tours to hike the trails and have information pop up at the GPS points. They can use the Trails of Denton County website and Google Earth files to preview or review the trail hiked. The main goal of the Trails of Denton County to educate in order to protect are being met.

Moving forward Ron has continued to work with developers to enhance the applications for the smart phones. He is currently working with Michelle Haggerty, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and EveryTrail.com to create the "Parks of Texas". TPWD are currently documenting the trees of Texas trail guide. Ron spoke at past two Texas Master Naturalist conventions. This has made other chapters aware of the possibilities that the Trails of Denton County an Elm Fork project provides.

EveryTrail Video demo -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2EfBEs3nps>

The Great Texas Tree Trail Guide -

<http://www.greattexasstreetrail.org/>

The **EveryTrail Pro** for the iPhone/iPad is available in the **app store**.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/everytrail-pro/id353881166?mt=8>

For Android phones - **The Android Marketplace**

<http://www.appbrain.com/app/everytrail-pro/com.globalmotion.everytrail.pro>



## THE BIG EVENT

By JUDI and VAN ELLIOTT

On March 26, 2011 UNT sponsored an outdoor adventure they called The Big Event. One segment was held at LLELA where students and volunteers spent the morning potting, planting and working on trails and blinds. The participation was great! 123 UNT students, 12 EFCMNs serving as team leaders, 6 other volunteers, 6 Argyle High School Green Team members and 3 LLELA employees for a total of 150 participants. These folks contributed a total of 471 hours!

A number of goals were reached: Richard Johnson and Owen Richards and their crew spread gravel on about 400' of trail. Take a hike and enjoy their work!

Richard Freiheit and Lisa Cole worked with their volunteers (Zach Owens, Diane Wetherbee, Dave Ford and others) to plant 909 plants: Little Blue Stem, Big Blue Stem, Camp Grass, Indian Grass, Pink Evening Primrose, Clasping Leaf Cone Flower, Sawtooth Sun Flower and Texas Blue Stem.

Meanwhile, in the nursery Bill Freiheit and Randy Kimball worked with volunteers to pot 1100 more plants! The Argyle High School Green Team worked in the nursery and drew compliments from the team leaders for their efforts.

Ken Steigman called on Doug Chadwick's artistic talents to help with weaving cattails into the duck blinds. Marilyn Turnage was hosting a hike for members of the Sierra Club and we understand they stopped and gave a hand.

Carol Fegan, Randy Kimball and the Elliotts handled the traffic and parking issues. As LLELA had several events working simultaneously, this proved a challenge at times. Happily, no cars went into the outflow!

A thank you to Lynne and Owen Richards who traveled between projects documenting the day with photography.

Obviously, The Big Event was a huge success! LLELA is most appreciative for the time and effort given. If you haven't been to LLELA lately, schedule a visit. You'll be pleased to see what our organization is helping to accomplish.

*A number of goals were reached*



*High Blind group*



*Dave Ford*

*Zach Owens and Richard Freiheit*



*Carol Fegan*



*Randy Kimball  
AHS Green Team*

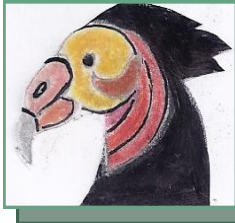


*Richard Johnson group*

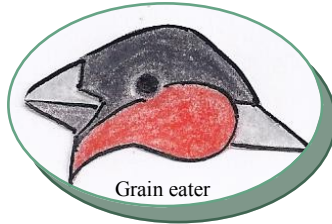
*Photos courtesy Owen Richards and the Elliotts*



## BY THEIR BEAKS YOU WILL KNOW THEM – or will you?



Scavenger



Grain eater



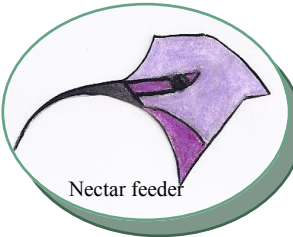
Scything



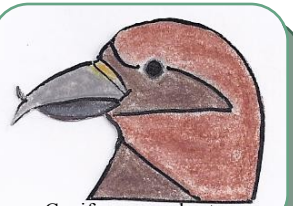
Filter feeder



Prober



Nectar feeder



Coniferous-seed eater



Fruit eater



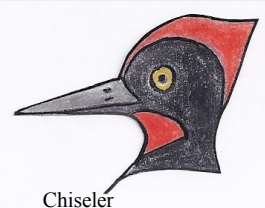
Insect catcher



Dip netter



Pursuit fisher



Chiseler



Surface skimmer



Aerial fisher



Generalist



Raptor

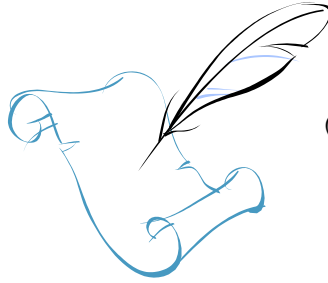
**B**eaks evolve over a bird's lifetime in order to adapt to environmental changes such as food sources and availability. Feeding techniques may vary even among a given specie; thus, accounting for the numerous beak shapes. There are many types of feeders – generalists, skimmers, insect eaters, grain eaters, probers, and others. Some have become so specialized, for example, that the beak develops and adapts to one particular kind of seed.

**W**hile beaks are distinctive primarily for feeding purposes; color, size, and shape all play a part in attracting mates, regulating body temperature, indicating a healthy immune system, and nest building. It is not unusual to see differences among the same specie or changes in shape and size seasonally according to the bird's needs.

**C**ertainly learning to identify birds from observing the beak is a helpful base from which to start, but just be aware that is not the whole story.

Source: Friederici, Peter (2011) Peaking order, *Audubon Jan-Feb.* pp 60-64. Drawings by w. odum from the same article.

Please send to the newsletter articles and photos of your work-in-progress or completed projects. No project is too small and everyone should be aware of what's being done by Master Naturalist in the community.



COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS  
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

## Reminders

- ♦ See Donna Wolfe for chapter business cards and membership directory disc.
- ♦ 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** and **Clear Creek Heritage Center** projects are still lacking project managers.
- ♦ Publicity chair position remains vacant and needs everyone’s serious consideration.
- ♦ **Betty Zajac**, chapter historian, is continually in need of your project photos with information tags. (see article on p. 7)



## Announcements and Opportunities

**NOTICE:** There was a “scanning” error in the April newsletter for the BRIT Digital Herbarium website. The correct address is <http://atrium.brit.org/>. Judi and Van Elliott report this site is “awesome for the plant lovers.”

Also, access the link through the BRIT website <http://www.brit.org/>

**Lisa Cole**, LLELA Education Coordinator, is offering another great workshop which provides an opportunity to obtain advanced training hours [3.5]. It is a Log House Training Workshop for future trail guides and will be held on Wednesday May 25, 2011 from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. And the price doesn't get any better because it is No Charge.

If you would like to attend please email or call Lisa at 972-219-3930 or [lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu) to let her know you are coming.



Photo from Lisa Cole

**Bird and Nature Walk** every second Saturday of the month at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens.  
903-670-2266; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc.com](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc.com)

• • • • •

**Guided Bird Walk** every second Saturday of most months (May 14 and June 11) at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area. 972-219-3930; [www.ias.unt.edu/llela](http://www.ias.unt.edu/llela)

Project WILD Workshops:

June 18, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Project WILD

June 25, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Project WILD Aquatic

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

201 E. Jones St., Lewisville, TX

To register or for more information, contact Lisa Cole at 972-219-3930 or [lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu)  
Space is limited to the first 30 registrants. Cost: \$10 per day.

Take note!

**Deborah Estes**, class of 2010 and currently the Class Representative on the Board, is assuming the responsibility for the Master Naturalist exhibits displayed at the **Lewisville Library** and **Lake Ray Roberts Interpretative Center**. Please support her in every way possible as this is part of the continuing effort to keep the Denton county community aware of Elm Fork Chapter and the work being done to improve and preserve the area. Thank you, Deborah.

**LEARN ABOUT COOL SEASON NATIVE GRASSES**

Space is limited!

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011

Activity/Event: Cool Season Grass class with John Snowden

Location: Bluestem Nursery and Fort Worth Nature Center

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (6 hours of AT)

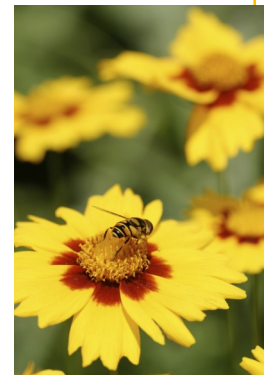
Coordinator: Jan Hodson 940-637-2702, [janhodson@ntin.net](mailto:janhodson@ntin.net)

Class fee: \$5.00 (pay to Jan Hodson)

FWNC Fee: \$5.00 for Adults, \$3.00 over 65 (pay at gate)

To learn about the bumblebees of Texas (with accompanying Facebook page) go to: <http://texasbumblebees.com/>

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## MEET THE SPEAKER

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### **SHELBY KILPATRICK** will present a program on BEES at the EFCTMN Meeting on May 19, 2011

Bees, bees, bees! Come to our May chapter meeting to learn some of the basics of beekeeping. Our speaker, Shelby Kilpatrick will be sharing some general knowledge about honey bees, why beekeeping is important, how to start keeping bees, and some of the different products that can be used from the beehive.

Shelby Kilpatrick is the daughter of Scott and (our own) Susan Kilpatrick. She is a high school junior and is homeschooled along with her two younger sisters. She began beekeeping in 2007 when she received a Youth Beekeeping Scholarship from the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. Since then, beekeeping has become a family project. In addition to beekeeping, Shelby is an active Denton County 4-H member participating in many project areas including entomology, wildlife habitat evaluation, horticulture, citizenship, leadership and community service. At home she enjoys reading, cooking, beekeeping, working on 4-H projects and spending time with her family.

*Submitted by Rob Roy*

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## KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE

*By Betty Zajac*

**E**very member who joins a Club/Organization becomes part of its legacy whether they are an officer or a member at large. Master Naturalists have a wonderful legacy that we are leaving in Denton County.

In 2010 we had 15,772 volunteer service hours in 28 on-going projects but we don't have a lasting record of all the hard work that we have put into these projects.



Our Master Naturalist history has been kept in a Scrapbook since 2004. Mary Barnes was our historian from 2004-2007. I have been the historian/scrapbooker since 2008. In order to record our legacy I need your help. In the 2010 scrapbook only 4 projects out of 28 submitted photos and information. I believe that the work we do as Master Naturalists is important and I believe you do too or you would not be volunteering your valuable time to this chapter.

So please help keep a historical record of all your work by submitting your photos and project information in one of 3 ways: prints, putting your photos on a disk, or sending them to me via email to [eaz805@aol.com](mailto:eaz805@aol.com).

All of the Chapter scrapbooks will be available at our May meeting. Please take a look and see who we are and what we do. The scrapbooks are kept in the Master Naturalist Resource Room and are available to all members.

Finally, I would like to send a big Thank You to those members who have given me photographs these past years.



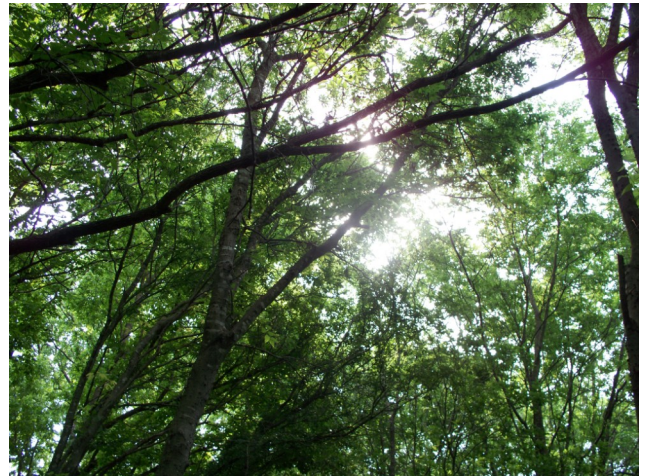
## TALKING TO THE TREES!

Photos w. Odum

Recently, a group of some 20 persons gathered at Clear Creek Heritage Center for a tree identification walk with John Cooper – former county extension agent, founder of Elm Fork Chapter, mentor to many. It was a warm, humid day among the towering green canopies, but no one seemed to mind. As the group alternately loped and dawdled along the trail, there were facts in abundance interspersed with anecdotes and drool humor; including a spelling lesson for non-native Texans – namely – “acorn” spelled Texas style becomes “acern”.

Cheryl Kesterson, who organized the walk, had this comment: “He’s a wonderful book of knowledge where the natural world is concerned and we’re privileged that he is willing to help us out.”

It was an ideal morning for a walk in the woods accompanied by twittering birds and whispering *Texas aspens* often referred to as *cottonwood trees*.



*Sun peeks through on the Cottonwood Trail, Clear Creek Heritage Center*



*Creek-side*



*Getting ready*



*John Cooper*



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*“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”*



**“Close Encounters”**  
**Dave Ford** captured this spectacular image of fungus on a tree.

**“Here’s Looking at You”**  
**Jan Thompson** focused on this beauty—Screech Owl.

*A periodic feature showcasing member photographers. No people pictures here, please!*

*— just flora and fauna as you see them —*

*Submit to [wodum10043@aol.com](mailto:wodum10043@aol.com)*



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## CLEAR CREEK HERITAGE CENTER HOSTS AREA SENIORS

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—ever vigilant—



*Photo-Owen Richards*

The ANNUAL “LUNCH IN THE PARK” hosted by Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter, and sponsored by city of Denton was held on April 7, 2011, at Clear Creek Heritage Center.

Seniors were treated to a picnic lunch and a program presented by Blackland Prairie Raptor Center.

*Photo-Jan Thompson*



Fun food, good entertainment, and relaxed conversation was the order of the day.



*Photo-Owen Richards*

Judy Guthrie, Sherrill Campbell, and Cheryl Kesterson, from Elm Fork Chapter, were among those who helped ensure a successful event.



quietly gentle

*Photo-Owen Richards*

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

*Sherry Anderson*



### Butterfly Gardening

By Joanne Fellows

With spring's arrival, I have had several requests to help with information about butterfly gardens, or how to attract those beautiful insects to your back yard. Food is the answer. Plant a patch of zinnias and watch the butterflies collect on their colorful blooms.

Why zinnias? Zinnias are in the aster family, which means they are not just one flower but a composite of many small blooms. Lots of nectar and a big landing pad to hang onto are irresistible to butterflies. Plant them in mass and the butterfly does not have to expend energy flying from flower to flower. They will thank you by returning and staying longer.

Not a zinnia lover or want to do a bigger project? The best resource I know is the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) website, <http://www.nababutterfly.com/>. It has information on the basics of butterfly gardening, regional butterfly gardening guides, and even a certification program for your new garden.

**Invite a caterpillar to lunch!**



*Battus philenor; Pipevine Swallowtail on Aristolochia tomentosa, Woolly pipevine*

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## PROGRESS REPORT—LAKE RAY ROBERTS POND PROJECT

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By Susan Pohlen

### Rebirth of a Pond

**S**ometimes hard work and good intentions are just not enough. Such was the case with a small pond, stream, and waterfall at the Isle Du Bois Branch of Ray Roberts Lake State Park. So in an effort to revitalize what surely was a dream and labor of love, Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalist offered to work with the TPWD staff at Ray Roberts to rebuild the pond.

Several of our members met with park personnel in the fall and talked about some options for an improved, natural looking pond that would support local wildlife, provide an educational tool, and also please park visitors.

George Kragle drafted a design and submitted it along with an estimate to park superintendent Chris True so that he could seek state approval.

Approval came this spring, and the fun began! EF-CMN members George Kragle, David Rowley, and Susan Pohlen worked alongside park rangers Patrick Schutz and Zach Elledge to clear out the old pond and build the new. For the next four weeks we worked 2-7 hours a day, 3-5 times a week. These photos don't really do the project justice, but they give you an idea of how the project progressed over





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that four week period. We still need to work on the aquatic plants. Initially we'll use the plants from the old pond, dividing and repotting them. Eventually we would like to add new plants as well.

We were blessed with nearly perfect weather, cool mornings and warm afternoons. We moved a lot of rocks and dirt, sometimes the same rocks and dirt several times as the design continued to change. In the end we were all pleased with the looks of the new pond, and we hope you will find the time to check it out this year.



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## GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT—Booths Around the County

### Frisco Lake

**Van Elliott** received a call inviting LLELA to participate at the Frisco Lakes volunteer opportunity program on March 31. The event was a first of its kind event designed to introduce the residents to volunteer opportunities in the area. He saw this as an opportunity for a combined EFCMN / LLELA booth. Lisa Cole agreed and Van and Judi Elliott made arrangements to tend the booth, one of 24. The representation was: fire and police departments, libraries, schools and

health organizations. It proved to be a good opportunity to talk about EFCMN and LLELA as most of the residents (retirees) were from other cities, other states, and didn't know about LLELA or Texas Master Naturalists. During the evening 103 people stopped by the table to get information, ask questions and take brochures.

*From Judi and Van Elliott*

*Judi greeting a Frisco Lake resident and talking about EFCMN & LLELA*



*Van and Judi after the booth is set and ready for the Frisco Lakes residents*



*Photos from Judi and Van Elliott*

The report on the booth for the REDBUD FESTIVAL at the Denton Civic Center on April 9 was that there were hundreds of festival-goers, and it was a golden opportunity to interact with the community! A big “thank you” to those who staffed the booth and welcomed the visitors who stopped by for information on EFCTMN. Kay Crowe took on the responsibility of coordinating the booth at this event—which was no small feat.

**Some people want it to happen; some wish it would happen; others make it happen.**

*Michael Jordan*

# TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

## ELM FORK CHAPTER

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

*Education, Conservation,  
Preservation*

**We're on the web**  
**[www.efcmn.org](http://www.efcmn.org)**

## Monthly Chapter Meetings:

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



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

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**May 19<sup>th</sup>—Shelby Kilpatrick** will be speaking on bees.

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**June 16<sup>th</sup> —** To be announced.

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## 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 May 12, 2011. Next meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Board  
meetings are open to members.

## Members of the Board 2011

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### 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 man-  
agement of natural resources and  
natural areas within our commu-  
nity"*