

# NEWSLETTER

Texas Master Naturalist

Elm Fork Chapter

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Texas AgriLife Extension Service

On his way to Roundup, no doubt!

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### Special points of interest:

- \* Fall Roundup
- \* Love is in the air
- \* Photo spotlight
- \* Who was that thief?



“Froggie (urr, toad) went a courtin’ and he did ride, uh, huh . . . .”



**EASY RIDER**  
photo — Jan Thompson



Put on your dancing shoes, or better yet, your field boots, and plan to meet and greet the guests at the EFCMN August meeting.



**Fall Membership Roundup—August 18, 2011**  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Program

Welcome — *George Kragle, President*  
"What is a Master Naturalist" — *Joanne Fellows*  
"Why I became a Master Naturalist" — *Dorothy Thetford and Fritz Poppe*  
Training Committee Chairman/Curriculum — *Van Elliott*  
Mentor Coordinator — *Ruth Ann Morrison*  
Question and Answer Time — *George Kragle*

### Schedule of Events

10:00—10:30	Sign in, coffee, socialize and view displays
10:30—11:30	Presentations followed by Questions and Answers
Following Q & A	Lunch served
12:00—1:00	Continue viewing displays and socializing

Class registration continues through August 19, 2011

Location: Texas AgriLife Extension  
306 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76201

All program information furnished courtesy of  
2011 Training Committee and Roundup Planners

## Get Acquainted With the Genuine Elm Fork Chapter Pros Who Headline the Program for Roundup Day

### Presentation Topic: “What is a Master Naturalist”



**J**oanne Fellows has a Bachelors of Fine Arts from University of Irvine, CA. Major: Fine Arts, Minor: Art History.

She spent several years showing her art work, and drawings, in several west coast galleries, including the Museum of Modern Art in Los Angeles.

She worked as an illustrator and web designer.

She spent 3 years drawing that 'top secret' stuff for President Ronald Reagan.

She completed the **Denton County Master Gardener** program in 2004 and obtained specialist training in Propagation and Entomology.

She completed the **Elm Fork Master Naturalist** program in 2008.

### Presentation Topic: “Why I became a Master Naturalist”



**Dorothy Thetford**, a certified **Texas Master Naturalist** since 2001, was the first member of the Elm Fork Chapter to earn 3,000 volunteer hours. Many of those hours were accumulated through her association with city of Denton and Denton ISD. If Dorothy cannot be found orchestrating her MN City Nature Hikes Committee for Denton's Parks & Recreation Program, she might be guiding DISD elementary students across the Clear Creek Park prairie to inspect wildflowers. However, her summer activities include training and encouraging DISD elementary teachers to engage students in outdoor environmental studies through two Science With Attitude (SWAt) Teacher-Training Workshops.

In addition to her Master Naturalist activities, Dorothy is a long term member of **Trinity Forks Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)** where she has served in every leadership capacity; and we must not omit the fact that she received the NPSOT Benny J. Simpson Fellow of the Society statewide award in 2003. She currently provides native plant advice for four DISD Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) school gardens, and other local programs promoting use of native plants in personal and public landscaping designs. In her spare time Dorothy enjoys photographing, growing and experimenting with native plants in her personal garden. Also, to coincide with her Master Naturalist interests, Dorothy served as president of the Upper Clear Creek Wildlife Management Club in Montague County.

As if all of this were not enough to keep her busy, she provides periodic wildflower profile articles for Master Naturalist, Trinity Forks Chapter and NPSOT (state) newsletters. Dorothy may also be remembered for the wildflower column she provided Denton Record Chronicle for 12 years.

## Presentation Topic: "Why I became a Master Naturalist"



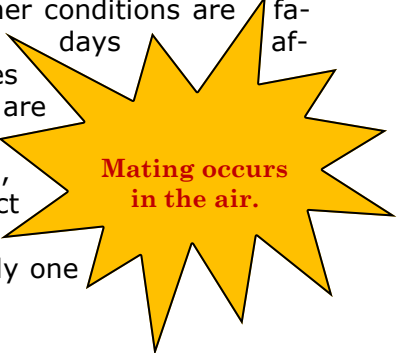
**Fritz Poppe** and his wife, Yvonne, have made Denton their home since moving here from Owatonna, Minnesota, in July, 1972. Fritz holds a BSB from the University of Minnesota. He spent over thirty years as a quality professional with General Motors Parts Division, Flint, Michigan, Josten's class rings in Owatonna and Denton and then Victor Equipment Company welding apparatus here in Denton as analyst, engineer, auditor or manager.

Fritz is an active **Texas Master Naturalist** (Class of 2001) and treasurer of the **Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)**. He enjoys collecting cars and woodworking (in former years). Fritz and Yvonne are very active in the Denton community as well as being members of the North Texas Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club and the Early Auto Club of Denton. They enjoy their family of five children (one of whom, a daughter, is deceased) and six grandchildren, and friends. They are, also, adventuresome travelers, most recently to Alaska and British Columbia, Canada.

### RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS (RIFA)

Healthy nests produce two or more nuptial flights a year.

“ . . . Reproductive swarms of virgin queens and males occur during the spring or summer but can occur at any time of year when the temperature is above 72°F. Healthy nests often produce two or more nuptial flights a year. It is typical for many RIFA colonies to participate in simultaneous nuptial flights when local weather conditions are favorable. Flights most often occur during the midmorning, one or two days after a rainfall. Most nests produce both male and female reproductives (swarmers). But the swarmers from a single flight from a single nest are predominantly one sex. Males emerge first and are already airborne when the females take flight. Mating occurs in the air. After mating, the males die. The newly mated queens shed their wings and construct a brood cell (incipient nest) 25 millimeters to 50 millimeters below the soil surface. Often multiple queens will share a cell, but often only one survives to establish a colony.”



—excerpt from article by *Dini Miller, Associate Professor and Specialist, Entomology, Virginia Tech; and Hamilton Allen, Graduate Student, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech*, <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/444/444-284/444-284.html>—**Reprint permission not required.**

*Fire ant workers transporting brood (eggs, larvae, pupae) to a new mound.*

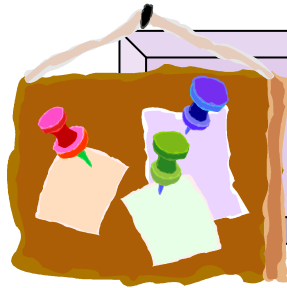


***“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”***



**Texas thistle  
with visitor—  
from Owen  
Richards**

*A periodic feature showcasing member photographers. No people pictures here, please! — just flora and fauna as you see them —*



## REMINDERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Need Some Service Hours?

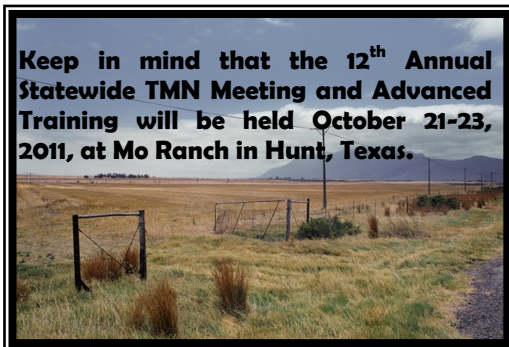
I need a few more people to work a chapter promotion table with me at Cabela's in Fort Worth.

Saturday, August 20th. I have 2 shift's 9 am-noon & noon to 3 pm.

Please email me if you can help out:  
[JanHodson@ntin.net](mailto:JanHodson@ntin.net)



[sharonbarr@charter.net](mailto:sharonbarr@charter.net)  
for website information



Keep in mind that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide TMN Meeting and Advanced Training will be held October 21-23, 2011, at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas.



newsletter material to:  
[wodum10043@aol.com](mailto:wodum10043@aol.com)

Yes, it's hot out there, but when you venture out, don't forget to send your photos — with labels — to Betty Zajac, for the Chapter scrapbook!

### Contact Information Changes

If you have any changes in your contact information (name, address, telephone number or numbers, and/or email address) you want the chapter and members to know about please send the changes to **Monica Chaffin** at [chaffincasa@gmail.com](mailto:chaffincasa@gmail.com); **Donna Wolfe** at [donna.wolfe@dentoncounty.com](mailto:donna.wolfe@dentoncounty.com); and **Rob Roy** at [robt\\_t\\_roy@msn.com](mailto:robt_t_roy@msn.com).

### Sign Up!

For an advanced training class:  
**Benthic Explorations**

Learn how to use the resource equipment to teach children (adults can have fun too) about aquatic ecosystems, water quality, and the food chain.

Crosstimbers Park by the pond

7112 Montecito Dr., Denton

Wednesday, Oct 19, 9 to noon

Email Jan Hodson to sign up: [janhodson@ntin.net](mailto:janhodson@ntin.net)

## New Lie Detector Traps Thief

THE Ann Arbor police department caught an early-morning front porch cream thief red-handed but was unable to prove his guilt to the judge until they used their new type lie detector.

For three days there had been a mysterious pilfering of cream from homes in the residential area of the city. Taxpayers demanded the culprit be caught. Two patrolmen were assigned to the case, and they performed their work nobly. The thief was caught. He was a black and indignant pet crow.

Handcuffed and covered by the policemen's six-shooters, the crow was marched back to the station house, where he was given the third degree. The crow refused to talk, so it was decided to take the case to the Humane Society. Suddenly, however, the officers hit upon the idea of the lie detector. They admitted it wasn't much of a lie detector; only a bottle of milk with three inches of cream.



THE CULPRIT CROW CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Uncle Sam's "G-Men" have learned that all gangster have their one weakness that will betray them. In this case it was a quart of milk.

The bottle of milk, with the cap intact, was placed in a room with the crow. Leaving the door slightly ajar, the officers began their vigil. Convincing himself that he was alone, the crow hopped up to the milk bottle and with one deft thrust pierced the cap and began to drain off the cream. The squawking he set up when the policemen marched in on him brought no sympathy from the judge, who gave him to the Humane Society for safekeeping.

## Texas Master Naturalist

**ELM FORK CHAPTER**  
Texas AgriLife Extension  
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Denton, TX 76201  
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Phone: 940-349-2883

*Education, Conservation, Preservation, Restoration*

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



### 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”*



## Members of the Board

PRESIDENT—George Kragle  
VICE-PRESIDENT —Rob Roy  
SECRETARY—Marian Kester  
TREASURER—Kay Crowe  
CLASS REPRESENTATIVE—Deborah Estes  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE—Doug Chadwick

BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS:  
Communications—Monica Chafin  
Projects—Susan Pohlen  
Publicity—**OPEN**  
Training—Van Elliott

ADVISOR—Janet Laminack

## Monthly Chapter Meetings

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

Chapter meetings are open to the public.

**Next meeting: August 18, 2011—Fall Membership Roundup**

**Program provided by Elm Fork Chapter members.**



## 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 August 11, 2011. Next meeting is September 8, 2011.

Board meetings are open to members.