



From Susan Pohlen

Roundup/open house

One of our favorite times of the year is here! Project Managers, it's time to strut your stuff. For the rest of us it's a chance to share favorite memories and stories.

Friendly reminder:

The refreshments will be basically finger food such as **fresh fruit and veggies, cheese and crackers, hors d'oeuvres, mini quiches**, etc. Lighter food is much more appropriate for late morning/early afternoon on a hot summer day. Perhaps most importantly, however, is that a lighter fare should make it easier for all of us to eat and then spend time with our guests viewing chapter displays and sharing wonderful project experiences.

Looking forward to some fun at our 2013 Roundup/open house!



KROGER-83958 is the number you need to have your grocery shopping dollars help **Elm Fork Chapter**! Don't forget to enroll again this year. Jeri Marold



New directory coming soon so don't forget!

Send contact information changes to: **1) Monica Chaffin chaffincasa@gmail.com; 2) Susan Pohlen pohlensusan@gmail.com; 3) Rob Roy robt_t_roy@msn.com; and 4) Donna Wolfe donna.wolfe@dentoncounty.com**





Photos courtesy Margaret Lange

A wild ride through Bittern Marsh

From Margaret Lange

Becky Rogers and I have been checking bluebird houses at LLELA on our kayaks on the Bittern Marsh. Every trip has been an adventure, to say the least. But this last trip was a great surprise. The lily pads were in full bloom and to our surprise had taken over most of the pond not only floating in the water but growing over our heads! At first, I have to admit, it was quite intimidating and scary since we had already seen five snakes in the water. With the pads growing over us, unable to see anything for what seemed like hours, we pushed our paddles through the pads on the water; but once we reached the clearing and had no encounters of our slimy friends, we enjoyed the beautiful scents and 1000 or more of flowers among us.



Becky among the lily pads



One of thousands!



Margaret checking bluebird house on Bittern Marsh

Montage of awesome!

Marilyn Blanton



Sunset at Thetford Farmette



Dorothy Thetford

D. Thetford



Moonflower



Marilyn Blanton

Mushrooms from LLELA



Owen Richards

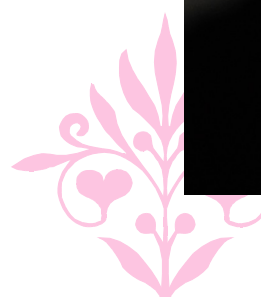




Photo courtesy Larry
Brennan—information
courtesy Van Elliott

Let's visit LLELA again as good news of good deeds continues to emerge!



In the large hat is **Ken Steigman**, LLELA director, talking to **Vin Merrill** in the yellow shirt with **Hilton Dickerson** behind Vin. **Lisa Cole**, education coordinator At LLELA is walking behind them.

We are very lucky to have **Ken Steigman** and the LLELA staff who make it very easy for Master Naturalists to come and participate in wonderful nature projects.

Hilton Dickerson is all over the place. He works at LLELA, LISDOLA, Bob Jones Nature Center and any place where a Master Naturalist is needed. Hilton is a great behind the scenes person and again our chapter was lucky to get him.

Vin Merrill works at LLELA and is helping us on the training committee this year. Another good catch for our group.



Larry Brennan has become the essence of Master Naturalist work. At LLELA on July25, there was a news piece on channel 5 about UNT student, Jessica Beckham, who is doing research on bees. There was Larry in the background with his camera.



Photo courtesy
Richard Freiheit

Pocket Prairie Garden at LLELA



Class of 2012 created a **'pocket prairie project'** as their class project. They found a space at LLELA and cultivated Texas native wildflowers. The beautiful sign was created by **Larry Brennan**.

From Judi Elliott

The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new
landscapes but in having new eyes.

Marcel Proust

Snow Geese; *Chen caerulescens*

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snow_Goose/id

Size & Shape

A medium-sized goose with a hefty bill and long, thick neck. Juveniles are slightly smaller than adults in the fall, and this can be noticeable in flocks during fall and early winter.

Color Pattern

The Snow Goose is a white-bodied goose with black wingtips that are barely visible on the ground but noticeable in flight. The pink bill has a dark line along it, often called a "grinning patch" or "black lips." You may also see dark morph Snow Geese, or "Blue Geese," with a white face, dark brown body, and white under the tail.

Behavior

Snow Geese don't like to travel without the company of another couple dozen geese and can form flocks of several hundred thousand. Family groups forage together on wintering grounds, digging up roots and tubers from muddy fields and marshes. In flight, they are steady on the wing with even wingbeats.

Habitat

Snow Geese adapted quickly to use agricultural fields, which is one reason their populations are doing so well. During winter and migration, look for them in plowed cornfields or wetlands. Also check lakes, ponds, and marshes where they roost and bathe along shorelines and in open water. Snow Geese breed on Arctic tundra.

Going the distance . . .



On wing



Migration

All populations of Snow Geese migrate, making long flights broken up by long stopovers in staging areas. They fly quickly and at high altitudes in narrow flight lanes, heading more or less due south from the breeding grounds to a wintering site at roughly the same longitude. Some Snow Geese that winter in western North America breed in Siberia, and some that winter along the Atlantic coast breed in Greenland. In wintering and migrating flocks that are feeding, lookouts keep an eye out for eagles and other predators. Upon sighting a threat they call out to the rest of the flock, which may take flight.



On foot

At roll call



This concludes our series on geese. A very special “thank you” to **Joanne Fellows** for the beautiful photos and articles.

“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”



*Mother dove during her “confinement” and in the
nursery — from the gallery of Alex Lieban*

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*Education, Conservation,
Preservation, Restoration*

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www.txmn.org/elmfork

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*Red dragonfly—
another pose—from
Judy Guthrie*

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 15, 2013—Open House and Membership Roundup

Meeting September 19, 2013—Ryan Blankenship, Assoc. Wildlife Biologist with Kimley-Horn and Associates in Dallas on threats to Herpetofauna in N. Texas and conservation of herp species

Location: Joseph A. Carroll Bldg., 401 W. Hickory Street, Denton, TX 76201-9026

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met August 8, 2013. Next meeting September 12, 2013.

Board meetings are open to members.

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”