

From W. Odum, editor of Master Naturalist News

Photos courtesy Tracy Durmick

Denton Senior Center Appreciation Dinner

Dorothy Thetford, one of our own special Master Naturalist, along with two Master Gardeners, was recently honored with an appreciation dinner at the Senior Center. For several months these ladies have been working with Tracy Durmick, Recreational Specialist at Denton Senior Center (formerly with the Denton's Denia Park), and have contributed untold hours in organizing, consultation, educating, and, of course, digging in the dirt like the good "Masters" they are!

When Dorothy was invited to a meeting at Denton Senior Center to discuss leading nature hikes for the Center members at Clear Creek, little did she know that the Center Manager, Jeff Gilbert, would lure her into a non-related project. His vision was to install a vegetable garden within the Senior Center's newly designed, fenced-in garden and to grow fresh vegetables to serve to its members each morning as a snack tray to replace the sugar-laden cookie, donut and cake outlay. He did not know until that meeting that Dorothy was entering her third year of vegetable gardening at the Denton Bible Church's Shiloh Field community garden. Jeff lured Dorothy, and she fell hook, line and sinker for the healthy-food idea and accepted the challenge of instigating a vegetable garden.



Dorothy in the garden

Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist and Center members met on April 1 to discuss the project. Dorothy and Chris Stogsdill, former Master Naturalist, laid out the vegetable plant plan, purchased plants on April 2, and the first work day was scheduled for April 10. Weekly and/or bi-weekly work days were scheduled throughout the late spring and early summer. Vegetables were harvested and served just as Jeff had wished. During the first week of September, most of the spring plants were discarded and new plants were installed for the fall garden.

None of the three knew that they would be honored at the annual Denton Senior Center Appreciation Dinner in late September. What was anticipated to be a reception, in reality, was a very lovely seated dinner of more than 150 people and a staged program to recognize the Center's many volunteers from the past year. Dorothy, Judy and Mary did not know that they would be awarded with beautiful Walther-glas crystal bowls. They were in total shock to be given even more recognition when Jeff and Tracy announced that Denton's Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Department would receive the Denton Community Award on behalf of their volunteer services.



Dorothy with Senior Center Manager Jeff Gilbert

Master Gardeners, Mary Morrow and Judy Riley, were invited to orchestrate new flower beds to provide ongoing beauty in the garden while Dorothy was invited to orchestrate the new vegetable garden.



Dorothy with Master Gardeners, Judy Riley, left, and Mary Morrow

The brass plate, mounted on a beautiful wood display plaque, will hang in the Denton Senior Center as a constant reminder of this contribution to the community. The melding of Master Naturalist and Master Gardener in this project is an excellent example of inter-organization cooperation and show of ambassadorship for Master Naturalist and Master Gardener.

And so, the thought-to-be reception turned into a Cinderella story for 1.5 hours...by candlelight!

Article by: Van Elliott

Trophy Club Nature Trails Interpretative Walk

On Friday September 27, new member Kathy Trotter, hosted an Interpretive Nature Walk at the Trophy Club Park at the very southern end of Denton county. This is the newest project for our chapter and it is really a nice place to spend quality time.

Participants were: Marilyn Turnage; Jan LaPine, Martha Peet, Veronica Ruangskul, Bob Ross, Debbie Van Ness, Susan Myers, Kathy Trotter [Hostess], Hilton Dickerson, Jan Deatherage, Susan Burke, Kim Orlandella, Van Elliott and Jacob Lohse.

We started around 9 am with 13 people arriving for the walk. Kathy met us at the gate with a "come enjoy what I do smile" and let's learn about TCNT. Trophy club was approved as an official project at last month's Board meeting and Kathy was quick to put a trip together to show us the facility. Kathy really did some strong recruiting for the 2013 class and got three members from TCNT to join the class. Veronica Ruangskul and Kim Orlandella work with Kathy on a regular basis contributing a lot of work to the project. Jacob Lohse is the park recreational superintendant who works closely with these volunteers.

Jacob, Kim and Veronica were also good ambassadors for the project and were there to help Kathy with questions about the facility. Tom Mills, who is another volunteer at the park every day, was there to assist and serve as our trail sweep. Tom did everything from group photography to parking control and making sure no hikers were left behind.

It was a fine day for a walk. The finale was ending up at Kathy's house where she treated all of us to chopped BBQ beef sandwiches, salad, home cooked beans and delicious chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies for lunch. WOW that will be a hard act for the rest of us to follow!

Thank you to Kathy, Tom, Veronica, Kim and Jacob for the wonderful comradery and hospitality. We are looking forward to more fun experiences and great adventures at Trophy Club Nature Trails and Park.



Front row left to right: Marilyn Turnage, Jan LaPine, Martha Peet, Veronica Ruangskul

Middle row left to Right: Bob Ross, Debbie Van Ness, Susan Myers, Kathy Trotter

Back row left to right: Hilton Dickerson, Jan Deathrage, Van Elliott, Susan Burke, Jacob Lohse, Kim Orlandella

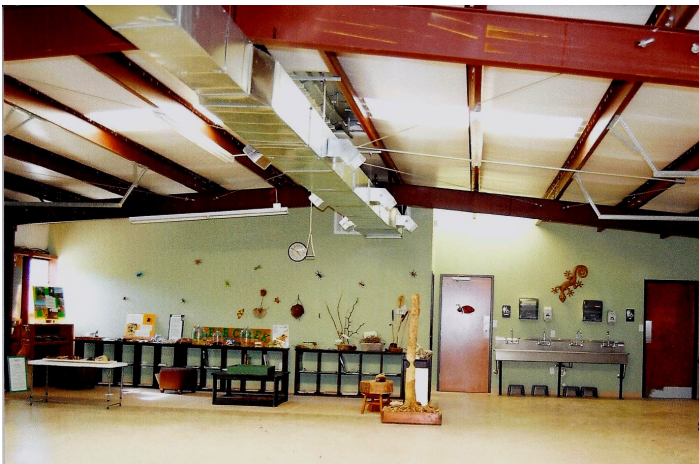
Photo Courtesy: Tom Mills on Van's camera

Photos—Jan Thompson

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center

—Naturalist News editor—

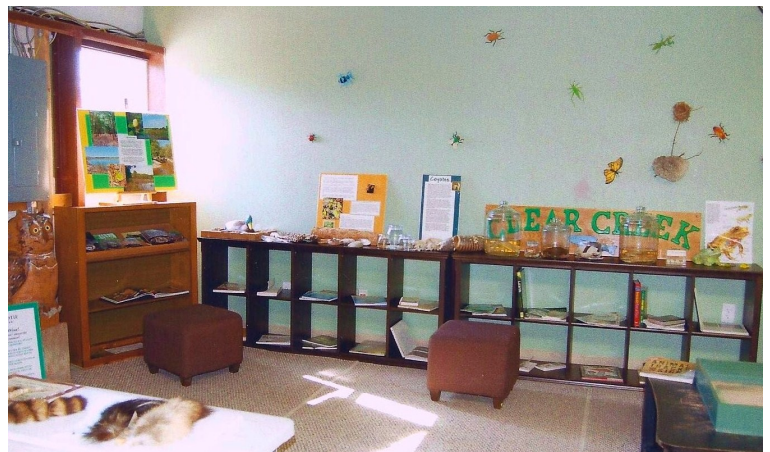
Please visit www.ClearCreekDenton.com to participate in the survey on community awareness and potential expanded usage for CCNHC. Input from the community is valuable in determining how Clear Creek will be developed. The community is very fortunate to have this beautiful natural area in its own backyard to use for education, exploration, hiking, and overall appreciation of nature in its natural state. Below are some of the ways in which it is currently being utilized.



Learning area



Into the woods



People in the community are devising unique ways to make use of this beautiful area. For example: a wedding invitation was recently issued for a couple — in a chapel? Well, no, at the **Wetlands**, no less! It was scheduled early in hopes that fishing would be good afterwards. Needless to say, the attire was not satin and lace. Can't get more diverse than that.

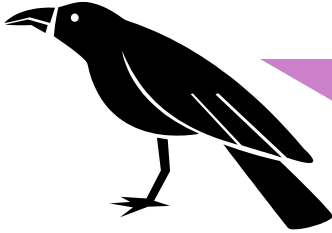
“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”



From the gallery of Marilyn Blanton

*Featuring Master Naturalist photographers—
flora and fauna as you see them*

— LAST WORD —

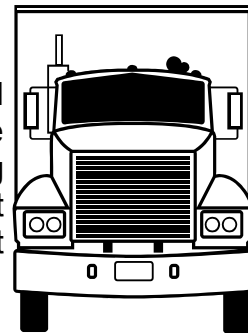


Researchers for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu. A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts.

However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.

MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills.

The Ornithological Behaviorist very quickly concluded the cause: when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger. They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "TRUCK".



This enlightening bit of
knowledge comes di-
rectly to you from
Alex Lieban

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*Education, Conservation,
Preservation, Restoration*

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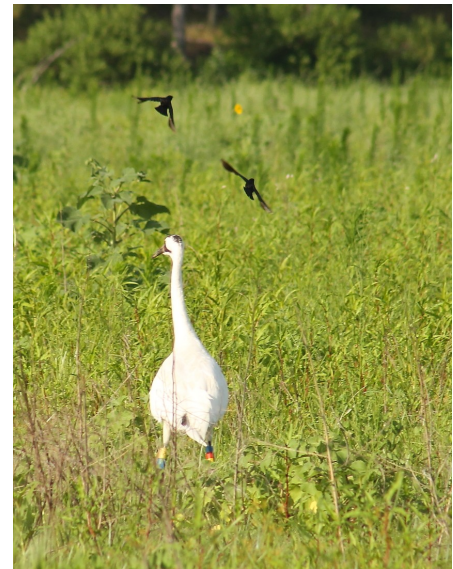
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Crane & friends at Lewisville
Lake—photo courtesy Larry
Brennan

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 October 17, 2013—Randy Johnson, milkweed & their importance in the ecosystem

Meeting November 21, 2013—Walt & Isabel Davis: Exploring the Edges of Texas

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 October 10, 2013. Next meeting November 14, 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”