

# NATURALIST NEWS



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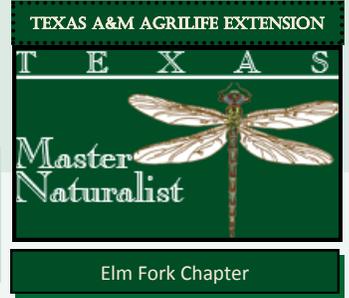
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# NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2013  
VOLUME 14, ISSUE 9

*Our vision. . .in our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future.*



## A Trip through the Southwest — from Peg La Point



**Tom and Peg La Point** just recently returned from guiding a two-week field trip through the American Southwest for 18 UNT students. The class studied water issues in the west, visiting many rivers and reservoirs and interviewing

local water managers. Peg bagged a few photos along the way. The Texas Horned Lizard was in Palo Duro Canyon. The Spiny lizards were photographed at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River in Colorado and at Lake Powell, Arizona.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Roundup photos
- ◆ New to the family—coopers hawk
- ◆ Ryan Blankenship to present next program
- ◆ Nominating committee
- ◆ Hike with scouts
- ◆ What's it to a Bluebird?

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Susan's spin</i>	3
<i>Photos from Round Up</i>	4
<i>September meeting</i>	7
<i>Announcements</i>	8
<i>City hike committee</i>	11
<i>Bee alert!</i>	12
<i>Moonflower</i>	13
<i>Backyard visitor</i>	14
<i>Native plants of Texas for Bluebirds</i>	15
<i>Migrating humming-birds</i>	17
<i>Class of 2013</i>	18
<i>Field notes in focus</i>	19
<i>Who we are</i>	20



Photo—Owen Richards



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hat a wonderful Roundup/Open House meeting in August! We must surely have broken a record with 36 visitors, many of whom completed applications and are in our newest training class. Welcome to our newest trainees!

I

want to say thank you to all that worked hard to prepare for the meeting – Jan Deatherage for the widespread publicity, project managers for bringing in beautiful displays and visiting with our guests, the hospitality committee for ensuring plenty of food and beverages, the team that helped set up the room (thanks for getting the tables Donna), Betty Mullenweg and Jeri Marold for greeting our guests and making sure everyone signed in and got a name badge, and Owen Richards for taking photos. Thank you also to the training committee, mentor committee and the Elliotts for providing a special meeting program and for keeping a flow of messages to individuals that had expressed an interest in becoming a member. And how about that delightful skit provided by Claire Kamego and Diane Kohlase – I loved it!

@

great team effort with impressive results – thank you!



The Newsletter extends a very special thanks to **Owen Richards** for all of the wonderful photos he has so graciously allowed to be used here! We'll certainly miss both Lynne and Owen as they move on to new horizons.

w. odum

*Things accomplished...*

- A dazzling display of projects on view-

PRESIDENT SUSAN POHLEN ALONG WITH AN IMPRESSIVE LINEUP OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WELCOMED GUESTS AND MEMBERS AT AUGUST MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP.

Photos courtesy Owen Richards





- Smiles and conversations in abundance -





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ith Roundup and Open House festivities concluded for 2013, it's back to work!

New friends and, hopefully, new members were welcomed and many good memories were made. There will be much emphasis for the remainder of this year on preparing for, and training and mentoring new members; so the Chapter will be very busy until Roundup rolls around again in 2014.

*Things to come...*

*From Peg La Point*

### **Our September Program on the Threats and Pressures to Herpetofauna in Texas**

As human populations expand, particularly into the southwestern United States, associated increased resource demands and land use changes will undoubtedly further alter the natural functional processes that shape ecosystems (eg., natural land cover, healthy riparian zones and flow regimes, connectivity and food webs). These changes are exacerbated by the effects of climate change and instability, invasive and introduced species and disease.

The majority of our native reptiles and amphibian populations have already experienced significant pressures and human induced change. Portions of all major Texas ecosystems have been altered by anthropogenic pressures such as the channelization, damming, dredging and draining of our aquatic resources. The installation of roadways and utility easements such as oil and gas pipelines, water and wastewater lines and overhead utility lines fragment the landscape and isolate wildlife.

Historically, Texas herpetofauna have been targeted by both private and commercial trappers for sale to the pet trade, Asian markets and rattlesnake roundups. This activity still thrives today in parts of the Southwest and are threats to the future viability of our native reptile and amphibian species and has resulted in reduced diversity, density and local extirpation from portions of their historic range.



**Ryan Blankenship, A.W.B.**

A native Texan, Ryan Blankenship earned his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, College Station, and his Master's of Science degree in Conservation Biology from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Ryan is a Certified Associate Wildlife Biologist with an interest in restoration ecology and wildlife management. He has specific experience with resource management on public and private lands both locally and abroad, working with regulatory agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

Ryan has nearly 10-years of experience handling native Texas wildlife as well as 3 years of experience with federally listed threatened and endangered species, invasive species management, predator/prey interaction, and ecological restoration of degraded sites. Ryan currently resides in Dallas, Texas while serving as a wildlife biologist for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., a national engineering consulting firm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, AND OPPORTUNITIES


**Just a reminder from Communications Committee:**

Send an email message to chapter: **Monica Chaffin** [Chaffincasa@gmail.com](mailto:Chaffincasa@gmail.com)

Items to website: **Martha Peet** [Martha.peet@gmail.com](mailto:Martha.peet@gmail.com)

Items for newsletter: **Wanda Odum** [wodum10043@reagan.com](mailto:wodum10043@reagan.com)

Postings for facebook: **Sharon Barr** [sharonbarr@charter.net](mailto:sharonbarr@charter.net)

**Dallas-NPSOT Meeting**

**On September 16, 2013, at 7 pm:** UTA Professor Laura Gough on "Effects of Global Change on Arctic Plants and Our Native Prairies".

Dr. Laura Gough is a Professor in the Biology Department at UT Arlington with expertise in plant ecology. She has conducted research in arctic Alaska since 1996 and supervised students working in North Texas prairies since she came to UTA in 2002.

Dr. Gough will describe the current understanding of the ways in which global change is affecting arctic plants and ecosystems with a focus on her own ongoing research in northern Alaska. She will also discuss effects of global change observed in local Texas prairies.

Jeanne Erickson shares this web link for learning about native bees:

<http://www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com/guide-to-attracting-native-bees.html>

**KROGER** - The glitches have been resolved for registering so that your grocery dollars are credited to Elm Fork Chapter. Go to Kroger website and log into your account (if you don't have an account, you need to register your Plus-Card); go to bottom of page under Customer Service, click Account Registration; click boxes on right.; click Elm Fork Chapter; and voilà !! \$\$\$ to our chapter.

**Texas Native Bees**

The Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society will host a lecture about Texas native bees presented by Michael Warriner at 7 pm on September 12th at the Cherry Park Community Building, 313 Davis St in Weatherford. The public is welcome.

There are several hundred bee species that are native to Texas of which the bumblebee is probably the most familiar. Except for the bumblebee, most native bee species are solitary and nest in the ground or in holes in trees. These native bees have resided here long before the European honeybee arrived and are essential for the survival of native plants and are responsible for a significant amount of pollination in agricultural and ecological systems. Join us to learn more about these amazing bees.

In 2009, Michael became the resident Invertebrate Biologist in Wildlife Diversity for Texas Parks and Wildlife. For six years prior to that, his interest in bumblebees lead him to conduct field surveys of the bumblebees occurring in Arkansas's remnant grasslands. Michael curates the website [www.texasbumblebees.com](http://www.texasbumblebees.com), where you can learn how to identify the nine bumblebee species in Texas.

The Cross Timbers Chapter of the NPSOT meets second Thursday of the month (except July and December) at our new location, Cherry Park Community Center, 313 Davis Street (west side of Cherry Park) in Weatherford. The Chapter Business meeting is at 6:30 pm followed by a social at 6:45 pm with the presentation starting at 7:00 pm. Our mission is to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats in Texas through education, outreach, and example.

For more information visit our website <http://npsot.org/CrossTimbers> or contact Eileen Porter 817-596-5567. The public is welcome and light refreshments will be served.

*Article by Eileen Porter of the Cross Timbers Chapter of NPSOT submitted by Jeanne Erickson*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, AND OPPORTUNITIES—cont'd

**Nominating Committee’s Slate of Officers  
for 2014**

In accordance with Article V, item D.2.a., of the Bylaws of the Elm Fork Chapter, the nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for the officer positions on the 2014 Board of Directors.

**President – Van Elliott**  
**Vice President – Jan Deatherage**  
**Secretary –Judi Elliott**  
**Treasurer – Jeri Marold**

Each of the above members agreed to serve in the designated position if elected by the membership during the November 21, 2013 general meeting. Nominations for all positions will be accepted from the floor prior to the election at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Crowe  
 Shirley Holland  
 Carl Patrick  
 Rob Roy – Chairperson, Nominating Committee

**Got dirt?**

The **JMN program** wants soil samples from all around the North Central Texas region. However, if you happen to be going somewhere in Texas and have a hand trowel and bag handy — A sandwich-size bag with a cup of native soil (not highly modified garden soil). Please include the address or GPS location of the sample. We will be numbering a map to match the samples to the location.

Want to learn more about the program?

The next JMN meeting is Thursday, September 26, 1:00 pm, in the volunteer workroom on the 6th floor. We will be focusing on improvements to the Insect and spider programs. Anyone interested in the JMN program is welcome to attend.



**Jan Hodson**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, AND OPPORTUNITIES—cont'd

## CALLING ALL NATURE-LOVERS: WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF LLELA

**What:** Friends of LLELA organizational meeting

**When:** Tuesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** LLELA office, 1801 N. Mill St., Lewisville

**Who:** All interested community members

**RSVP or more info:** [info@llela.org](mailto:info@llela.org)

<http://naturerocksnorthtexas.org/>



You enjoy outdoor activities at LLELA, like hiking, camping, fishing, paddling, birding, and spending time outdoors with your family and friends. Now we hope you'll join us and share your talents.

The Friends of LLELA will hold an organizational meeting for all those who wish to become charter members on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the LLELA office at 1801 N. Mill Street in Lewisville. Supporters of LLELA are joining together to form a nonprofit organization to assist in the promotion, interpretation, and operation of LLELA.

The Friends of LLELA will serve as the chief fundraising and service group for LLELA. Formed in 1991, and funded by habitat mitigation grants, LLELA is now coming to the end of that funding source. The Friends group will be vital in ensuring the ongoing viability of LLELA, including its efforts in the restoration of our dwindling prairies and bottomland forests, education of thousands of children as well as adults, and research efforts aimed at discovering how best to maintain an urban wildlife area.



Mushroom—  
Owen Richards

If you truly love Nature, you will find beauty everywhere. ~Vincent Van Gogh