

ARE YOU PREPARED TO BE AWED?

TO: Janet Laminack, Extension Agent
FROM: Van Elliott, President Elm Fork Chapter

T

here are a couple of significant events that happened this year of which you may not be aware. Elm Fork has been responsible for TMN receiving two very prestigious awards in 2014.

The first was from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ] for the 2014 TCEQ Texas Environmental Excellence Award in the Civic/Community Category. This occurred on May 7, 2014. And again for the Onestar Foundation Community Leadership Award to be presented at the Governor's Volunteer Award Banquet on September 17th. The Onestar Foundation is recognized statewide as the voice of the sector, a neutral convener and a respected business partner to foundations, state agencies, and the business community.

Martha Peet was directly responsible for making this happen as she made the nominations and wrote the justifications. At Michelle Haggerty's invitation, she traveled to Austin in May to witness the TCEQ presentation. Michelle has also invited her to attend the Governor's Volunteer Award Banquet.

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments made this year and most appreciative of Martha's work as a member of the Board and as our Webmaster.



ARE YOU READY TO EXPLORE?

Marilyn Blanton took this photo at Clear Creek Natural Heritage area.

Eryngo (*Eryngium leavenworthii*)—Look for the blooms beginning in late August.



Eryngo
(*Eryngium leavenworthii*)

I'm a striking native when my gray-green foliage turns a purple hue
My flower heads and spiny bracts are royal purple, too

Many tiny flowers make up my distinctive flower heads
That look like little purple pineapples it's often said

Clasping my stems are palmate leaves with stiff spine-tipped edges
But I'm so pretty in pastures and along gravelly ledges

I'm wrongly called a thistle because I'm so sharp and prickly
Yes, handling me can be rather tricky

I really belong to the carrot or umbelliferae family
If you study my characteristics you'll see that's as it should be

I'm a late summer and fall annual with an unusual flair
If you're tempted to pick me, remember to beware

With showy goldenrod and snow on the prairie I grow
Mingling our yellow, white and purple, we put on a show

*Marilyn Blanton
Class of 1999*



(An Elm Fork Chapter resident "Poet Laureate")

Legacy

By Bob Ross

The word legacy has many different meanings. Legacy is a word that can be utilized as a noun or an adjective. As a noun, legacy can be anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor. In law terminology a legacy can be a gift of property, especially personal property, as money, by will; a bequest. Or, a legacy can be an applicant to or a student at a school that was attended by his or her parents.

What will be your legacy? Upon your death will you be leaving property and money to your heirs? Will you leave heirlooms to be inherited by your relatives and friends? Or, will you think paying the tuition for an offspring to attend the university you attended will be a sizeable legacy to leave behind?

No matter your social caste, whether you are wealthy or poor, formerly educated or matriculated in life skills, we all leave a legacy. The author, Thomas Narofsky, wrote, "We have an infinite ability to make an impact but we have a finite time here to make a difference and to leave some sort of legacy." How much time and effort have you given to determine your legacy? Have you settled on a course of action or do you really need to give more thought into your legacy without all the trials and tribulations of daily life? Julie Connor, author, stated, "As you explore new opportunities and new directions, consider this: a) How do I want to make a difference in the world?, b) How do I want to be remembered?, c) What kind of legacy do I want to leave behind?"

My oldest son is named after his great grandfather, my paternal grandfather. He left a legacy of enjoying life, loving everything about nature, and telling great stories. I called him Pop. His legacy continues with me because my grandchildren call me Pop. I only hope my grandchildren get as much from me as I got from my grandfather. Author Shannon L. Alder says, "Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you." I almost agree with everything Alder said, except the remark about tombstones. Epitaphs etched on grave markers can, in my opinion, tell many things about the deceased. For years I managed baseball teams made up of teenage boys. A dad of one of my players was a mortician. This dad and I were sitting one day drinking coffee and having a conversation. I asked him what was the funniest thing he ever saw in his occupation. Without hesitation, he responded by telling me he had just seen a marble grave marker in a cemetery in the Oklahoma City area that had the simple epitaph: "I told you I was sick." It is obvious the deceased had a sense of humor right up to his last breaths. I can just imagine his family and friends coming to his grave, reading the epitaph and talking about how funny a guy he was and how much enjoyment he brought into their lives. Author Bill Courtney wrote, "A true legacy is established over a lifetime and relates to what a human being does for others, not for himself."



Being a Master Naturalist is a legacy for each of us. We give of our time and effort to our peers and younger generations. Jo Ann V. Glim wrote, "A personal journey is part of the generational relay. Live your legacy, then pass it on." Author, Dillon Burroughs, reinforces our goals by stating, "Live today the way you want to be remembered tomorrow." Elm Fork Chapter has many irons in the fire with the various projects providing education, outreach, and service to our surrounding communities. Environmentalist, David Brower, stated, "We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations." However, as Master Naturalists who want to leave a proper legacy we must remember what William Shakespeare wrote, "No legacy is so rich as honesty." We must follow up with the writings of British author, Bernard Cornwell, in *The Pale Horseman*: "We make children and wealth and amass land and build halls and assemble armies and give great feasts, but only one thing survives us. Reputation."

When giving a lecture at a scientific seminar, Jonas Salk, who spearheaded the cure for polio, stated, "If all the insects were to disappear from the earth, within 50 years all life on earth would end. If all human beings disappeared from the earth, within 50 years all forms of life would flourish." He finished his speech by saying, "Are we being good ancestors?"

In closing, when you have determined what you want to do and what you want to be with your legacy, remember that it can be as grand or simple as you desire. Establishing your legacy does not require great wealth or epic acts of giving. It can be simple and pure. It can be promulgated from your heart and not from your wallet. I believe the wonderful author, George Orwell, said it best, "The planting of a tree, especially one of the long-living hardwoods trees, is a gift which you can make to posterity at almost no cost and with almost no trouble, and if the tree takes root it will far outlive the visible effect of any of your other actions, good or evil."



Bob Ross is of the class 2013
(An Elm Fork Chapter resident "Author")

HAVE YOU SEEN?

“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”



*Roadrunner brings home dinner at Lake Ray Roberts—
from the gallery of Alex Lieban*

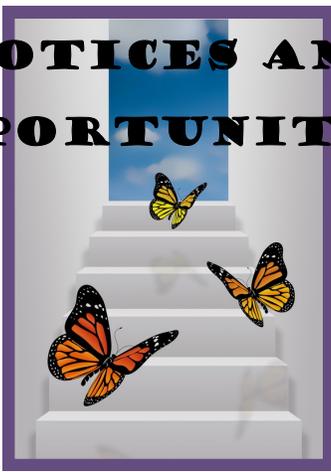
*Featuring Master Naturalist photographers—
flora and fauna as you see them*

Alex Lieban is of the class 2005

(An Elm Fork Chapter resident “Photo Journalist”)



NOTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Please remember that the deadline for **Naturalist News** submission is the Wednesday immediately preceding the monthly board meeting. Anything received after that will be held over to the following month (if appropriate). **Deadline for September is 9-11-2014.**

Attention Birdwatchers and everyone who wants to create more habitat for birds.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology project NestWatch at <http://nestwatch.org> has just launched a great new site that can help you provide safe, attractive homes for birds in your yard.

Learn which species to expect near you, when they will be nesting, what size birdhouse they need, how to build one, where to put it, and how to keep it safe from predators.

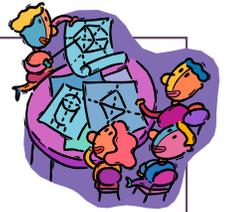
Visit [All About Birdhouses](#) and get started!

Here's the link for All About Birdhouses!

http://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=b51026cee9-Cornell+Lab+eNews+2014+7+15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-b51026cee9-277873805

From Karen Mangum

2014 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting and Advanced Training is October 24-26, 2014 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX



With this year's meeting, all accommodations will be included in your registration fees-meaning there will be no need to make accommodation arrangements outside of registering for the meeting unless you wanted to stay off site.

There will be a variety of accommodation types available when you register. More details will be available once registration opens around late July/early August..

Michelle M. Haggerty
Texas Master Naturalist Program
Coordinator

Reporting Hours:

At the beginning of each month, Janet Laminack, Denton County horticulturist and one of our EFCMN chapter advisors sends a report about extension activities for the previous month including the events, project activities and community involvement of our Master Naturalist chapter to the district Extension office and the Denton County Commissioners Court. To report fully just what EFCMN members are doing in "our community" your help is needed by reporting your hours sooner.

Please turn in your time sheet(s) for the previous month by the 3rd day of the current month. You can email your time sheet(s) to master.naturalist@dentoncounty.com (if you haven't signed your sheet you can sign it at the meeting) or stop by the Extension office to put your time sheet in Hours Book.

Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant society of Texas program on August 18, 2014, at 7 pm:

Jessica Beckham on "**Urban Bumblebees in Denton County**"

Summary: Bumblebees are declining worldwide in part due to the habitat changes associated with urban sprawl. However, establishing and maintaining urban green spaces may help to attenuate those declines. This presentation will discuss ongoing research about the use of urban green spaces by bumblebees in Denton County.

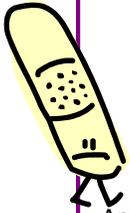
Speaker Bio: Jessica Beckham is a PhD student in environmental science at the University of North Texas. Her research involves a multidisciplinary approach to studying the bumblebees of northeast Texas. In particular, she is interested in finding ways that humans and bees can coexist. When she's not stalking bees she enjoys baking cookies, taking pictures and spending time with her husband and their two year-old son.

Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting, 7 pm on Monday, August 18, 2014, at the upstairs 'Guadalupe Peak' meeting room of the Dallas REI store at 4515 LBJ Fwy, Farmers Branch (635 and Welch Rd).

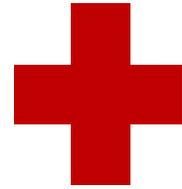
There are tons of great articles on this website and you can sign up to receive regular emails on earth topics at <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

Interesting article on Ground Water Depletion at: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=84065&src=eo-iotd&src=share#.U9mvdCJ7gEs.email>

Karen Mangum



First Aid Course for Master Naturalists



When: Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Where: Carroll Building

Presenter: Dr. Betsy Schenck

Are you prepared? Do you know the best practices for prevention and treatment of common outdoor medical emergencies? The victim may be you, a fellow master naturalist, or a project participant. Come to this presentation to learn strategies for dealing with wounds and injuries and illnesses cause by cold, heat, bites, stings, plants, dust and water. Know what to do after you call 911, and understand your legal responsibilities and protection. Learn what should be in your medical emergency kit, and what should be in your MN project emergency kit. You will be given a comprehensive handout after the presentation.

Dr. Betsy Schenck, Physician, Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, Retired from Denton Regional Medical Center, Emergency Department, Past President of the American Academy of Emergency Physicians. After 21 years of Emergency Medicine, she is currently practicing clinical medicine and travel medicine at the University of North Texas, Student Health and Wellness Center, Denton. Member of the Elm Fork Chapter of TMN, since 2006.

Contact her at:

bschenck2@verison.net

Logo was designed by Henri Dunant, 1863

This a fun link to “Build a Prairie” a great online interactive to learn about the types of prairies, flora fauna and grasses.

<http://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/games/prairie/build/index.html>

Karen Mangum

Getting Information to Chapter

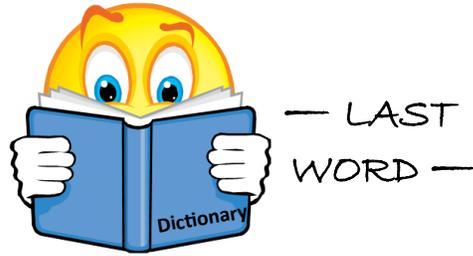
Items to website: Martha Peet marthawpeet@gmail.com

Email messages to chapter: Donna Wolfe master.naturalist@dentoncounty.com

Items for newsletter: Wanda Odum wodum10043@reagan.com

Send contact information changes to: **1) Van Elliott** velliott2105@msn.com; **2) Jan Deatherage** jan.deatherage@gmail.com; and **3) Donna Wolfe** master.naturalist@dentoncounty.com; and **4) Rob Roy** robt_t_roy@msn.com

DID YOU EVER WONDER?



World's smallest mammals

Weighing in at 10 grams the equivalent of two nickels the **American shrew mole** (*Neurotrichus gibbsii*) is about 2 and a half inches long, with a 1-inch-long tail. It is also known as Gibb's shrew mole and lives in the moist forests of the northwestern United States and southwestern British Columbia.



Credit: Tim Bailey | baileyreptiles.com

Like other moles, the American shrew mole has a long snout with a flattened tip and sharp, pointy nails on its paws for burrowing. Unlike its mole relatives that spend most of their lives digging underground tunnels, however, the American shrew mole can often be found foraging for food above ground. It is also able to climb bushes to hunt for insects.

If you would like a "last word", please send to wodum10043@reagan.com



"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn."

— John Muir



"I like this place and could willingly waste my time in it."

— William Shakespeare

I, and those who contributed this month, certainly hope you share Will's sentiments and will "waste your time" at this place again next month.

Texas Master Naturalist
Elm Fork Chapter
Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension
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Denton, TX 76201-9026

940-349-2883

*Education, Conservation,
Preservation, Restoration*

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.txmn.org/elmfork



*Indian paintbrush —
Sharon Barr*

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"*

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Projects: Susan Myers

Publicity: Open

Training: By committee

ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent

Kelly Lauderdale, TPWD

Chapter Meeting

August 21, 2014 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chapter meetings are open to the public.

Annual Membership Roundup

Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 N. Bell,
Denton Texas

Meeting September 18, 2014—Indian Marker Trees, Steve Houser and LeeAnn Weaver (Jernigan)

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, 2014. Next meeting September 2014.

Board meetings are open to members.



Don't forget to thank

a Naturalist News contributor—after all

*it could be **you!** Thank you for contributing this month.*