

**Funnel Web Weaver Spiders, *Family Agelenidae***

**On** these cold dewy mornings you can easily see the many webs of the funnel weaver spiders. Built in the grass and shrubs these unique webs are works of art.

*Article and photos  
by Joanne Fellows*



This large family of spiders includes harmless grass spiders and the venomous “hobo spider, *Tegenaria agrestis*.” There is even a semi-social species in Africa that builds communal webs.

These spiders build a flat sheet of webbing that has a funnel-shaped retreat in the middle. They will perch in the funnel retreat or on the sheet waiting for vibrations to tell them there is a catch. They bite their victims with an anesthetizing venom and then drag it into the funnel retreat.

*from fall '13*



Photo-Andy Krofina, 2012



**—Click beetle—**

*Alaus oculatus* is found throughout the eastern United States, from Quebec to Florida and west to Texas and South Dakota.

Beetles are found around deciduous woods and in areas with many hardwood trees, such as cherry, apple, or oak, especially in areas with a lot of rotting logs (Milne and Milne 1995).

The larval stage of the click beetle is commonly called a "wire-worm." It can live in the soil and may eat the roots and seeds of many different types of plants, including corn, grains, wild grasses, potatoes, beets, carrots, beans, lettuce, onions, turnips, and certain kinds of flowers.

*w. odum from  
www.umich.edu*

*Keeping watch . . .*

**“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”**



*Turkey Vultures from the gallery of Alex Lieband*

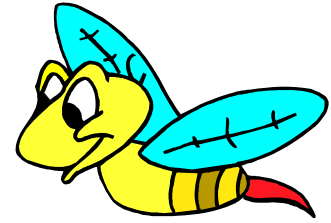
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*Hysterical . . .*



<http://lifeimagefun.blogspot.com/2013/02/funny-tree-image-funny-tree-face-face.html>

— LAST  
WORD —



*In all parts of nature there  
is something marvelous.—  
Aristotle*

*If you would like to have the  
“last word”, please send:  
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*Keep it “light”!*

**Want to stay in the loop?**

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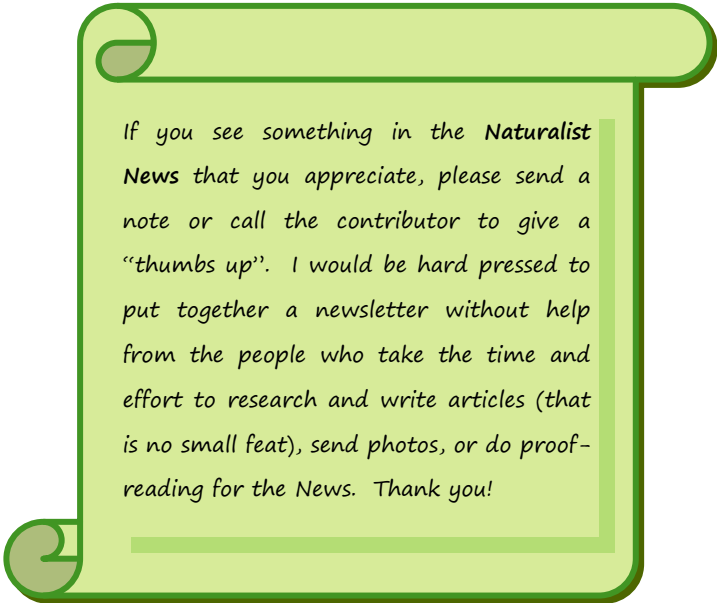
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### **Monthly Chapter Meetings**

**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 February 20, 2014—Steve Houser: Visions of North Texas**

**Meeting March 20, 2014—Kelly Reyna: Saving Northern Bobwhite Quail**

**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 February 13, 2014. Next meeting March 13, 2014.**

**Board meetings are open to members.**

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*“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”*