

This and That....



CAROLINA SNAILSEED (*Cocculus carolinus*)
by Dorothy Thetford

Carolina snailseed is a native, high-climbing vine that twines wherever it pleases, without armature or tendrils. When flesh is removed from the seed, the miniature stone exposes a central depression and is snail-shaped.

Snailseed's shiny red berries are highly visible in wintertime among deciduous/leafless plants, but are breathtaking when discovered among the gray-blue berries of the evergreen cedar trees. This year's plants seem to be a bit scant in their fruit production but, hopefully, will provide ample food for our resident birds.

Photo courtesy:
D. Thetford

Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)



Photos courtesy:
D. Thetford

From the archives....

“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”



No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings.
William Blake

From the gallery of Susan Pohlen—2012

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

Hysterical....



THE STRANGE BEHAVIORS OF ANIMALS

You don't want that crow remembering your face!

“Crows are super crazy weird smart. And although it's hard to prove ‘super crazy weird’ through science, researchers have at least been able to show that our onyx flying friends engage in super crazy weird smart behavior. Example A: recognizing the face that they hold a grudge for.



www.allaboutbirds.com

“Scientists at the University of Washington had no idea what they were getting into when they started trapping crows for research. They noticed that the birds began harassing them whenever they stepped out of the office, regardless of what clothes they were wearing. So they experimented by wearing different masks when they trapped the birds. It turns out, when they would walk around campus later wearing the same masks, the birds once again wouldn't leave them alone. One researcher even put on a mask the crow crew had used five years ago for trapping and the Hitchcockian birds descended -- which implies that the older ones had let the word spread about which faces were good and bad [source: [Pappas](#)].

“Admittedly, this grudge maybe isn't of the ‘I'll never forgive my cheating ex-boyfriend’ variety (although I wouldn't put it past them). But it does imply that crows have an uncanny ability to recognize faces and to gossip with the best of 'em to let their community know who's a threat.”

From Ten Surprising Behaviors in Nonhuman Animals

www.howstuffworks.com

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

Send contact information changes to: 1) Van Elliott veliott2105@msn.com; 2) Jan Deatherage jan.deatherage@gmail.com; and 3) Donna Wolfe mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com

Want to stay in the loop?

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Preservation, Restoration*

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www.txmn.org/elmfork

*Mexican marigold—
the last breath of
autumn from Cheryl
Kesterson*



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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 January 16, 2014—Annual Meeting—Awards

Meeting February 20, 2014—Steve Houser: Visions of North 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 January 9, 2014. Next meeting February 13, 2014.

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”