

NATURALIST NEWS



MID-WINTER

*More on Snow geese within—
photo public domain*

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*"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be
an unnecessary freezing of water."*

— Carl Reiner

NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

JANUARY 2014
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

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.



Van's views...



Thank you for your vote of confidence to elect me as your Chapter President. I look forward to serving and will strive to represent us well.

2013 was an interesting year, and we accomplished more than you may have realized. The Board worked on approximately sixty different items from small to very large. In a member survey we received eighteen change considerations and sixteen thumbs-up items. The 2014 Board immediately began working on the change considerations. It's not too late to submit

your ideas via the Suggestion Box. We want to hear from you.

Susan Pohlen did a great building job on the foundation created by her predecessors. The Chapter owes her a tremendous thank you for the time, effort and money she put into strengthening the infrastructure of the Chapter. My goal is to continue what Susan has started and perhaps enhance it.

One change this year will be the frequency of articles for the newsletter. I'm anticipating submitting a quarterly article in lieu of the monthly one. I will communicate Chapter news from my perspective with additional bits of information as warranted.

We are lucky to have a very good Board who work well together. In our first planning meeting, the 2014 goals were laid out and will be finalized by the January 9th Board meeting. Once we have Board approval they will be posted at each General meeting so you can see them and help us stay on track. A path forward on the considerations for change was made and we expect to solve many of them.

I can't move forward without thanking those who helped me with Training for the past four years. In 2013 we operated as a Training Committee and still lack having a Chairman. Cheryl Ellis, Vin Merrill, Judi and I worked together with assistance from Donna Wolfe and Norma Wilkerson. Ruth Ann Morrison again took on the role of Mentor Coordinator and with help from Carol Fegan and Louise Wyss they did a grand job. I have presented a training seminar at the Annual Meeting for the past two years and each time there were numerous requests for our Mentoring Guide. I am most proud of our program and appreciative of the efforts by these members. Please support the 2014 Training Committee as their success is critical to the strength of our Chapter. Once again it will be done by a committee that consists of Cheryl Ellis, Vin Merrill, Rita Lokie and Don Fikes with Susan Pohlen graciously accepting the role of Advisor.

If you have a question or want to share your thoughts, please feel free to contact me. I really would like to hear from you. My email is velliott2105@msn.com and my phone number is **972-539-4350**.

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." William James

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ LLELA-2013 class project
- ◆ Bluebird workshop-project update
- ◆ Snow geese visit
- ◆ Shop smart for discounts

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| <i>Things to come</i> | 3 |
| <i>On site 2013 class</i> | 7 |
| <i>Projects on the move</i> | 8 |
| <i>Feature-snow geese</i> | 10 |
| <i>Historical-Red wolf</i> | 12 |
| <i>This and that</i> | 13 |
| <i>Field notes in focus</i> | 14 |
| <i>Hysterical-Last word</i> | 15 |
| <i>Who we are</i> | 16 |

Things to come...

February Meeting

From Peg La Point

VISION NORTH TEXAS AND “GREENPRINTING”

Vision North Texas is a private – public partnership designed to increase awareness about the growth expected in North Texas and to involve people and organizations in initiatives that accommodate that growth successfully. The project began in 2004 and the charter sponsors are the Urban Land Institute’s North Texas District Council (ULI), the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the University of Texas at Arlington.

As part of the effort to plan for growth in the region, Vision North Texas (VNT) is working with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to help residents and officials reach common ground on their open space priorities through an innovative approach known as **Greenprinting**. The Greenprint process utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assemble demographic and geographic data, combined with community-based values, to develop a set of shared open space priorities. The result is a dynamic series of maps that highlight the lands whose protection could meet the multiple priorities identified by regional leaders and community members. Greenprinting begins with public involvement to define needs, and culminates in open space action plans and funding strategies.



Steve Houser—photo used by permission

Our speaker, **Steve Houser**, will discuss VNT, the study of Lake Arlington and Lake Lewisville watersheds, and why native trees and plants are critical to water quality and quantity.

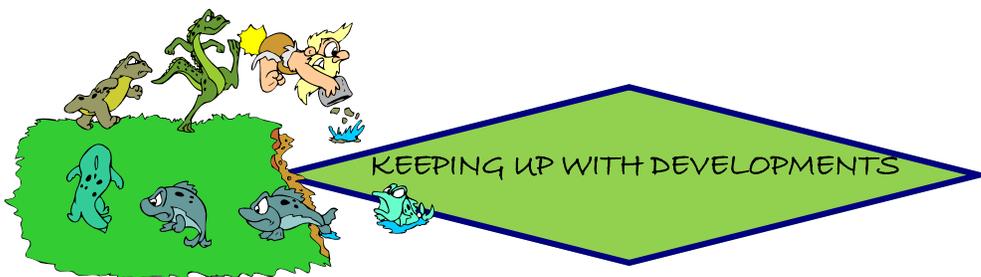
Steve Houser is Owner/President of a DFW Tree-Care Expert firm; a Certified Texas Master Gardener; a Certified Texas Master Naturalist; a Certified Arborist; Chair Emeritus, City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee; Past President of Dallas Historic Tree Coalition; and Advisor to Vision North Texas. He was among the first arborists to become certified in Texas.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FROM PEERS

In his “spare” time, Steve contributes well over 1,000 volunteer hours each year toward worthwhile tree-related causes and to educate the public on tree and natural resource-related issues. He teaches forest ecology related subjects for various Master Naturalist chapters, and biology and arboriculture related subjects for various Master Gardener programs. He has been an advisor for Vision North Texas since its inception and works diligently to encourage responsible and sustainable land use in the DFW region. He is also a part of the public speaker’s bureau for each of these groups.

Awards and recognition from his peers and others are solid evidence of the respect he has earned as a true expert in his field, including significant awards from the National Arbor Day Foundation, the Texas Urban Forestry Council, and the International Society of Arboriculture. In 2008, Steve received the President’s Call to Service Award from the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation for accumulating 5000 volunteer hours through the Texas Master Naturalist Program. His Master Naturalist hours currently exceed 12,000.

January 16, 2014 Annual Meeting – Awards



It's Time to Toot our Horn

Word is spreading throughout the community about the Master Naturalist program and Elm Fork Chapter. Local schools and organizations are beginning to realize they can utilize not only the expertise, but the enthusiasm of our members. How exciting to be asked to share our time and knowledge with others that share similar interests and concerns! However, in order to best utilize our members, we need to know who has an interest, and the time to participate in public outreach presentations. We realize some of you have very



specific parameters, so consider these options: presenting to adults, presenting to children, presenting to any age/group, length of presentation, utilization of a computer or other technology. Some of you may have the desire to provide public outreach, but need some training and practice, so let us know that as well. For now we need to create a list just so that we know who to contact when these opportunities arise. Please send your name to Susan Pohlen: pohlensusan@gmail.com if you would like to be a part of the Elm Fork Chapter Speaker's Bureau.



Less is more!

BRIT Membership card: Go to website www.txmn.org/elmfork to print a copy of card that entitles any EFCTMN member to:

1. 10% discount on programs at BRIT [<http://www.brit.org>]
2. 10% discount on purchases at Marshall's Grain in Grapevine or Fort Worth [<http://www.marshallgrain.com/aboutus.asp>]
3. 10% discount on purchases at any Calloway's Nursery [<http://www.calloways.com/stores-calloways>]
4. 10% discount on purchases at Redenta's Garden Shop [<http://www.redentas.com/shops-locations.php>]

Member must have a copy of the BRIT membership card and show their EFC Master Naturalist badge to qualify for the discounts. This card expires October 31, 2014.

Any questions about the membership card should be directed to **Tammi Crowel, BRIT Membership advisor**, at 817-332-4441 x 222

Native Plant Society of Texas — On January 20, 2014, at 7 pm: Randy Johnson on "Native Plants: Ancient solutions for Modern Problems"

Randy is the current president of the Dallas-NPSOT. He graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and served as Director of Horticulture at Texas Discovery Gardens from 2007 until 2012. In late 2012, he started the 'Blackland Seed Company', hand-collecting and propagating seeds of native plant species from remnant parcels of Blackland Prairie in and around Dallas County. Since summer 2013 he is Director of Horticulture for the Dallas Zoo.

Randy Johnson will discuss how the use of native flora in landscaping and ecological restoration saves natural resources, minimizes the use of harmful chemicals and provides food and shelter for native fauna. Also covered will be where and how to find native species for purchase and how home-propagating saves money and increases diversity.

Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting, 7 pm on Monday, January 20, 2014, at the upstairs 'Guadalupe Peak' meeting room of the Dallas REI store at 4515 LBJ Fwy, Farmers Branch (635 and Welch Rd).

