

NATURALIST NEWS

Wild red columbine
Aquilegia Canadensis

Courtesy Dorothy
Thetford



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"Harlequin went dancing,
Down at the Harvest Fair,
And there he met sweet Columbine
With flowers in her hair.

Her cheeks were red as roses,
Her hair was soft, soft brown,
She was shod in velvet slippers
And a long green gown."

From "When Harlequin was Young" by Ben Ezzell

NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

MAY 2014

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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.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist

Elm Fork Chapter



Nesting Ecology and Sibling Behavior of Red-shouldered Hawks: It Is a Hawk-kill-hawk World

May 15 monthly meeting with Dr. Jim Bednarz



Red-shouldered Hawk chicks about 7-9 days old marked with colors on their heads for a study of individual sibling behavior in northeastern Arkansas.

This presentation explores the nesting ecology of Red-shoulder Hawks in northeastern Arkansas from a very up-close and personal perspective. In their research, Kathy Lawrence Townsend and Jim Bednarz specifically addressed the question, why do closely-related sibling hawk chicks aggressively interact in the nest, sometimes to the point of death? The presentation will feature videos of hawk nestling behavior, elaboration of the natural history of nesting raptors, and the findings of innovative research into the social behavior of birds of prey.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Papa bluebird doing his part
- ◆ Scissor-tail flycatcher on the wires
- ◆ Where's the bunny?
- ◆ Ode to the Texas Bluebonnets

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Coloring RSHA Coloring the head of a 4-day old Red-shouldered Hawk chick for a study of sibling behavior in northeastern Arkansas

The speaker, **Jim Bednarz**, received his undergraduate degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from New Mexico State University. He completed a M.S. degree in Animal Ecology at Iowa State University and his Ph.D. degree in Biology at the University of New Mexico studying the behavior and ecology of birds of prey. Jim has broad interests in avian ecology, behavioral ecology, wildlife management, and conservation, and began his career working on fishes and aquatic systems. More recently, Dr. Bednarz has conducted research on six continents emphasizing avian population ecology and conservation. Jim has published over 120 scholarly works including peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs, book reviews, book chapters, conference proceedings, magazine articles, one technical book, and was the Editor of the *Journal of Raptor Research* for 5 years. He has received over 4 million dollars in research grants and has advised the research of more than 30 graduate students. Previously, Jim served as a Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Boise State University and Arkansas State University. Currently, Jim is teaching at the University of North Texas and Collin College, and is affiliated with the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area and UNT Quail.



Kathy Lawrence Townsend taking a blood sample from an adult hawk for genetic determination of sex related to a behavioral ecology study on a nestling population of Red-shouldered Hawks in Arkansas.



Dr. Jim Bednarz in the Gulf after the BP oil spill banding and radio-tagging Black Skimmers.



FIELD TRIP TO THE BETTY AND CLINT JOSEY PAVILION ON THE LEO RANCH UNIT OF THE DIXON WATER FOUNDATION

From Peg La Point

MAY 31, 2014, 9:00 AM to NOON



The Dixon Water Foundation was started by Roger McFarland Dixon. He had no heirs so he asked his good friend Clinton W. Josey to organize the foundation with the mission to "Promote water conservation through good land management". There are four demonstration ranches in Texas. Three are here in North Texas, running cattle and sheep. The West Texas Ranch in Marfa runs cattle. The foundation uses livestock as a tool to improve the grass diversity and soil micro life in pastures by practicing multi paddock rotational grazing.

The Betty and Clint Josey Pavilion aspires to be the first "Living Building" in Texas. The 5,000-square-foot pavilion will be a site for meetings and educational events for people of all ages who want to learn about water conservation and sustainable agriculture. Lake|Flato architects of San Antonio designed the facility to meet the Living Building Challenge, the most rigorous international green-building certification.

To meet the standard, the pavilion will generate all of its own clean, renewable energy and capture and treat its own water. Building materials are non-toxic and sourced responsibly and as locally as possible. The building was built with reclaimed Long Leaf Pine from west Texas.

Our hosts will be Melissa Bookhout, Treasurer for the Foundation, and Tom Bookhout, caretaker of the pavilion. Melissa will give an introduction on the ranch and Foundation, and Tom will introduce us to the pavilion and the Living Building Challenge. Tom has a degree from TCU in Ranch Management and an Associate's Degree in Horticulture. They moved to the Leo Ranch in 1994. We will also hear from Dr. Lisa Bellows, Chair of the Science Department at NCTC, who is also becoming a Certified Educator for Holistic Management and will be giving workshops in the future at the Pavilion. Lisa can discuss the plant diversity at the Leo Unit.

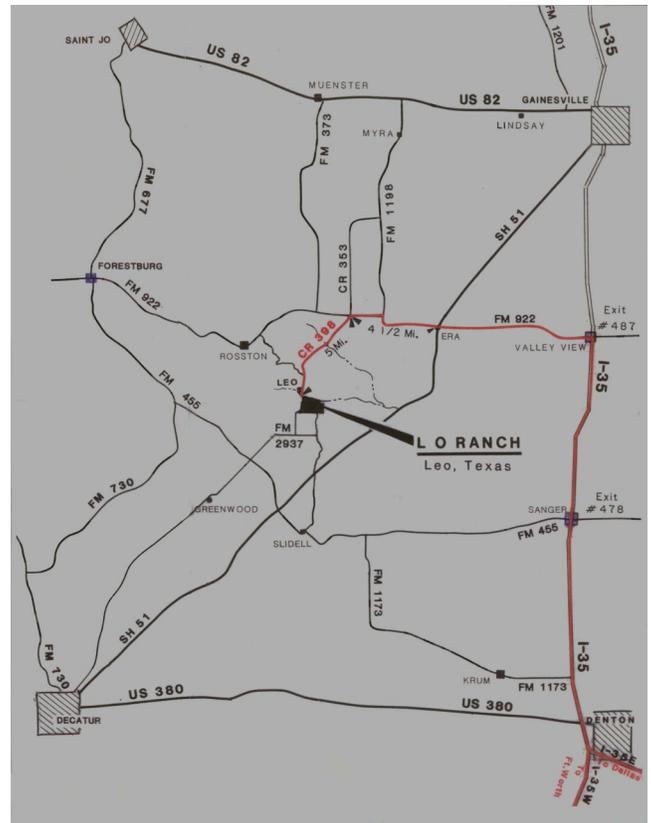
You may bring a picnic lunch and stay after the presentation.

There will be a signup sheet at the May 15 meeting so our hosts will know how many to expect. If you do not attend the meeting and wish to join this field trip, email Peggy La Point at tnplapoint@msn.com.

YOU ARE URGED TO CARPOOL

Those interested should meet at the Albertsons' parking lot on West University (Hwy 380) in Denton at 8:00 am. Gather in the far northwest corner of the lot.

Learn more about the Foundation at www.dixonwater.org.



NOTE: If you have trouble reading the map, increase the pdf view percentage.



FIELD TRIP ON JUNE 4TH TO THE JOHN BUNKER SANDS WETLAND CENTER

From Peg La Point

Please join us at 10:00 am on June 4th for a tour of the Wetland Center at **655 Martin Lane in Seagoville, Texas, 75159.**

The facility includes 2,100 acres of constructed wetlands, emergent wetlands, scrub swamps and flooded bottomland hardwood, developed and operated by North Texas Municipal Water District.

An extensive boardwalk system takes visitors deep into the wetland for wildlife and ecosystem observations.

The mission of the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center is to both educate the public and provide research opportunities in the areas of water quality and supply, wildlife management, and wetland systems.

The East Fork Wetland was designed to use native Texas aquatic plants that naturally polish waste water, while at the same time providing for an abundance of wildlife, which includes over 250 species of birds.

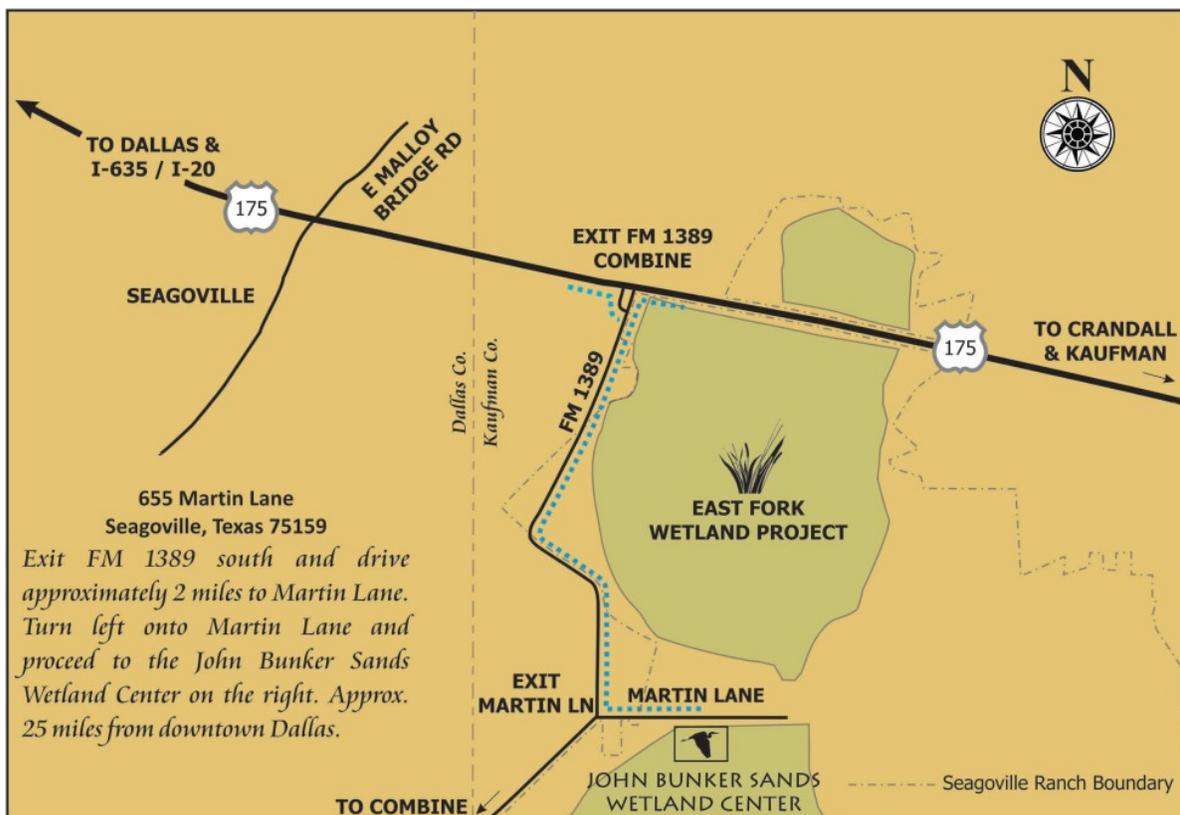
The cost will be \$5.00 per person. There are no parking fees.

There is a map to the Center and a release form that everyone will need to sign and bring with them.

There will be an overview of the Wetland and water project scheduled followed by a tour on the boardwalk. After that everyone is welcome to explore on their own. You are more than welcome to bring a picnic lunch as well. However, there are no vending machines at the Center.

The contact at the center is

*Linda Dunn, Education Manager
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center
655 Martin Lane
Seagoville, TX 75159
972-474-9100
ldunn@wetlandcenter.com*



**JOHN BUNKER SANDS WETLAND CENTER INC.
FIELD TRIP RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION
(ADULT [AGE 18 OR OLDER])**

In consideration of the opportunity to use the premises of John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Inc., Wetlands Management, L.P., and North Texas Municipal Water District known as the Seagoville Ranch in Kaufman County, Texas (the "Ranch") I agree on behalf of myself and my heirs, successors, and assigns to the terms of this Release and Indemnification.

I understand that the Ranch is largely rough, unimproved land and that driving and walking on it are inherently dangerous activities that may expose individuals to hazards or risks that may result in illness or personal injury. I understand the nature of those hazards and risks and accept the premises in their present as-is condition. I am aware that other persons may be present from time to time within the same area and that my activities need to be conducted in a careful and prudent manner with due regard for the safety and well being of those other persons. I am aware that the Ranch is in an area remote from medical care, and that John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Inc., Wetlands Management, L.P., and North Texas Municipal Water District cannot guarantee the availability of emergency medical services or emergency transportation to medical facilities.

I assume full responsibility for all risks associated with use of the Ranch, and for myself and my heirs, successors, and assigns, agree that John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Inc., Wetlands Management, L.P., and North Texas Municipal Water District and any of their directors, officers, owners, affiliated corporations, agents or employees ("Released Parties") shall not be liable for any damages to persons or property. I, FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, AND ASSIGNS RELEASE THE RELEASED PARTIES FROM ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY CLAIMS FOR LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND FOR ANY ILLNESS OR INJURY TO PERSON, INCLUDING DEATH, WHICH MAY RESULT IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE RANCH. THIS RELEASE COVERS ANY DAMAGE OR INJURY FROM ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES. I FURTHER AGREE FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, AND ASSIGNS TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASED PARTIES FROM LOSS, DAMAGE, LIABILITY, CLAIMS, OR EXPENSE FROM ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASED PARTIES, ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH MY USE OF THE PREMISES.

Authorization for Photos: John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Inc. often takes pictures during its programs. By signing you authorize John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Inc. to use your photo in its marketing materials or in its exhibits.

DATE: _____

Signature

Name (Print)

June Regular Meeting speaker will be . . .

From Peg La Point



Lily-of-the-valley

Our speaker on June 19 will be **Barney L. Lipscomb**, who will speak about Poisonous Plants. Barney is the Dorothea L. Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth. Barney is head of BRIT's scientific press. He is a co-author of the "*Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas*" and co-author of a three-volume flora, the "*Illustrated Flora of East Texas*." [Vol. 1, 2006]. He is co-author of the 392 page, *Ferns and Lycophytes of Texas*. In addition, he has authored more than 30 scientific publications.

Barney has an interest and expert knowledge of poisonous plants, and has given many lectures and talks on the subject; right now he is serving on the board for the North Texas Poison Center, as a member of the board of consultants.

In case you've noticed her name here, there, and here, it's because Peg La Point is the lovely lady who seeks out, follows leads and arranges for all of the speakers at the regular monthly meetings; and she finds and books those incredible places for field trips!

One of the treasures of Elm Fork Chapter—thanks, Peg.



Peg La Point —class of 2008

Things accomplished ...

President Van Elliott does the honors for hours earned and milestones reached—Awards at April 17 meeting

Larry Brennan—2000



Martha Peet—500



Penny Bell—initial certification



Van Elliott, Joan Stanley, w. odum, Jonathan Smith, Marilyn Turnage, Ron Fellows, Martha Peet, Joanne Fellows, Jan Hodson — re-certifications



Recently, the *Class of 2013* reconnected at the home of immediate-past president Susan Pohlen for a day of listening, looking, touching, walking (the trails), reviewing (training), and lunch!



Group getting general information from Susan about the Cross Timbers

Peg and Diane looking intently at something not readily apparent to the viewer!



Group listening to Joanne Fellows



Susan introducing guides: Peg La Point, Jeanne Erickson, Joan Stanley and Joanne Fellows

The reunion field trip was a first time, experimental field trip provided for interns coming out of the 2103 training class. We thought this would be a good opportunity for them to get together again and get them excited about being a master naturalist following the winter slow down. It was also an opportunity for them to be re-familiarized with some of the concepts learned in class, and to interact with some of our veteran members.

From Susan Pohlen with photos courtesy of Judi and Van Elliott