

NATURALIST NEWS



Mute swans

Photo— Sharon Barr

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NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

JUNE 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.



Talking Butterflies Walk About

—more on p. 7—



Reakirt's blue—
ventral tarsal
view



Checkered skipper—note curled antennae

Photos this page — Larry Brennan

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ First Aid course coming
- ◆ Our “own” featured in Life-style magazine
- ◆ Great field trips reports
- ◆ Mute swans nesting

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**At Regular Meeting on June 19, 2014, the chapter will host Barney L. Lipscomb
speaking about poisonous plants**

Barney L. Lipscomb

*Dorothea L. Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany
Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas*

Barney L. Lipscomb, editor, author, writer, public speaker, and researcher, is the Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. He is from Temple, Oklahoma. He attended Temple High School (1968); Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma (B.S. Biology, 1973); and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (M.S. Botany, 1976).



He began his career at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas Texas as the herbarium botanist in 1975. Soon after his arrival at SMU, he became assistant editor of a botanical journal now called *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*. Barney is presently working at the *Botanical Research Institute of Texas* (BRIT) in Fort Worth, and was appointed the *Dorothea L. Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany* in February 2001. He is now head of the BRIT's scientific press.

Mr. Lipscomb is one of the co-authors of the "*Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas*" (1999), a 1640 page, fully illustrated, comprehensive guide to a large portion of the diverse plant life of Texas. Lipscomb is also a 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* (Feb 2014). 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. He particularly enjoys teaching about botany at schools and being called "Barney the Botanist." Barney also has

an interest in forensic botany, and has provided expertise and assistance in several criminal cases. Mr. Lipscomb has appeared in many newspaper, radio, and television pieces on botany. In summary, Mr. Lipscomb has lectured, demonstrated, guided, taught, trained, educated, explained, and described plants and botanical science to just about every conceivable nonscientist and scientists alike.

From pre-kindergarten to retired individuals to colleagues, Barney Lipscomb has shared his enthusiasm and passion for plants through personal contact with thousands of individuals.

In 2010, he received the American Society of Plant Taxonomists' Peter Raven Award for exceptional outreach activities that advance the public's understanding of plant systematic work and its value to society.

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A meeting not to be missed!



Photograph by Randy Mallory



On July 17, **Walt and Isabel Davis**, fellow Master Naturalists, will present to our group a program based on their book, *Exploring the Edges of Texas*. It will be an account of their 4,000 mile long, three century deep journey around the Lone Star State.

The border of Texas, longer than the Amazon River, winds through ten distinct ecological zones as it outlines one of the most familiar shapes in geography. Driving its every twist and turn would be like driving from Miami to Los Angeles by way of New York.

In 1955, Frank X. Tolbert, well-known columnist for the Dallas Morning News, accompanied by his nine-year-old son, left on a trip to circumnavigate Texas. He sent back dispatches to the newspaper that were eagerly awaited by his readers, including a thirteen-year-old Walt Davis. Fifty years later, Walt and his wife Isabel have replicated Tolbert’s exploration of the boundaries of Texas.

Each of the sixteen chapters opens with an original drawing by Walt and represents a segment of the Texas border where the authors selected a special place—a national park, a stretch of river, a mountain range, or an archeological site. Using a firsthand account of that place written by a previous visitor (artist, explorer, naturalist, or archeologist), they then identified a contemporary voice (biologist, rancher, river-runner, or paleontologist) to serve as a modern-day guide for their journey of rediscovery. This dual perspective allows the authors to attach personal stories to the places they visited, to connect the past with the present, and to compare Texas then with Texas now.

Whether retracing botanist Charles Wright’s 600-mile walk to El Paso in 1849 or paddling Houston’s Buffalo Bayou, where John James Audubon saw ivory-billed woodpeckers in 1837, or running the rapids of the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande first mapped by Robert T. Hill in 1899, the Davises will pay homage to the passionate and determined people who wrote the natural history of Texas.

Things accomplished ...

Photos—Shelby Kilpatrick except where noted

Meeting May 17, 2014-Recognitions for volunteer hours earned

Pins and certificates received from President Van Elliott



Vice president Jan Deatherage & President Van Elliott recognizing achievements



Regulator **C.J. Solberg** sharing her baaaa jokes & keeping announcements on track.

Photos by Cecil Carter



Jan LaPine—500



Jan Deatherage—500



w. odum—2500



Rita Lokie—Initial certification



Jan Deatherage, Susan Myers & Val Beardsley—recertification



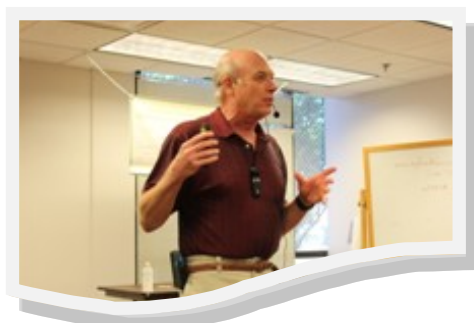
Bill Coleman, Rita Lokie, Ivy Doak—Initial certification



Bill Coleman—Initial certification



Ivy Doak—Initial certification

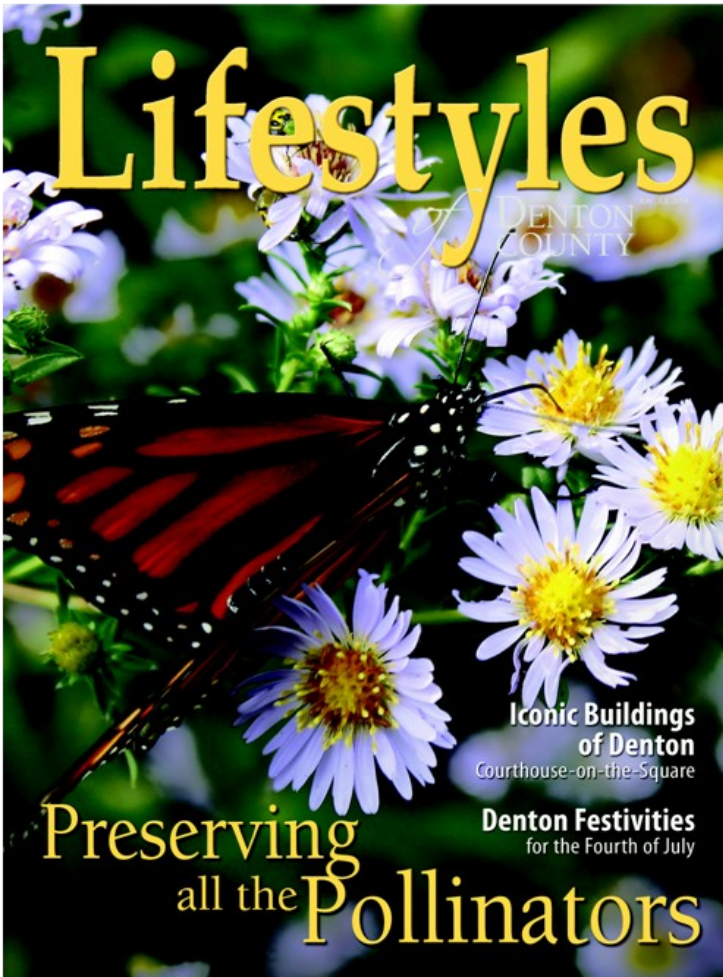


Dr. Jim Bednarz-shared his research on Red-shouldered hawks



Dr. Bednarz receiving from Van a watercolor by Val Beardsley— photo by Cecil Carter

Something special ...



This issue includes an outstanding editorial, Preserving all the Pollinators, written by our own **Faith Fielder**; also therein is the eye-catching flier designed by **Jan Deatherage** to help recruit new members; and if that is not enough, it is all covered with the gorgeous photo by **Larry Brennan**.

Doin' us proud!

T

he current issue of Lifestyles magazine has proven once again the talent and versatility of our Master Naturalist group.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NATURE?

Become a Texas Master Naturalist.
Applications are currently being accepted for the 2014 Training Program. Classes meet Tuesdays, from Sept. 2 - Nov.18. Learn how you can become a better manager of natural resources and natural areas in our community.

Call: 940-349-2883
Visit: www.txmn.org/elmfork

T E X A S
Master Naturalist
Elm Fork Chapter



Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center Planning Update

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ve people from our chapter attended the **Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center** master planning update on Saturday May 17, 2014. The five who attended were Jonathan Smith, Shirley Holland, Jan Hodson, Judi Elliott and I. There were a total of 13 people.



Estuary

The meeting was very energetic and produced some good ideas to help improve CCNHC. Many of the ideas came from EFC members. Money has been allocated for a parking lot and restrooms to be constructed once an archeological study has been done. The study is scheduled to start in June and hopefully finish in time to start construction in 2014.

The Master Plan is about 75 pages in length and is very well done. Denton has really put some time and effort into producing a good plan which will yield

some very good results. Dave Rowley, Sherrill Campbell and Cheryl Kesterson have done a good job of reigniting our interest there. Many of our members are already participating in prairie restoration, nest box management, green house construction and activities that enhance the facility. Katherine Barnett, Sustainability and Special Project Administrator, told me she was happy to have the Master Naturalists back and contributing so much.

This project has much potential to be a project of which our chapter will be very proud.



Trail passing through

Into the community—looking good . . .

From Van Elliott

Photo by Tommy Carter, Denton County area farmer



*And a good time, as well as learning,
was had by all!*

Brandon Boughen sponsored the recent Pasture Workshop and asked for help from EFCTMN. The workshop was for landowners and focused on weed identification management. Brandon did a good job putting it together and, hopefully, he will again call on our chapter for help in the future.

Helpers at Pasture Workshop were Rob Roy, Jean Erickson, Van Elliott, Susan Pohlen — flanking Brandon Boughen