

*Spotting a gem down under . . .*

**“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”**

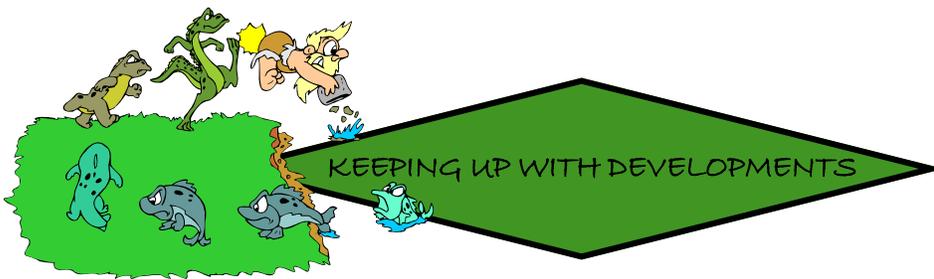


*Black and white warbler from the  
gallery of Susan Pohlen*

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

*Class of 2007*





Please remember that the deadline for **Naturalist News** submission is the Wednesday immediately preceding the monthly board meeting. Anything received after that will be held over to the following month (if appropriate).

### AT Opportunity in June - Mark your calendar!

The **Blackland Prairie Chapter** has invited us to a presentation, which was going to be done at the Regional Conference. Sally Evans, BPC Education Coordinator, thinks it is good enough that she wanted to invite us. I know some of you are interested in Bees and below is the location information.

Date & Time: 06/21/14 [Saturday] - 9:30 am  
 Topic: Every Thing You Needed To Know About Native Bees  
 Presenters: Carol Clark [BPC] & Jessica Womack  
 Location: Heard Museum, 1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75609  
 Phone: 214-504-3938

**Note:** Advanced Training opportunity

**Reporting Hours:** At the beginning of each month, Janet Laminack, Denton County horticulturist and one of our EFCMN chapter advisors sends a report about extension activities for the previous month including the events, project activities and community involvement of our Master Naturalist chapter to the district Extension office and the Denton County Commissioners Court. To report fully just what EFCMN members are doing in "our community" your help is needed by reporting your hours sooner.

Please turn in your time sheet(s) for the previous month by the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the current month. You can email your time sheet(s) to [mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com](mailto:mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com) ( if you haven't signed your sheet you can sign it at the meeting) or stop by the Extension office to put your time sheet in Hours Book.

### Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

**On June 16, 2014, at 7 pm: Barney Lipscomb on "Discovering Texas' Botanical Heritage – Past, Present & Future"**

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

Hello TMN friends

**I am pleased to announce that the 2014 Texas Master Naturalist Annual meeting and Advanced Training will be held October 24-26, 2014 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX.**

With this year's meeting, all accommodations will be included in your registration fees-meaning there will be no need to make accommodation arrangements outside of registering for the meeting unless you wanted to stay off site. There will be a variety of accommodation types available when you register. More details will be available once registration opens around late July/early August..

Mark your calendars for October 24-26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 now!!!

**Michelle M. Haggerty**  
 Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator  
 309 Sidney Baker South  
 Kerrville, TX 78028  
 O: 830-896-2504  
 C: 979-587-2627  
 TMN website: <http://txmn.org>

### Getting Information to Chapter

Items to website: Martha Peet [marthawpeet@gmail.com](mailto:marthawpeet@gmail.com)

Email messages to chapter: Donna Wolfe [mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com](mailto:mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com)

Items for newsletter: Wanda Odum [wodum10043@reagan.com](mailto:wodum10043@reagan.com)

**Send contact information changes to: 1) Van Elliott [velliott-t2105@msn.com](mailto:velliott-t2105@msn.com); 2) Jan Deatherage [jan.deatherage@gmail.com](mailto:jan.deatherage@gmail.com); and 3) Donna Wolfe [mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com](mailto:mas-ter.naturalist@dentoncounty.com); and 4) Rob Roy [robt\\_t\\_roy@msn.com](mailto:robt_t_roy@msn.com)**

## NOTICE TO TREE TALKERS:

There is a great deal of research about the relationship between trees and water quality as well as quantity. As a Tree Talker, someone may question why we would recommend planting trees during a drought. As a result, please see the attached information on the subject. The article notes the "Greenprinting effort" along with a link to the research and here is the link to information on the "biotic pump" theory: [http://www.enn.com/top\\_stories/article/45539](http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/45539) .

As you may know, our regional air quality is in "non attainment" with federal air quality standards. Around seven years ago, our region worked on a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to help improve our air quality. Since trees help to clean our air, it made sense to argue that they should be included in our SIP, in hopes that we could leverage federal dollars to help plant and care for more trees. However, there was no research on exactly how trees interact with chemicals in our air in Texas or in the southern states, and we did not know how many trees were in the area. We now have an idea of how many trees we have and Dow Chemical company recently completed some research that may help (see the attached). We are trying to find more of the facts we need from this research and it is not clear if they will be available. It is important because we are currently arguing the same issue. I think an SIP is due from the state every seven years.

Also, RuthAnn Jackson, a long time manager within our company is now my Assistant (copied above).

Respectfully,

Steve Houser

O: [972-442-1524](tel:972-442-1524) (ask for RuthAnn Jackson, extension 235)

C: [972-877-0361](tel:972-877-0361)



### ***HELP NEEDED:***

#### **Forwarded by: Eileen Porter**

VP and Program Chair  
Cross Timbers Chapter  
NPSOT

Greetings,

It's that time of year again when milkweed pods are popping! I am looking for milkweed seed to redistribute to the needy. I am putting myself out there as a distribution center for your surplus seeds and/or pods to help spread regional milkweed seed throughout your areas. I get many requests from Monarch enthusiasts for seed and would like to insure that the seed they are planting are native to their region. We have 41 new gardens this year alone through the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program!

I will take any milkweed seed which has been identified with the species and the location of origin. All I ask is that you pack or store your seeds/pods in paper and cardboard for shipping to prevent mold.

I've attached a detailed document on seed collecting courtesies, policies and procedures for your information.

Please feel free to ship to the address below and contact me if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution of seed.

#### **Cathy Downs**

Chair – Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas  
105 Feather Hill Road  
Comfort, TX 78013  
[mzdowns@hctc.net](mailto:mzdowns@hctc.net)  
830-377-1632

**See addendum for "seed collecting" information**

## First Aid course for Master Naturalists

**When:** Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

**Where:** Carroll Building

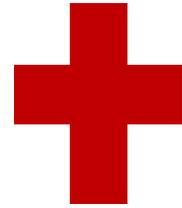
**Presenter:** Dr. Betsy Schenck

Are you prepared? Do you know the best practices for prevention and treatment of common outdoor medical emergencies? The victim may be you, a fellow master naturalist, or a project participant. Come to this presentation to learn strategies for dealing with wounds and injuries and illnesses cause by cold, heat, bites, stings, plants, dust and water. Know what to do after you call 911, and understand your legal responsibilities and protection. Learn what should be in your medical emergency kit, and what should be in your MN project emergency kit. You will be given a comprehensive handout after the presentation.

**Dr. Betsy Schenck**, Physician, Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, Retired from Denton Regional Medical Center, Emergency Department, Past President of the American Academy of Emergency Physicians. After 21 years of Emergency Medicine, I am currently practicing clinical medicine and travel medicine at the University of North Texas, Student Health and Wellness Center, Denton. Member of the Elm Fork Chapter of TMN, since 2006.

**Contact her at:**

[bschenck2@verison.net](mailto:bschenck2@verison.net)

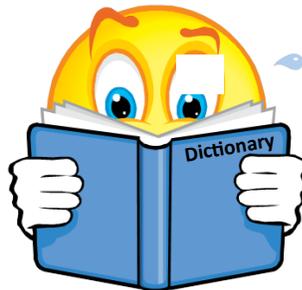


Logo was designed by Henri Dunant, 1863

*Seriously . . .*

— LAST

WORD —



“zyzzyva” a tropical American weevil



Snowy owl —  
public domain

Or could that be . . . .

Zzzzz...

If you would like a “last word”, please send  
to [wodum10043@reagan.com](mailto:wodum10043@reagan.com)

Texas Master Naturalist  
Elm Fork Chapter  
Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension  
Joseph A. Carroll Building  
401 W. Hickory Street  
Denton, TX 76201-9026

940-349-2883

*Education, Conservation,  
Preservation, Restoration*



Dale Meyer (class 2011) — Great blue heron

---

## WE'RE ON THE WEB

[www.txmn.org/elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)

---

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"*

### *Board of Directors*

PRESIDENT—Van Elliott

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—Susan Pohlen

VICE-PRESIDENT—Jan Deatherage

SECRETARY—Judi Elliott

TREASURER—Jeri Marold

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE—Open

MEMBER-at-LARGE—Martha Peet

#### COMMITTEES:

Communication: By committee

Projects: Susan Myers

Publicity: Open

Training: By committee

#### ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent

Kelly Lauderdale, TPWD

### 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 June 19, 2014 — Barney L. Lipscomb on poisonous plants

Meeting July 17, 2014—Fellow Master Naturalists Walt and Isabel Davis, on their book Exploring the Edges of 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 June 12, 2014. Next meeting July 10, 2014.

Board meetings are open to members.

*Don't forget to thank a Naturalist News contributor—after all it could be you! Thank you for contributing this month. Oh, what's that? You d-i-d-n'-t? Then, we look forward to your contribution next month...?*



## Collecting Milkweed Seeds

By Cathy Downs



Texas Milkweed  
(*Asclepias texana*)

Collecting and distributing milkweed seeds responsibly insures a healthy milkweed habitat population. There are also the additional benefits of opportunity for education and developing relationships with private landowners and communities.

Collect only your native or regional seedpods. Leave some pods in the area you are collecting to insure the plants continue to propagate and thrive in that area. A good rule of thumb is to take 1/3 and leave 2/3.

Positively identify the plant before collecting the pods. Milkweed seeds look alike in most species and are very difficult to identify by the seed alone. Mark the collecting container with your name, the date, species common name, species botanical name, and the location of the collection. For instance: Cathy Downs, 5/24/14, Antelope Horn (*Asclepias asperula*), Kendall County, Texas.

Collecting is usually done on private lands, public right of ways and roadsides. When collecting milkweed seeds on public right of ways and roadsides remember safety first! Park in an area where there is no chance of disrupting traffic or putting yourself in harms way. Do not collect in areas near or around development or private gate entrances without permission. Curious onlookers and officials may stop to discuss or inquire about this roadside activity. Take the opportunity and the time to explain politely what you are doing and why. You may even be joined by these curious folks in your efforts or directed to additional areas where they have spotted some of these treasures.

Private property collection always requires permission. As milkweed ambassadors we can not afford to alienate the private stewards of these habitats with any property infringement or trespassing issues on our part

All milkweeds will put out a pod of some sort. The shape and surface texture may vary but the pods will all look similar. The top three species of concern in Texas are listed below.



Antelope Horns  
(*Asclepias asperula*)



Green Milkweed  
(*Asclepias viridis*)



Hierbe de Zizotes  
(*Asclepias oenetheroides*)

When collecting pods be sure and have a dry cardboard box or paper bag to put the pods in. The milky sap is very sticky and fresh milkweed pods can mold very quickly. You can line the box with newspaper.



Do not pick a pod before it's time. The seeds will not ripen in the pod when taken from the stem of the plant too soon. The seeds should be dark in color. Green or pale seeds are not ripe and will not propagate. You can remove the pod with a scissor or snips. Be very careful not to get any of the milky sap in your eyes or on your skin. Wash your hands thoroughly and often when handling milkweed.

Never harvest a pod until you see the seam of the pod straining or beginning to split. Be sure the pod is free of all flies, milkweed beetles and other seed eating pests. The pod will usually darken with maturity turning to a dark bark or mahogany color. Watch the seam on the milkweed pod which will start out thin and difficult to see eventually widening and turning pale. On maturity the pod will begin to split.



Not ready



Not ready



Perfect picking



Easy pickings

If you have a surplus of seed in your collecting region you have several choices. You can share the seed with your local or regional communities and schools distributing out of your home or you can ship the seed out for redistribution to other areas of need. I get many requests from Texas gardeners, individuals, schools and first time Monarch habitats for regional seed. There are also non profit and for profit growers and nurseries looking for native milkweed seed. Monarch Watch accepts seed from all over the nation to propagate with their partner nursery and then offers the plugs for sale at cost. ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)).

We are beginning to see a market develop in the commercial nursery industry for native milkweeds. If distributing seed to a commercial enterprise it is imperative we distribute only to those growers who have a reputation for non systemic pesticide use. Native American Seed in Junction, TX ([www.seedsource.com](http://www.seedsource.com)) now includes a variety of milkweeds in their catalogs and conservation packets which include milkweed seeds.

Milkweed seed collection is by its nature a relaxing and enjoyable past time. If we take care to show responsible collecting, storage and distribution practices we are insuring at least a stability if not an increase in healthy Monarch, insect and pollinator habitats.

If you have any questions, additional suggestions or surplus seeds for distribution please feel free to contact me.

Cathy Downs

Chair—Bring Back the Monarchs of Texas

105 Feather Hill Road

Comfort, TX 78013

[mzdowns@hctc.net](mailto:mzdowns@hctc.net)

830-377-1632

