



Take notes

Meet your . . .

Projects Director—Susan Myers



Susan completed Master Naturalist training with the class of 2012 and hit the ground running. In addition to maintaining a home as a busy wife and mom, she has served as the Chapter Projects Director for the past two years. During that time she has implemented many unique ideas to organize and simplify this important position. She recently was recognized for 500 hours of volunteer service. Some of the duties of this position include reviewing, organizing, assigning codes and notifying Chapter members of approved Volunteer Service opportunities and projects; and may assist in managing project opportunities with the Chapter's TMN VMS.

Thank you, Susan.

Projects moving on—
hikes and art contest

This is a small homeschool group on a recent Saturday morning hike at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. They had asked for Master Naturalists to accompany them on an exploratory hike/walk to answer questions for the children. A good time was had by all!



Photos from Dorothy Thetford

Purple boots and a little touch of Halloween left over added to the fun.



Photo from Marilyn Blandon

Above Susan Pohlen is surrounded by small hikers with their moms.

As a function of MN Hikes Committee, Dave Rowley filled a recent Saturday with a hike with five Boy Scouts and 2 adults at Cross Timbers Park. Here they are on the trail and looking at the Lake at Lake Forest Park.



Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2015

We did it! The artwork, almost a thousand pictures, has been judged and the art exhibitions have begun. The paintings of Texas native plants by the fourth grade students from thirteen local elementary schools have already been featured at the Keep Denton Beautiful Appreciation Reception and are now on display at the Denton Senior Center. The exhibit will be there through November then be moved to the Blagg-Huey Library at TWU for December and January. The artwork will be displayed at the EESAT Building at UNT during February and at the three Denton public libraries in March. Other exhibit sites include the Good Samaritan Society -Denton Village and the Good Samaritan Society-Lake Forest. The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2015 will finish up next April with the Redbud Festival and an Appreciation Reception for the students and art teachers.



The students did a wonderful job creating their artwork and we had a wonderful time judging it! Thanks to everyone involved for your help and support.

Marilyn Blanton, Project Manager



Be On The Look Out - Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*

Information from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Scissor-tailed_Flycatcher/id

An elegant gray and salmon-pink flycatcher festooned with an absurdly long tail, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is the bird to look for on fence wires in the south-central United States. They typically perch in the open, where their long, forked tails make an unmistakable silhouette. The tail proves useful as they expertly catch insects on the wing with sharp midair twists and turns. In late summer and early fall, scissor-tails gather in large, bickering flocks to migrate to Mexico and Central America.

Cool Facts

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher forms large premigratory roosts in late summer, with up to 1,000 birds in one flock. They often roost near towns, perhaps taking advantage of the large trees as roosting sites.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher uses many human products in its nest, such as string, cloth, paper, carpet fuzz, and cigarette filters. One study of nests in an urban area in Texas found that artificial materials accounted for 30% of the weight of nests.

A member of the kingbird genus *Tyrannus*, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers resemble other kingbirds in behavior, voice, and morphology. Only one other *Tyrannus* species—the Fork-tailed Flycatcher—has a dramatically long tail.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers tend to wander widely on their way to and from the wintering grounds, a habit they share with Fork-tailed Flycatchers and Tropical Kingbirds. During spring and fall they may show up almost anywhere in North America, as far north as British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Habitat



Grassland

Food



Insects

Nesting



Tree

Behavior



Flycatching

Conservation



Least Concern