

## Projects on the Move

### Opportunity # P160211: PO : MN AgriLife Office - July Interaction Summary

Have you ever wondered what is done with the impact data you are asked to capture? Below is the July Interaction summary of the Ag Office Front Desk MN volunteers. Janet Laminack, our Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Agent, uses this info for her monthly report to the Denton County Commissioners and the State [TMN] uses it for grants and public outreach info to benefit their money needs and wants.

#### July VMS Report:

169 - Total interacts by 9 volunteers

109 - Female

60 - Male

94.5 - Total Volunteer hours

#### Kami's July Manual Report:

169 - Total interacts by 10 volunteers?

[The volunteer discrepancy is because one team member had not reported in VMS.]

109 - Female

60 - Male

Estimated 100 hours Total Volunteer Hours - Kami did not have total hours worked, but that is one of the benefits of VMS. [When the late reporting volunteer makes their entry, the total number should be close to 100 hours.]

A very nice outreach to the Denton County public.

#### Other good things in the works:

Janet Laminack has submitted a work request to get a Wi-Fi signal booster in the Ag Office so we can have better Internet access. It can be used for MN research, log hours into VMS and a variety of other good things.

If you have ideas about how we can use the desk time to be more productive or better support the Ag Office please email or call Project Manager, Van Elliott. [ [velliott2105@msn.com](mailto:velliott2105@msn.com) or phone 972-539-4350]. Example: Mike Danner saw a way to better make the public aware of our MN leadership and took it to the Board and Janet. He got approval from both and is working on the project now. Feel free to ask Mike about his great idea.

You are a great volunteer team! Thank you, **Big Time** for your contributions.

Report by: Van Elliott 08/10/16



## Feature Star from the Board—Meet Your Secretary Mary Morrow



**W**hat do I say about myself? When Wanda asked me, I said ‘OK’ but didn’t really have a clue. So I made the font really large and looked for the silliest picture I could find...the usual stuff is - I have a wonderful hubby, Bob, of 43 years, 2 sons - Justin and Ryan and 4 grandchildren, Maddux, Hudson, Wyatt and Ruby - all loves of my life.



I spent 27 years in the nether world, retiring from GEICO as Regional Sales Manager, have been a Master Gardener for 16 years, became a Citizen Forester in 2013 and joined EFCTMN in 2014.

We would all like to change the world, but I just want to change my neighbor’s attitudes! That has proven to be a real challenge. They just don’t want anything that doesn’t walk on two legs anywhere close. I try to learn all the good attributes of these critters that surround us and I let my neighbors know what amazing things they contribute, many times to deaf ears and disinterested looks.

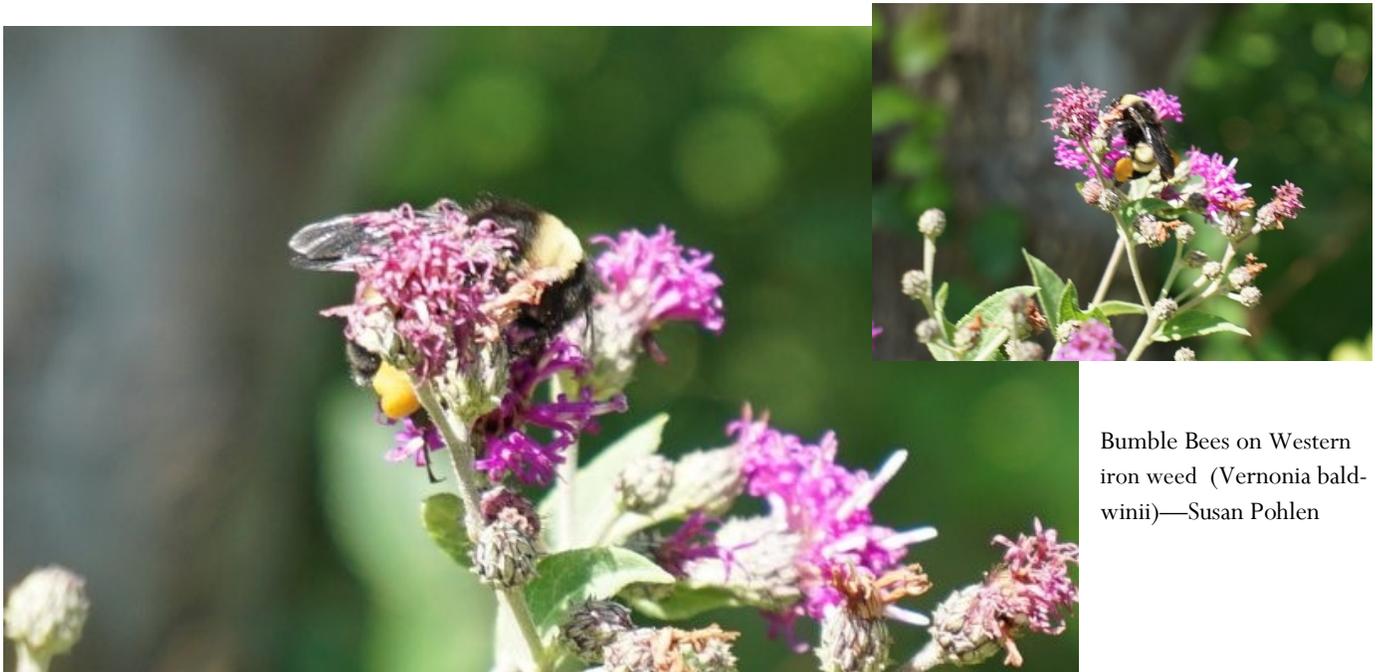
I have an acre of land and have made most of it into gardens and it is morphing into a wildlife wonderland. I was standing out in the street the other morning and heard the first bird of the day calling and it was coming from my backyard! That was such a thrill...I know my bullfrogs at night could keep a neighbor awake 3 houses down, but I think of it as a lullaby and soon I am nodding off to their melody. Then the next morning Arnie the Armadillo has made its way thru my gardens, or Molly the Mole has tunneled thru my lawn - but I know they are doing their job and keeping the bad bugs at bay! And silly looking Opal the opossum and her 3 babies are munching down on grasshoppers and helping themselves to fleas that would otherwise pester my sweet red lab, Gunther. Recently Gunther and I were skunked, but I was ecstatic that I grabbed my camera in time to snap a pic for iNaturalist before the stench got to me.



Before I run out of room, I just want you to know I love being a part of EFCTMN, as Secretary, I have been able to see first-hand what a great group of folks we have in our Chapter. I have learned so much and consider it a pleasure to work with an extremely talented group that loves to share everything they know about this wonderful world we live in and all the creatures we share it with!

## From the Album

Wild hyacinth—Jonathan Reynolds



Bumble Bees on Western iron weed (*Vernonia baldwinii*)—Susan Pohlen

## Luna Moth

From Rita Lokie

Information taken from [www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/luna\\_moth.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/luna_moth.htm)

**L**una Moths are members of the Saturniidae family, also known as the “Giant Silkworm Moths.”

Luna Moths are huge moths, with a wingspan of four and a half inches. They have a white body, pinkish legs and huge pale green wings. The hindwings have eyespot and long tails.

They fly only at night, in Spring and early Summer.

The female Luna Moth lays eggs on the bottom of Black Walnut leaves. She lays about 200 eggs in small groups.

You can tell a male from a female, because males have larger, bushier antennae.

Once the eggs are laid, it takes about 10 days for them to hatch. Caterpillars begin eating as soon as they leave the egg. The caterpillar eats leaves from many different trees and shrubs, including: Sweet gum, American Beech, Red Maple, hickories, White Oak, Black Cherry, willows, American Chestnut and Smooth Sumac. The caterpillars will continue to eat and grow, molting their skins as they grow. They will do this five times over a period of three to four weeks.

When the caterpillar is fully grown, it will be 2 ½ inches long and ready to become a pupa. It will spin silk from near its mouth and wrap itself in a leaf. The caterpillar will usually stay in the cocoon for two to three weeks. If it is near winter, the caterpillar will wait until Spring to hatch.

When the adult Luna Moth leaves its cocoon, it is not ready to fly. Its wings are short and stumpy and the insect needs to rest. It usually hatches in mid-morning and climbs a tree trunk to hang its wings, so they can fill with blood. Once the wings are inflated, the adult moth will wait until nightfall to fly off to find a mate.

Adult Luna Moths do not eat; in fact they don't even have a mouth. They only live for about a week, and their only purpose is to mate.

Female Luna Moths release a chemical at night which attracts males. Adults die shortly after mating or laying eggs. Usually two generations are born each year (that means that moths that spent the winter in a cocoon will hatch, mate, and lay eggs; then their children will hatch, mate, and lay eggs which will hatch and make the cocoons for the Winter).

Luna Moths were once very common, but are now considered an endangered species in some areas.



Luna moth photo sent to Rita Lokie by friend Rhonda Rathje that she took in Benton, AR encouraged Rita to write about it. Kudos to her friend (and Rita, of course)!