



Trail Guide Training Workshop Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

This workshop is for volunteers who are interested in leading hikes and educational programs at LLELA. For Texas Master Naturalists, this counts as 5 hours of advanced training. Fee: \$10/person (includes your admission to LLELA).

- 9:00—9:20 am: Introduction to LLELA
- 9:20—11:00 am: Introduction to nature interpretation and theme writing
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm: Cicada Trail interpretative hike (demonstration)
- 12:00—12:30 pm: Lunch (bring a sack lunch and drink)
- 12:30—2:30 pm: Blackjack Trail interpretative hike (demonstration)
- 2:30—3:00 pm: Trail Guide Handbook, volunteer paperwork

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Lisa Cole at 469-635-5481 or icole@cityoflewisville.com



Volunteer Opportunity

Dear Master Naturalists:

It is almost spring (Yeah!) and Ray Roberts state park is starting to get lots of visitors!

As you may know there is an **Interpretive Center at the Isle du Bois Unit at Ray Roberts state park.**

The Elm Fork Master Naturalists from our chapter staff the Center on Saturdays from 10: to 4:00 and Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 during the fall and spring months.

We work with the park interpreter Rick Torres. The duties are just mainly keeping it open for visitors and describing the trails and wildlife at the park. Not a hard job but enjoyable just to be at the park. You would be surprised at the number of people that have never been to a state park before.

Also this year under the direction of Marion Kester we are attempting to start a Monarch garden with milk weed plants right next to the interpretive center. Working at the interpretive center gives an opportunity to keep the milk weed plants watered on the weekends.

This counts as service hours and any training counts as advanced training hours.

If you would like to help and have not worked at the Interpretive Center before, we could set up a brief training.

Thanks in advance. Just email me if you are interested.

Contact Chuck for current schedule with open times.

Thanks

Chuck Thetford
[940 765 1418](tel:9407651418) cell
[940 365 0715](tel:9403650715) home
[940 898 3658](tel:9408983658) work



TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW - LUBBOCK/TAHOKA - APRIL 22-24, 2016

We are very pleased to announce that we are now taking registrations for our upcoming Texas Pollinator PowWow at the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and at nearby Tahoka Lake Pasture. We're really pleased to be in the Panhandle for this conference, and it's been deeply gratifying to learn of the growing groundswell of interest in pollinators and agricultural practices supporting conservation in this area.



<http://www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org/lubbocktahoka-april-22-24-2016.html> Space is limited to 250. PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 12. If we are not sold out by that date, you may register at the door, but your lunch will NOT be included.

The Lubbock/Tahoka PowWow has two dozen speakers and field trip leaders, two Native Bee ID workshops, two Milkweed Propagation workshops, and two dozen exhibitors. And one very awesome field trip! The Lubbock/Tahoka pollinator conference focus will be on native bees. Due to space limitations in the Sculpture Court, we regrettably will not have a raffle this time. However, the Texas Pollinator PowWow has attained our 501c3 status, and alternatively there is an entry on the registration page if you wish to make a donation to our mission directly. We thank you heartily!

The Native Bee ID workshops will be taught by some of the finest "bee guys" in the country: Dr. Scott Longing, Sam Droege, Dr. Jack Neff and Dr. Shalene Jha. The Native Bee ID workshop (I) on Friday the 22nd will have the following content:

Tips and Tricks for Bee Collecting and Processing; Labeling and Curating Bees; Bee ID Manuals; Online Resources and working with others for ID; Observing Bees in Nature Using Binoculars and Cameras; Major Bee Groups and their General Morphology - This class is for advanced beginners. You may register for ONLY ONE Bee ID class, so please choose carefully according to your level of expertise. You MUST be registered for Friday's conference before signing up for this particular class. There's a limit of 35, first-come, first-served.

The Native Bee ID workshop (II) for Saturday the 23rd will be strictly for those who have had at least some experience with bee collections and identifications. There will be native bee specimens available in the class, but it is strongly encouraged that you bring your "unidentifiable own" as the instructors are really excited to see what you might be finding 'out there', and where. :-) You MUST be registered for Saturday's conference in order to sign up for this class. This class is for BEE TAXONOMY ONLY. There will be no general instruction. If you register for this workshop, you may NOT be registered also for Bee ID Workshop I. Class limit is 35, first-come, first-served. Please do not be intimidated by this class. It is good practice. Bee after bee, individual microscopes and work stations, with one-on-one instruction from the "bee guys" and the TTU entomology grad students... for three hours... :-) Got-ta love it, right?

If you do not register in time for either of these workshops, please do not despair! Sam Droege, USGS, will be instructing the entire conference about native bees, and taking questions, for 90 minutes at the end of the day on Friday, April 22nd. Please see the agenda.

Concurrent with those workshops will be two Milkweed Propagation workshops with these fine instructors: Dr. Karen Clary and staff, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Dr. Cynthia McKenney and staff, TTU Plant and Soil Science Lab, and Barbara Willy, Monarch Gateway. We particularly want to thank Dr. McKenney for her kindness and generosity in being willing to share her greenhouses, supplies and very fine horticulturists for the sessions. Due to space limitations, there is a limit of 35 spaces available for each workshop.

 The MW workshops will both have the same content. Choose one only, and you must be registered at the conference for that particular day. It will be hands-on, so plan on dirt therapy :-). Bring a notebook and writing instrument. You will learn vernalization and stratification techniques, and the sowing depth of a variety of native milkweeds. There will also be instruction about a similar variety of native nectar plants from the salvia genus. You will have lots of opportunity to ask advanced practical horticultural questions concerning milkweed of these fine women and their capable staff. All milkweed seed is donated by Monarch Gateway, is identified by their GIS collection points and Web Soil Survey ecotypes, and will be returned to public projects in those specific areas or used similarly by donation to the LBJWC and TTU. So, no take-homes for us, but plenty of practice, and your gift to our pollinators state-wide. :-)

On Sunday, April 24th, there is an optional field trip (for conference attendees only) thirty minutes southeast of Lubbock at Tahoka Lake. This is a privately-owned, never-plowed, native shortgrass prairie and playa lake that is governed by a 501c3. The terrain is diverse. We will be divided into small groups led by teams of entomologists/botanists/wildlife biologists, and the purpose is to bring together all you have learned about the plant/pollinator relationships and their ecosystems. Identification and collection will be the primary focus. That said, many of you have other interests. Please feel free to indulge them. Bring your equipment, and use it: plant presses, insect collection



equipment, optics, camera equipment, aquatic ecology and geology implements, etc.. This prairie is also a primary breeding ground for the snowy plover, and it will be the tail end of migration season for many other birds that either nest here or are heading elsewhere. DRESS ACCORDINGLY for the weather, the lake edge, seeps, rocky inclines and declines, etc. There are bathrooms at the entrance, but be prepared for anything as we'll be out on the land for about five hours. Pack it in, pack it out, tread lightly. :-)

Also, the president of the Tahoka Lake 501c3, Mrs. Clyde May, will greet us, and two of her board members, Dr. Warren Conway/TTU and Manuel De Leon/NRCS, will be guiding us. Donations to their continued efforts to save this prime prairie in perpetuity from commercial or agricultural development would be most welcome and gratefully received should you wish to address them on that subject.

If you have questions, most them are probably answered with a careful reading of the website. Pay close attention to all of the dropdowns, particularly the registration page. We have rooms blocked at the special government rate of 89.00 per night/per room at the Overton Hotel, and the link is on the website. The Overton is three minutes from the Museum of Texas Tech.

As is usual with us thus far, the PowWow does not have a marketing budget, so we would be most grateful if you would forward this information to any groups, associations, institutions, chapters or individuals that you think might be interested. Keep tabs of our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/texaspollinatorpowwow/> and the website conference pages for any updates. There will be one or two changes with speakers as we get additional information and fill in the gaps.

We would like to especially point out, with deepest gratitude, that our speakers, trip leaders and workshop leaders have generously donated their time and efforts to you all in the interest of increasing your knowledge and confidence level about pollinator ecology and conservation, and assisting in your own networking efforts in these areas. When you see them at the PowWow, please freely express your heartfelt appreciation to them for their outstanding personal efforts, and give them your support in their own life's work.

Thank you so very, very much for your continuing engagement with pollinator conservation and their habitats and the Texas Pollinator PowWow's mission, and if we don't see you at this one, we hope to see you at the next.



Warm regards,
Carrie

Carrie McLaughlin
TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW, Coordinator
<https://www.facebook.com/texaspollinatorpowwow/>
<http://www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org/>
carrie.mclaughlin58@gmail.com
[682-459-1684](tel:682-459-1684)



THEY'RE COMING! THEY'RE COMING!

From Becky Bertoni

The official population estimates of the monarchs in Mexico have been released and the news is...INCREDIBLE!



The population has increased nearly four times from last year...from 2.8 acres of occupied forest to TEN!

An increased population combined with an increased milkweed supply from restoration projects and home gardening means this could be the most amazing monarch season we've had in years.

So, if you've been wondering where all the monarchs are the past few seasons, this could be the season your gardening efforts finally pay off.

If you haven't gotten milkweed seeds started yet, there's still time for refrigerator stratification and starting seeds indoors.

And for those who have no patience for seeds, research local nurseries, [online resources](#), and spring plant sales to see where you can purchase milkweed plants.

Milkweed Seeds Indoors UPDATE

Yesterday, we planted all our annual milkweed seeds indoors, and with some added heat, they should start sprouting up by Monday...

Heating Your Milkweed Seeds for Fast Germination



I will update you with results next week.

Spring Planting Milkweed

The last milkweed propagation technique for the 2016 season will be direct sowing in spring. This puts your plants a little behind compared to the other techniques, but it's a good option for perennials.

If you want some seedlings to entice late season egg layers, you can plant some warm weather varieties, too. Here are:

7 Spring Planting Secrets for Growing More Milkweed...for Magnificent Monarchs!

Now go forth and spread the joyous news: More monarchs are Coming! More Monarchs are Coming!

Tony Your Butterfly Guide 9641
Garfield Ave South
#201352
Minneapolis MN 55420

