

Feature Star from the Board—Meet Your Chapter Advisor, Janet Laminack

I've been the advisor from the AgriLife Extension side since I started in Denton County in the fall of 2008. My perspective on my role as advisor is to help clear the way for making volunteering as easy and fun as it can be and to serve as a resource clearinghouse to connect the Master Naturalists to the community and vice versa.

As the county extension agent in horticulture, I certainly don't know all the "-ologies" that MNs do, but I enjoy being a part of your world and experiencing it as much as possible. The opportunity to always learn and to interact with so many interesting people are two of the most rewarding parts of my job.

I'm a native Texan who was born on the coast, lived in east Texas, west Texas and now north Texas. After getting my degree from Aggeland, I worked at Denver Botanic Gardens as a horticultural therapist for several

years. I loved being in Colorado and exploring the southwest. I returned to Texas and became a county agent in Abilene for a couple of years. Then, I decided to pursue a childhood dream of joining the Peace Corps and I served two years in Ecuador. (And yes, I did go visit the Galapagos!) After that, I came to Denton and feel like I've found my home.

To wrap up, I appreciate your efforts in the community and for the county. I appreciate all you do for AgriLife Extension. Thank you for giving of your time and skills in service. You make the world a better place. If I can help you, please don't hesitate to give me a call, send me an email or stop by.

incognito Janet



Real Janet

Clark Haven Farm Advanced Training Field Trip October 6, 2016

By Rita Lokie, Brenda Maston, and Sharon Clark

Elm Fork Master Naturalists visited Carol Clark's Haven Farm in Callisburg, Texas. Seventeen members and one guest attended. Please see list of participants below. This was a real naturalist tour! Mid-calf to knee-high grasses, no pathways, fire ants, spiders, etc. Not to mention various pollinators and the wonderful assortment of native grasses and forbs. The weather was fabulous and most of the participants were comfortable wearing long pants and other protective gear.

The real treat and an excellent example of a citizen scientist was the Advanced Training hostess – Carol Clark. As we toured her property, Carol provided both the common and genus/species name for every plant on her farm and could answer our questions about each plant. She also discussed the lay of the land and the impact it had on various plantings. The fieldtrip lasted for a very productive and interesting two hours.

There were several highlights. Carol thinks that one of her trees is an Indian Marker tree and is making arrangements to confirm the status. Also, the Haven Farm has a great variety of bluestem grasses and seeing them was most educational. The variety of forbs growing in amidst of a native grasses was most enjoyable. See incomplete list of observations below.

Much appreciation to Carol for sharing her time, knowledge and hospitality.

Participants: Nadine Beall, Toni Benjamin, Becky Bertoni, Sharon Clark, Mary Curry, Jeanne Erickson, Dave Ford, Janice Goetz (class of 2016), Jan Hodson, Ray Kreutzfeld, Margaret Lange, Rita Lokie, Shirley Lusk, Sharon McAuley (class of 2016), Brenda Maston, Martha Peet, Susan Pohlen, and Dwayne Coats (guest).

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) web site offers a plant data with thorough monographs (with photos) for any of the plants noted above. www.plants.usda.gov.

Possible Indian Marker Tree Left to right:
a friend of Carol's, Rita Lokie, Jean Erickson, Dave Ford, Carol Clark



Left to right: Ray Kreutzfeld, Rita Lokie, Nadine Beall, and Janice Goetz



Indian Grass and a studious
Dave Ford



Left to right: Carol Clark, Margaret Lange,
Jan Hodson, Dwyane Coats (guest)

Grasses (Family Poaceae) Observed (not a complete list):

- Southwestern Bristle Grass *Setaria genus*
- Broom Sedge Bluestem *Andropogon virginus*
- Kings Ranch Bluestem *Bothriochloa ischaemum*
- Little Bluestem is *Schizachyrium scoparium*. (One of our most important native grasses. One of the big four tall grass prairie species.)
- Silver Bluestem *Bothriochloa laguroides*
- Split Beard Bluestem *Anropogon ternarius*
- Florida Pascalum *Paspalum floridanum*
- Switchgrass *Panicum virgatum*
- Long Stem Triden *Tridens strictus*
- Purpletop Tridens *Tridens flavus*
- (Yellow) Indian Grass *Sorghastrum nutans* (State grass of Oklahoma and one of the dominants in the original tall prairie grasses)



Jumping spider *Salticidae*

Forbes Observed (not a complete list):

- Texas Vervain *Verbena halei*
- Ground Cherry is genus *Physolis*
- Shiny Goldenrod is *Solidago nitida*
- Lateflowering Boneset *Eupatorium serotinum* or
- Shrubby Boneset which *Ageratina havanensis*
- Maximillian Sunflower *Helianthus maximilliani*
- Camphor Weed (Camphor Daisy) *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (aster family)
- Liatris *Liatris* genus
- Erect Dayflower (widow's tears) *Commelina erecta*
- Green Milkweed *Ascleias viridis*
- Hypericum
- Wooly Croton *Croton capitatus*
- Partridge Pea *Chanaecrista fasciculate*
- Fall aster *Symphyotrichum ericoides* or
- Purple Aster (Fall) Fall Aster *Symphyotrichum oblongifoliu*
- Sneeze Weed *Helian themum*.
- Sawtooth Sunflower *Helianthus grosseserratus*



Bristle Grass *Setaria*



Lady
Trusses
Orchid
Spiranthes



Asters *Aphanostephus
ericoides*

Ground cherry *Physalis*

Split Beard Bluestem
Anropogon ternarius



Broom Sedge Bluestem *Andropogo virginicus*



Left to Right: Carol
Clark, David Ford

Alleged Indian Marker Tree