

Vol 20 Issue 4

April 2019

Naturalist News

Rufous Hummingbird with Indian Paintbrush



[flickr.com/photos/studebakerbirds/5988524120](https://www.flickr.com/photos/studebakerbirds/5988524120)
Photographer Matthew Studebaker



Vol 20 Issue 4

April 2019

Naturalist News

On Facebook:
www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/

On the web:
www.txmnl.org/elmfork



Special Points of Interest

- **What's happening**
- Many AT opportunities
- Read a good book
- Making a new plant discovery
- Remembering our rivers

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Taking a stroll through the Greenbelt
—photo from Jonathan Reynolds



Recap March Meeting

President Adelaide Bodner presents token of appreciation to March meeting presenter Gene Stalzer who spoke on “Building a Healthy Habitat”.

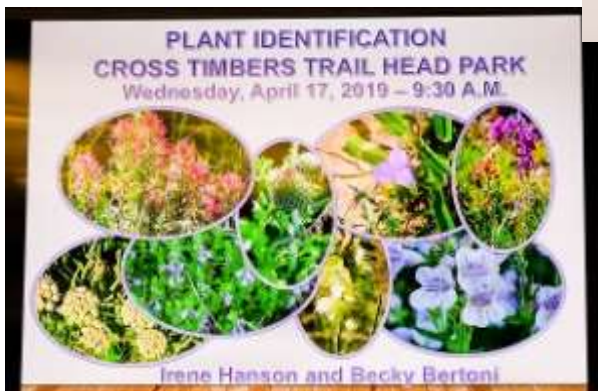


FLOWER MOUND WILDLIFE		
Adult Classes		
Month/Date	Class	Presenter
03-Apr	Living with Local Wildlife	Maryn Stephens, 911 Wildlife
8-May	Wildlife Photography	Denver Kramer, Texas Master Naturalist
13-May	Wildlife Photography Training Hike	Denver Kramer, Texas Master Naturalist
28-Jun	How to Help Pollinators	Arnet Gerchenfeld, Texas Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist
23-Jul	Pollinator Gardening at Green Juves	Becky Bertoni, Texas Master Naturalist
17-Sep	How to Help Caves! Mound Wildlife	Dorcas Hammer, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator
28-Oct	Bird Washing Hike	Scott Foster, Master Birder, Texas Master Naturalist
14-Aug	Protecting Water Quality and Habitat	Salee Aldridge, Denton County Greenbelt Plan

There were various announcements and displays of interest at the meeting. All photos on this and the following page are by Denise Remfert.



FLOWER MOUND WILDLIFE		
Adult Classes		
Month	Class	Presenter
September	Bird Migration	Scott Foster, Master Birder, Texas Master Naturalist
October	The Impact of Climate Change on North Texas	Dr. Michael Statters, Professor and Chair, Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies, UT
November	Create a Backyard Wildlife Habitat	TBD



Recap March Meeting

Awards were presented as follows:

Initial Certifications

Barbara Beane, Sharon Betty, Caroline Finley, Lisa Rosenberg, Debra Rucker, Joan Springer, Tim Trosper

Recertifications

Gale Bacon, Jerry Betty, Michele Rawleigh, Russell Tyson, Mary Cissell, Linda Cox, Hilton Dickerson, Scott Kiester, Barbara Kraus, Jean Mason, Tom Mills, Mary Morrow, Francine Witte, Susan Yost

250 Hour Milestone

Barbara Kraus, Jean Mason, James Terry

500 Hour Milestones

Kathy Webb, Norma Wilkerson, Susan Yost

2000 Hour Milestone

Mary Cissell, Karen Mangum

2500 Hour Milestone

Carl Patrick

3500 Hour Milestone

Richard Merrill

5000 Hour Milestone

Judi Elliott



Initial Certifications group

Recertification group



Kathy & Sue



Carl



Barbara, James & Jean



Mary

Richard (Vin)



Jan Deatheridge accepts Volunteer of the Year award from President Adelaide (Jan was absent from Annual Awards Presentations)

What's Coming Next

From Rita Lokie

Meeting at Carroll Courts Building



Revised April Speaker 2019

Chelsea Burnett from Texas Storm Chasers will present Severe Weather Awareness & Storm Chasing at the April Chapter meeting. She will cover three basic areas of weather: lightning, tornadoes and flooding. She will focus on the safety precautions before, during and after severe weather events. In addition myths surrounding weather will be debunked and replaced with the most up-to-date facts. Several video clips of Texas Storm Chasers past chase experiences will be shown.

"An avid weather junkie since toddlerhood, Chelsea Burnett grew up in Oklahoma and relocated to Texas 12 years ago. Her chase career has been slowly evolving since early 2011, when she met David Reimer (owner of TSC) and Jenny Brown (fellow TSC member) after attending a local storm chaser conference. She holds a ham-radio license and is certified through the Skywarn Storm Spotter program, with a few University of Oklahoma School of Meteorology program semesters under her belt. She enjoys hitting the open road for travel to area state and national parks in her spare time, as well as expressing her passion for photography through lifestyle outdoor family sessions in the DFW area. She enjoys chasing storms at every opportunity, especially alongside boyfriend Adam Lucio, owner of Illinois Storm Chasers. Chelsea resides just down the street from Jenny with her young son Marshall in the Lake Lewisville area."



Bluebonnets set the tone for spring—photos from Dorothy Thetford

Texas Master Naturalist Turns 20

From Mary Morrow



Texas Master Naturalist Turns 20

Elm Fork Chapter

ETCTMN DIRECTORY 2003-2004

ABIGAIL MILLER - 2003

BETTY ZAJAC - 2003

JAN FRICK THOMPSON - 2003

SCOTT KJESTER - 2003

BOB JAMES - 2003

LEEANN WEAVER - 2004

CHERYL KESTERSON - 2005

1999 - 2019
CJ SOLBERG - 2005

JANET GERSHENTFELD - 2005

JUDY GUTHRIE - 2005

LINDA COX - 2005

MARILYN TURNAGE - 2005

ROB ROY - 2005

SHERRILL CAMPBELL - 2005

THERESA PAGE - 2005

WANDA ODUM - 2005

Stay tune for March's Chapter Meeting highlighting 2003-2005

Texas Master Naturalist Turns 20

ELM FORK MEMORY – CROSSTIMBERS PARK LOTUS – 2004

In 2003 the City of Denton Parks Department contacted me to take on a project to plant aquatic plants in the pond at Crosstimbers Park. This was a brand new subdivision in South Denton with new houses with new lawns that were being aggressively fertilized and all the run off ran into the pond. The area was the old Ryan Ranch and the stock pond was the most visible feature of the new park. We took on the project and planted a variety of native aquatic plants. The current MN's that were involved, as I recall, were Dave Ford, Marilyn Blanton, Dorothy Thetford and myself. Amongst the plants we planted was a lonely, sickly looking American Lotus. It apparently loved the run-off fertilizer and one year later this is what the pond looked like!



I had to apologize to the City and offered to attempt to eliminate the problem. On clean up day, Dave Ford and I showed up in our chest high waders and Tina Litherland showed up in her bathing suit and waded right in to rip out the Lotus. Needless to say, it was a losing cause and in the end the city gave up and used herbicide. Tina is another story, she was always going all out on one project or another and passed away in 2006. In her memory is the Tina bench at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center.

One of my many memories in my 19 years in the Elm Fork Chapter.

Dave Rowley
Class of 2000

Texas Master Naturalist Turns 20



Tina Litherland's bench at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center gets a facelift from Jonathan Reynolds and Dave Rowley. Tina was mentioned in the previous article and this bench was dedicated to her memory after her death. She liked nothing better than sitting quietly at this spot and watching the flow of the water making its passage downstream.

Photos courtesy Susan Pohlen



Projects In and Around the Community

Swift Tower

From Van Elliott

Chimney Swift Tower: EFC Master Naturalists built it, stored it, hauled it, helped erect it and hung the sign.... end of story... now it's up to swifts!



Dave Rowley puts final touches



And what a great story it is!

Projects In and Around the Community

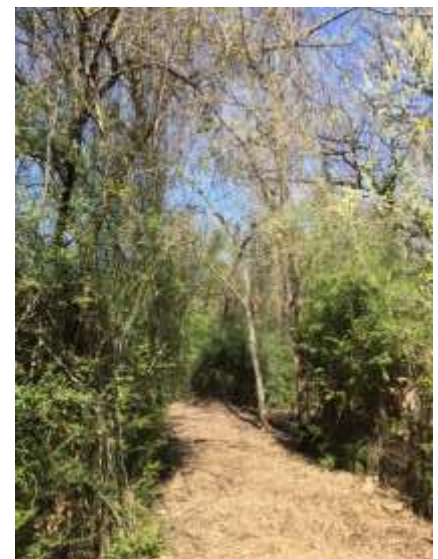
From Robert McLaughlin, vice-president & project coordinator



New Opportunities for Birders!

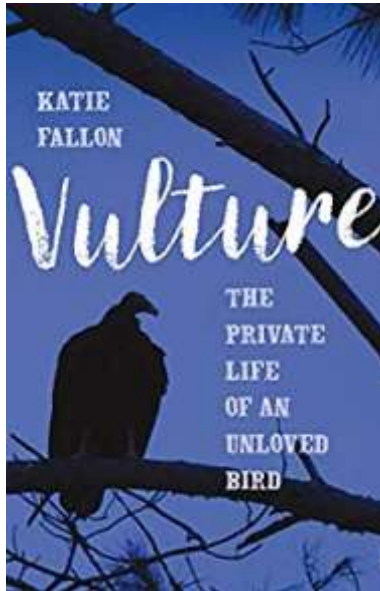
Two new project sites are awaiting our Elm Fork Chapter birders! The Elm Fork Nature Preserve (Project 190315) in Carrollton located in McNish Sports Complex on 2335 Sandy Lake Road (about 1 mile west of I-35E) and the Farmers Branch Historical Park (Project 190314) at 2540 Farmers Branch Lane are new projects that will be led by Steve Romaine (Class of 2018). The Farmers Branch Historical Park is a 27-acre site adjacent to Farmers Branch Creek. Over 54 species of birds have been observed here.

The Elm Fork Nature Preserve is a 40-acre site that was donated to the City in 1986. Records indicate that this land has never been clear-cut. Approximately one mile of bark-mulched trails makes hiking easy and restroom facilities are nearby. A large pond is also found on the east side of the property. More than 70 species of birds have been recorded in the preserve. Contact Steve regarding bird-walks and species count efforts. Get out your field guides and bring your binoculars!



How Long Has It Been Since a Good Book Caught Your Eye?

Betty Zajac makes this recommendation:



Vulture

The Private Life of an Unloved Bird

By Katie Fallon

Can be found at “Good Reads” and “Amazon”

Opportunities

AT

May 4, 2019



Monarch Waystations for North Texas

May 4, 2019

Denton Clear Creek Heritage Center

3310 Collins Road

Denton, TX 76201

Monarch Waystations for North Texas covers the amazing story of the Monarch Butterfly lifecycle and migration, clarifies some common misconceptions about Monarchs, explains historic and current threats to Monarch populations, and why Texas is a pivotal location for Monarchs’ future success.

The program also covers real steps North Texas residents can take to help bolster the Monarch population, and what to plant to feed Monarchs. Free packets of local native Milkweed seeds, and plant lists for North Texas will be available. This class will be taught by Carol Clark.

Carol Clark is an amateur botany enthusiast, a Texas Master Naturalist, and longtime member of the Native Plant Society of Texas, and is now a Conservation Specialist with Monarch Watch. She also co-administrates the Texas Native Bee Co-op Facebook page for Texas Parks and Wildlife. She and her husband own and operate Clark Haven Farm, a wildlife preserve and custom wildflower seed business in Cooke County. Carol grew up with a nature photographer father and wildlife artist brother, and has spent much of her life looking around and learning in the great outdoors. Her favorite things to do are leading discovery walks in local natural areas, and finding and photographing interesting plants and insects.

Opportunities

AT listed so far during April and May:

April 10 – Urban Wildlife: Do's & Don'ts

April 12 – Monarch Workshop, Train the Trainer

April 13 – Itchy Business

April 17 – Plant Identification at Cross Timbers Trailhead Park

May 4 – Monarch Way Stations at Clear Creek with Carol Clark

May 8 – Wildlife Photography

May 11 – Wildlife Photography Hike

May 29-30 – WET and WILD Summer Camp for Educators

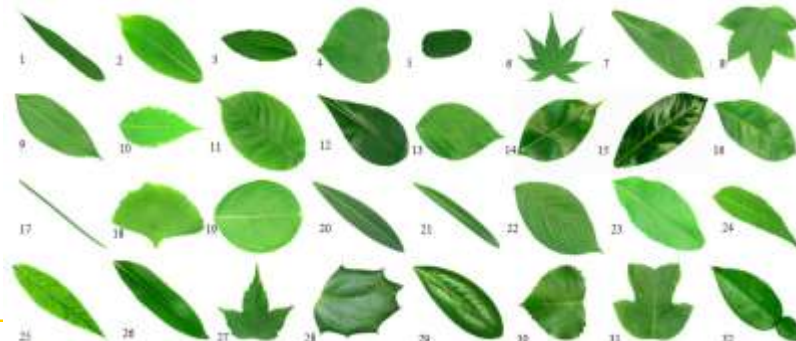
AT PLANT IDENTIFICATION AT CROSS TIMBERS TRAIL HEAD PARK

Irene Hanson and Becky Bertoni will lead a plant walk at Trailhead City Park on April 17, 2019. **The Park address is Dunham Road, Roanoke, Texas 76262.**

The Park is an undisturbed piece of land with native plants. **Attendees will meet at the Trail head parking lot at 9:00 am on Wednesday April 17, 2019.** The trail is not paved and hilly with a few steep inclines. The walk will be approximately 1.5 hours of AT.

In order to see and identify the plants the attendance will be limited to **15 participants**. A sign up sheet is in the back of the room.

Directions: From Denton: Take 377 South past the Denton County Southwest Court House in Canyon Falls and Cross Timbers Road (1171). Approximately .2 of a mile past 1171 turn left on Dunham Road. Follow Dunham Road for 1.4 miles till you reach the Park Parking Lot.



Opportunities

From Diane Wetherbee

The Flower Mound Prairie Master Naturalist Tour Thursday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.



Location: 2450 Flower Mound Rd, Flower Mound, TX 75028

Parking is available in the old Tom Thumb parking lot, located to the west of The Mound, at the corner of Long Prairie Road and Flower Mound Road.

Approved for AT, with an optional service opportunity.

You've heard about The Flower Mound, namesake of the town, and you may even have driven by it. But have you stopped to visit this remnant native prairie, a piece of the most endangered ecosystem we have?

Join us for a tour of The Flower Mound and hear about what makes it special. You'll learn about the challenges of maintaining an urban prairie surrounded by houses, retail areas, and a major arterial road. We'll look for native grasses and wildflowers, which should be at their springtime peak. And we'll trek to the top of the 60' Mound, where we can gaze over what used to be North Texas prairie land. We can even see downtown Dallas!

For those who want to help, after the tour we will have a short work day helping to remove some of the invasive plants from the prairie.

To gain some background knowledge before the tour, take a look at this 17-minute documentary about The Flower Mound. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTFOldTzaM&t=>

RSVP to Diane Wetherbee, dwether1@gmail.com, so she will know how many to expect and to notify you in case of inclement weather.

Opportunities

From Robert McLaughlin

Dear Water Community Stakeholder,

I am an environmental philosophy Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Texas. My dissertation research focuses on water quantity and quality issues in North Central Texas (NCT). I am most interested in identifying ways to effectively engage the community to promote changes in perception and attitude that may motivate sustainable behavior regarding local water resources. Your views and the views of other water community stakeholders in NCT regarding community engagement are crucial to guide my research.

I am working with a team of water resource professionals to conduct a study to identify barriers and potential solutions to effectively engage community stakeholders in water issues in North Central Texas. Your participation in this study is very important. You are a valued community stakeholder in North Central Texas and we would like to invite you to share your views on community engagement regarding water issues to better inform our research study efforts.

Before agreeing to participate in this research study, it is important that you read and understand the attached Informed Consent Notice that explains the purpose, benefits, and risks of the study and how it will be conducted. If you agree to participate in this research study, please click on the following electronic survey link https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1AB4m3FOm0dUFvf. You will be asked to indicate your decision whether or not to participate in this study by selecting the appropriate response choice provided at the end of the Informed Consent Notice document in the first section of the online survey.

The survey includes one open-ended and six rank-order questions regarding your experience with community engagement related to water issues in North Central Texas. Additionally, the survey includes six general demographic questions. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Your participation in this research study is confidential. The records for this study will be kept private and stored securely. Only research personnel will have access to the records. The confidentiality of your individual information will be maintained in any publications or presentations regarding this study. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree possible given the technology and practices used by the online survey company being utilized for this study. Your participation in **this online survey involves risks to confidentiality similar to a person's everyday use of the internet.**

To ensure the integrity of this research study, it is being supervised by Dr. Adam Briggie, Associate Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas. Dr. Briggie holds a Ph.D. degree in environmental studies from the University of Colorado. If you have any questions, I or Dr. Briggie would be happy to answer them. Our e-mail addresses are Teresa.Moss@unt.edu and Adam.Briggie@unt.edu.

Sincerely,

Teresa Moss
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Philosophy and Religion
University of North Texas

Opportunities

From Sue Yost

You Are Invited **To A** **Baby Shower!** **Benefitting Rogers Wild Life Rehabilitation**

April 18 @ the monthly meeting
It's baby season for local rehabbers and supplies are drained quickly.

- | | |
|--|---|
| New 100-U insulin syringes | Broom & mop |
| Unused syringes & needles | Shovels, rakes, hoes |
| Asthma type nebulizer | Pine shavings |
| Play sand | Electric box fans |
| Heating pads WITHOUT auto shut off | Red heat lamps & bulbs |
| Paper Towels | Extension cords |
| Kleenex | AA, AAA, D-cell batteries |
| Puppy pads | High efficiency laundry detergent |
| Dawn dishwashing soap | Bleach |
| Science Diet feline maintenance light dry cat food | Cash donations excepted [they use to will buy live mealworms, fish and frozen mice] |

With our help, they can provide food, medical care and safe housing for thousands of sick, injured and orphaned birds. On average it costs RWRC \$740 per day, that's just over \$22,000 a month! RWRC is run entirely on private donations, no local, state or federal help.

"Baby Gifts" will be collected at the meeting.
Sue Yost will then deliver them to Rogers Wild Life in Hutchins, TX.
[She has a lot of room in her car!]



Come on Elm Fork Master Naturalist.....Let's DO THIS!!

Tracy McCleaf: Hello Everyone!

Please join us for our April webinar:

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 23rd at 2PM EDT (1pm Central, 12pm Mountain, 11am Pacific)

Webinar Title: Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program: Tools for Researchers, Conservation Professionals, and Citizen Scientists

Description: Laura Lukens and Jennifer Thieme from the Monarch Joint Venture will discuss the goals, structure, and uses of the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP). The IMMP is a national initiative to capture information about both monarchs and their habitats across geographies and land use types. Data will be used to update population and habitat models, as well as inform how habitat conservation efforts may influence population and habitat dynamics. Viewers will learn how researchers, conservation professionals, and citizen scientists can use the IMMP to meet their own objectives and information needs.

Presenters:

- Laura Lukens, Monarch Joint Venture National Monitoring Coordinator
- Jennifer Thieme, Monarch Joint Venture Regional Monitoring Coordinator

Register: <https://goo.gl/forms/zqsXqXqbYuSEuAM32>

Opportunities

Shirley Lusk Memorial Day 2019

The Trinity Forks Chapter NPSOT honors our beloved friend and mentor after losing her in 2017. Join us for the 3rd annual Shirley Lusk Memorial Day to celebrate her legacy and wildflowers she loved on May 16th, Thursday. If you did not know Shirley, read about our friend in the TF NPSOT May 2017 newsletter <https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/newsletters/>



We will begin our tour at the Thomsen Foundation in Montague County at 10:00 am and hike around the property for about 2 hours. Bring your lunch along and we will picnic after the hike. From this point we will consolidate into fewer vehicles and drive to some of the areas that Shirley enjoyed. After visiting other special places in this area, we will make the traditional Shirley stop for ice cream in Forestburg before returning to Thomsen for vehicles. It is advised to wear long pants and hiking shoes/boots and bring bug spray. Also bring plenty of water along with your lunch.

To find Thomsen Foundation, put 1859 Parker Dairy Road, Forestburg, TX into your GPS. Or take FM 455 west of Sanger, past Slidell and 51. Shortly after 730 is Valentine Bluff Rd. Go left on Valentine Bluff to the T. Take a left; it becomes Merritt Rd. Continue to the next T at Parker Dairy Rd and go left. Proceed round the bend past the rock entrance to a gate on the left. Enter and drive left to building. If coming from the US 380 direction, on the east side of Decatur take FM 730 north. (Beware there is highway/bridge construction in this area) Take a left onto FS 2650 (about 11-13 miles up). At the T take a left continuing on 2650 around 2 sharp bends. Take a left on Wise Road. At Parker Dairy Road take a right. Thomsen is about half a mile on your right. If you get lost the day of, (and cell coverage is spotty) call Mary Curry at 940-395-1396.

Any other questions before May 16th, contact Mary at mac@lookingout.net
Allow an hour from I-35 & 380 in Denton to Thomsen Foundation.

Mary Curry

Adventures with Features

From Becky Bertoni

An Anemone Adventure

Earlier this year I had noticed an Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalist Advanced Training opportunity to go on a Scavenger Hunt BioBlitz on March 2, looking for Anemone Caroliniana, the Carolina anemone, vs the more common Anemone Berlandiera, tenpetal anemone. These two anemones are often in the same location, but the Carolina had only been documented locally in five locations on iNaturalist. The anemone search would be led by Dr. Russel Pfau, Department of Biological Sciences at Tarleton State University and Kimberlie Sasan, Cross Timbers Master Naturalist.

I was familiar with the tenpetal anemone, and the search sounded interesting, but I did not sign up. (Actually, because of weather it was cancelled, and was rescheduled for March 23, and I've heard that was cancelled, too, due to weather. (email Kimberlie Sasan at kimberlietx@gmail.com for further information.)

At this same time Irene Hanson EFCMN and I were hiking at Cross Timbers Trailhead, a Flower Mound Park, to prepare for a Plant Identification EFCMN Advanced Training there on April 17. We had looked on Feb 12 (not much but rosettes), and again on March 1 with Bill Freheit NPSOT and Rita Lokie EFCMN (better this time, with blooms: draba, ground plum, tenpetal anemone, scrambled eggs). Toni Benjamin EFCMN was interested in hiking the park then, and we went the next Thursday, March 7, a sunny afternoon.

We walked in farther than the group did on March 1, and Toni spotted a blue anemone, and there were other white ones, too. I took photos, thinking these "different" anemones might be the Carolina! I saw it had two different leaves, rather than the tenpetal, which only had one type of leaf.



Toni's blue Carolina anemone

I sent the photos to Kimberlie Sasan, and posted them on iNaturalist.

tenpetal anemone



Adventure with Features



other white Carolina anemones

Quickly I heard from Kimberlie, who was interested in seeing the anemones. We set up a hike for that Sunday March 10 at 8 am, and Irene and I met up with Kimberlie in the parking lot. Despite the closed up blossoms due to cloudy weather, Kimberlie spied blue and white Carolinas, and was able to verify that Cross Timbers Trailhead is now another site in our area with both *A.berlandiera* and *A. caroliniana*!

Some differences: the leaf types (two kinds on *A.caroliniana*), sepal (higher on the tenpetal, while it is low on the Carolina), stem (fuzzy on the tenpetal above and below the sepal, while the stem is smooth under the sepal on the Carolina).

There are differences in the root structure, and frequently the Carolina anemone grows in pairs also. Kimberlie dug out a sample of each anemone to press and give to BRIT, so there will be an official record of both kinds in the same location.



Carolina anemone to be pressed and taken to BRIT for preservation

Adventures with Features

Los Rios de Vida

By Bob James

The Southwestern United States had its worst drought a little over 70 years ago. The state of Texas was hit especially hard where rainfall from 1948 to 1955 was less than 50 percent of the usual yearly precipitation. These were my formative years and I remember how terrible it was; everything was brown and burnt to a crisp. There was nothing green between east Texas and the Rio Grand River. Farmers and ranchers left the state in numbers that exceeded the Great Depression of the 1930s. We had dust storms that rivaled the dust storms of those terrible years. Walking home from school was quite an experience. The streetlights were on during the afternoon and you could not see the sun. My mother made me remove my clothes and bathe after arriving home covered with dust. I remember her putting wet towels along the windowsills to keep the dust out. Officials said it was the most devastating drought in the recorded history of the Southwest. Livestock were dying on the range from the lack of both food and water. Ranchers were burning the stickers off prickly pear cactus for their cattle to eat. Wildlife was also affected, deer, turkey, quail and mourning dove populations decreased by half.

In the early 1950s I remember going to Stephenville, Texas, with my parents. As we drove down highway 377 just before we got to Granbury we crossed the Brazos River. My Dad stopped the car and we got out to look the water. The river was not flowing at all but there were pools of water separated by sandbars along the river. My Dad told me the pools were generated by various springs along the river that had not dried up. He said that wildlife would seek out these pools to stay alive. This was, of course, a number of years before the dam was built at de Cordova Bend that impounded Lake Granbury. Later, in Stephenville, we found the North Bosque River had the same condition. The river was not flowing but there were pools of water throughout its course. Even though the state was suffering the worst drought in its history these rivers became oases of life.



Brazos River—Wikipedia



Guadalupe River—Wikipedia

When I became aware of this, I became a lover of rivers, especially rivers in the Southwest. I hunted squirrels all along the Trinity River west of Fort Worth and fished its waters as a teenager. I have walked along the Bosque with my grandfather and swam in Cowhouse Creek southwest of Gatesville, Texas. In the 1970s, I canoed down the Guadalupe River for 120 miles upstream of Canyon Lake. The river I love most, however, is the Brazos River west of Fort Worth. I have canoed down the Brazos a number of times from the low water bridge below Possum Kingdom dam to Lake Granbury. It is always a remarkable journey because you are moving through an area of incredible history and amazing wildlife.

Adventures with Features



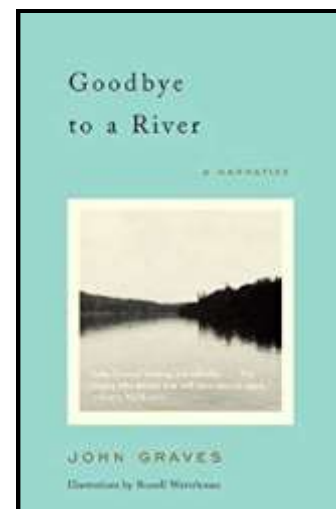
Possum Kingdom dam (Bing.com)

The Brazos River was actually named by the Spanish explorers who traveled through the southwest in the 16th century. Their name for the river was Los Brazos de Dios, the Arms of God. Indeed, when the Conquistadors finally arrived at the Brazos they were out of water and almost dead from their journey across the Llano Estacado or the Staked Plains of New Mexico and far west Texas. They fell into the arms of God at the Brazos.

Anyone interested in nature and the history of North Texas should obtain a copy of *Goodbye To A River* by John

Graves. He canoed down the Brazos River from the Possum Kingdom dam to Glenrose, Texas in 1957. This was before the de Cordova Bend dam was built. He spent several weeks on this journey and as he canoes along the river he describes its wildlife and history. It is a beautiful book. Larry McMurtry of *Lonesome Dove* fame said *Goodbye To A River* was the best book ever written about Texas.

It seems to me that in the rush of our present time and separation from nature we have forgotten the rivers, creeks and streams. We have dammed them up, dredged them out and dumped our garbage, sewage and pollution into them. Through them we are ruining our seas and oceans – we forget how precious our rivers really are. We forget how important their waters are to wildlife and ultimately how important they are to us. Lovers of nature should do everything they can to protect them. The rivers are the rivers of life – *Los Rios de Vida*.



*In my first sleep I came to the river
And looked down through the clear water,
Only in a dream water so pure,
Laced and undulant lines of flow
On its rocky bed the water of life
Streaming forever.*

Kathleen Raine

Adventures With Features

From Abigail Miller

Genus Funaria, at the Nature Center at Ray Roberts State Park



Photographing and Identifying Mosses and Liverworts



There are 2863 observations of mosses in Texas on iNaturalist, and only 97 verified to research grade. This seems like a fairly low percentage.

The main problem is that many of them are TINY. You really need a good macro camera to get distinguishing characters, and some, but not all, need a microscope. Your photographs need to be in good focus, at least! They need to show the sporophyte generation - the spore capsules - if possible. Though some mosses very seldom make spores. Ideally, they should show if the moss is horizontal, with many branches flat to the substrate, or grows in vertical tufts.

People familiar with bryophytes may be able to identify what is to most of us a green patch on some tree bark, without using that microscope. Forty years ago, while taking a graduate-level course, and going on frequent field trips in the mossy woods of New York, I was sort of one of them. That was then. Sadly, this is now.

The other problem is that there is not a 'Manual of the Bryophytes of Texas.' Dale A. Kruse, curator of the herbarium at A&M, is working on that. He would like samples - this is part of his letter to me:

If you want to send me some samples I can certainly make identifications for you, and would love to have the specimen records. I have attached a short piece on making collections that I prepared a while back.

It is important to number them in such a way as to be able to link the names I send you with the specimens. Usually 1, 2, 3, 4...etc works best – keep it simple!! It is probably best to take samples, split them into two sets, send me one set, and keep the other for yourself as a reference.

Adventures With Features

Be sure to get enough material for an ID – usually 4-5 square inches (if that much is available) is enough.

*Make the collections and just let them sit on a table for a few days to dry them out. No need for added heat. Put them in numbered individual paper bags (small brown bags you get at the local corner store cash register) do not use plastic baggies – they will mildew if they are left for too long in plastic. If they are dry, you can ship them in plastic baggies – but be sure they are **dry** before putting them in the plastic.*

I would also need some location data so I can make a voucher for the herbarium.

Thanks,

*Dale A. Kruse, Curator
S. M. Tracy Herbarium (TAES)
Texas A&M University
2138 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2138
U.S.A.*

Herbarium: 979.845.4328

<http://essm.tamu.edu/>

<http://essm.tamu.edu/research/>

The City Nature Challenge for iNat and the Bioblitz at LLELA are coming up. I can't go hiking after observations. But I will be in the Visitor Center at LLELA on Saturday, April 27, about 10-5, with these three books.

Tiara has promised a couple of hand lenses and maybe a dissecting scope.

I am also happy to have you come check the books the rest of the week. There is also a public group on Facebook, Bryophytes of Texas - where Dale Kruse is active - where members may be able to identify good photos.



Getting to Know You

From Sue Yost



MEET A MASTER

We are starting a new column in our monthly newsletter. There are SO MANY interesting people in our chapter. Each month we will randomly pick a MN to get to know. Here is our 1st interesting EFTXMN!

Meet a MASTER: Rita Lokie

Where are you from?

Born in Dallas, Texas, grew up in Houston, Texas

Marital status?

Married to Jim for almost 15 years

Kids, Grand kids?

Two step sons: Devon and Trevor, and two precious grandchildren: Lance who is 7 and Lana who is almost 6.

Pets?

One bossy mouthy cat named Solstice. He is named Solstice since he showed up on the Summer Solstice.

Work history?

Worked in a Dairy Queen, (yes I can make a soft cone ice cream with the curl on top), cafeteria worker, telephone operator, teacher, Division Manager for Verizon Telecommunications. I retired from GTE/Verizon after 23 years and currently a part time Environmental Educator at LLELA.

Schooling?

Graduated from North Texas with a BS in Education.

How long a MN? What class year?

I have been a MN for 6 years. Class of 2013. Wished I had joined earlier-wonderful people.

Favorite pastimes? Reading fiction, hiking and birdwatching

Favorite food? Creme Brûlée

Favorite place to visit? I love the desert-Death Valley and Big Bend

Favorite animal? Mammal: Coyote

Favorite Bird? Scissortail Flycatcher

Favorite Reptile? Common tree lizard

Favorite Amphibian?

Green tree frog, although I am beginning to like toads also.

Favorite MN volunteer opportunity?

I lean toward the Administrative Service, I have co-chaired the Training committee and found it to be a wonderful experience. I also enjoy getting speakers for the monthly meetings.

Share a funny story or antidote about being a MN.

I was surprised to find out Dave Rowley was a member when I joined. I reported to Dave while working at GTE in the 1990s and it was great to see him again.

Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you.

I lived and taught school in Australia for almost 2 years.

WHO KNEW! BE SURE TO SAY 'HELLO' TO MASTER NATURALIST RITA LOKIE!

*“Thank you” to those who make up this edition of
Naturalist News!*



wanda odum, editor
NN class 2005



Dave Rowley class 2000



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Denise Remfert class 2015



Marilyn Blanton
class 1999



Betty Zajac class 2003



Sue Yost class 2017



Judi Elliott class 2009



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Robert McLaughlin class 2017



Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Bob James class 2003



Diane Wetherbee class
2003



Abigail Miller class 2003



Mary Morrow class 2014



Rita Lokie class 2013



Susan Pohlen class 2007

Field Notes in Focus



Storm Clouds in Evening Sunset—From Gallery of Dorothy Thetford

Almost the Last Word

These bits of wisdom come from Diane Wetherbee quoting and opining along with Edward Abbey

T

hree quotes from Edward Abbey, who I consider an old curmudgeon, someone I don't always agree with (I like sharing nature with people; he didn't want to see a sign of another human), but who is spot on when it comes to how we need to stop and truly enjoy our natural areas. Sometimes, as Master Naturalists, we get all tied up in a project, working at something specific, and we forget to just take time to walk the trails, breathe in the fresh air, and become a part of nature, not just the protector of nature.

1) "It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it is still there. So get out there and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains. Run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space."

-- Edward Abbey, "Joy, Shipmates, Joy" – A speech to environmentalist in Missoula, Montana published in High Country News (24 September 1976)

I'm forever telling people that to enjoy The Flower Mound prairie, you have to park the car and get out; you can't see anything whizzing by at 45 mph. Then there are those that can visit Yellowstone or other national parks in a day, hitting the high points as they drive frantically from one spot to the next. I wish I could quote this to them:

2) "In the first place you can't see anything from a car; you've got to get out of the goddamned contraption and walk, better yet crawl, on hands and knees, over the sandstone and through the thornbush and cactus. When traces of blood begin to mark your trail you'll begin to see something, maybe. Probably not."

-- Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

And one I use on night hikes to convince those I'm leading to leave their flashlights switched off:

3) "There's another disadvantage to the use of the flashlight: like many other mechanical gadgets it tends to separate a man from the world around him. If I switch it on my eyes adapt to it and I can see only the small pool of light it makes in front of me; I am isolated. Leaving the flashlight in my pocket where it belongs, I remain a part of the environment I walk through and my vision though limited has no sharp or definite boundary."

— Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

If you have an idea for "Almost the Last Word" (it should not be more than 1 p.) send to wanda.odum@gmail.com



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We're on the web:
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"
Our vision . . . "in our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future."

Regular 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.
April 18, 2019 meeting at:
Carroll Court Building
401 W. Hickory Street
Denton, TX 76302

Board Meetings
The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met April 11, 2019. Next monthly Board meeting is May 9, 2019
Monthly Board meetings are open to members.

Board of Directors

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD:

- PRESIDENT—Adelaide Bodnar
- VICE-PRESIDENT/PROJECTS—Robert McLaughlin
- SECRETARY—Kathryn Wells
- TREASURER—Brenda Wellenreiter
- MEMBER-at-LARGE—Harriet Powell
- CLASS REPRESENTATIVES—Tim Trosper, Jody Springer

Appointments:

- Communication: e-mail Donna Wolfe; website Martha Peet; Naturalist News Wanda Odum
- Outreach/publicity: John Williams
- New class directors (training): Fran Witte, Elise Spain
- Programs & Field Trips: Rita Lokie
- VMS director: Mike Hatch
- Membership: Mary Morrow
- Hospitality: Linda Cox
- Resource Room: President

ADVISORS:

- Janet Laminack, Extension Agent
- TPWD—Ricardo Torres



Ruby-throated hummingbird— w odum

