

# Naturalist News

T E X A S   M A S T E R   N A T U R A L I S T ,   E L M   F O R K   C H A P T E R

S P I D E R W O R T – J O N A T H A N   R E Y N O L D S



---

On Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/  
TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/](https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/)

On the web: [www.txmn.org/elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)



# Naturalist News

## IN THIS ISSUE

April Meeting Recap	3
Coming Up	4
Projects in the Community	5
Features	6
Field Notes in Focus	12
Book Review	13
Opportunities	14
Of Interest	14
Meet a Master	21
NN Contributors this Month	22
Almost the Final Word	23
Who We Are	24

### Special Points of Interest

- **Prairie beauty**
- **Recruiting for project manager**
- **Mary Morrow recalls the Ray Roberts day out**

*Gaura*—photo courtesy  
Irene Hanson (see article  
on p. 9



## RECAP APRIL MEETING

### Initial Certification:

William Rucker; Lisa Saladin

### Recertification:

Sharon Betty; Patrick de Baca; Debra Rucker; Charles Swatske; Mindy Anderson; Becky Bertoni; Ivy Doak; Judy Guthrie; Irene Hanson; Rita Lokie; wanda odum; Carl Patrick; Karen Peden; Martha Peet; Kathryn Wells; John Williams, Betty Zajac



Recertifications

### 250 Hr. Milestone:

John Goetz; Tim Trospen

### 500 Hr. Milestone:

Elise Spain; Kathryn Wells

### 1000 Hr. Milestone:

Becky Bertoni; Harley Shepardson

### 1500 Hr. Milestone:

Renee Province

### 2000 Hr. Milestone:

CJ Solberg

### 3500 Hr. Milestone:

Mary Morrow



John & Tim



Kathryn & Elise



Renee



Becky & Harley



Mary



**Chelsea Burnett** from Texas Storm Chasers presented program on "Severe Weather Awareness & Storm Chasing" at the April Chapter meeting

*Photos from Denise Remfert*

From Rita Lokie

WHAT'S NEXT?

D

r. Amanda Hale will return to provide an update on her research on "The Effects of Wind Power on Bats" at the May 16, 2019 meeting. Her primary research focus is on the indirect and direct effects of wind turbines on birds and bats. In partnership with NextEra Energy Resources, she has been working at Wolf Ridge Wind, a utility-scale wind farm located in north-central Texas since 2009.



Dr. Hale is a broadly trained ecologist with interests in behavioral ecology, evolutionary biology, genetics, and conservation. She is currently Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Program at the Department of Biology at Texas Christian University. She has a BS, BA and MS from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from University of Miami.

From Fran Witte

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST-  
ELM FORK CHAPTER  
**OPEN HOUSE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019  
Open House begins at 9:30 a.m.  
Program starts at 10:30 a.m.  
DENTON COUNTY ELECTIONS BLDG.  
701 Kimberly Dr., Denton

Event is FREE and includes lunch  
Check out our many projects  
Learn how to become a Texas Master Naturalist

Serving Denton, Cooke and Wise counties  
Visit [www.txmn.org/elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)



**Robert McLaughlin**

## LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO KEEP THIS EFC PROJECT GOING!

**Th**e **Texas Our Heritage** project is looking for an individual (or maybe a dynamic duo!) to take over the leadership of the Master Naturalist segment of this endeavor. This project is a joint effort between the Master Gardeners, Heritage Elementary School, and the Master Naturalists.

The courtyard garden is primarily the domain of the Master Gardeners with an assigned project leader and scheduled work-days. (But you are welcome to pitch in here as well if you are so inclined.)

The indoor display cases (shown in the photos) are the responsibility of the EFC Master Naturalists. The built-in display case is changed monthly over the course of ten months (August through May) with materials that are stored on-site at the campus. These materials showcase a different ecological region of our state; so, if they are rotated each month; the students will be exposed to all the Texas eco-regions over the course of the school year.

The free-standing case is usually updated once or twice per year with materials from the Resource Room at the discretion of the TMN volunteer. Rocks & fossils, animal pelts, casts of animal tracks, seed collections, and tree bark samples have been displayed in past years. (Your creativity is welcome here. Get in touch with your inner museum curator!)

You may pick the day of the week and time works best for your schedule, the campus is very welcoming, flexible, and committed to this project. The campus is located at 100 Barnett Blvd. in Highland Village. (About ¼ mile north of Hwy 407 and ½ mile east of Hwy 2499).

Hopefully, this project is a perfect match for one of our EFC members. If you are that volunteer; please contact me at [ramc3300@gmail.com](mailto:ramc3300@gmail.com).



*"Your creativity is welcome here. Get in touch with your inner museum curator!"*



## A Year on the Prairie

Tim Trosper

It was a typical Texas summer day. I was sweating through every pore of my body pulling long mesquite branches into a pile and so was the rest of team: two chain-sawers, two herbicide stump “painters,” and four of us lugging and pitching invasive plants, trees and bushes into a growing pile. It would all burn later. The first hour, I dragged the branches and kept an eye out for an osprey I saw earlier. In the second hour, the mind becomes rather useless as the drone of the chainsaw becomes background noise and attention is focused on high-stepping through the greenbrier. At this point I just drag my body and focus on gripping a limb knowing the branch has to follow. The only other thought in my head – water.

*So on a hot morning in  
July, the chain-sawer  
crouches to cut a swath  
across the brier, privet,  
mesquite and countless  
others that steal the sun  
from the tall grasses.”*

Actually, another thought occurred when I paused to breathe deeply for just a little more oxygen. I looked at my leather gloves. They were dripping with sweat. The question had to be asked: “What the hell am I doing out here?”

Volunteer comes from the Latin “voluntarius” – or willing. It is one thing to buckle down and do the daily work that must be done. Food must be cooked and kitchens need cleaning. But a “willingness” to form blisters in blistering heat?

For me it began, or slowly formed, as a fairly deep realization of privilege years before the word grew into a cultural tag. I have been experimenting with the idea of “gratitude” for a good part of my life. Eventually the idea became a conscious practice to offset the all-too-human habit of taking so many things in this life for granted – even taking life itself for granted. Five years ago, emergency surgery for a perforated colon brought the experiment to a conclusion. Life is privilege. Sometimes it takes a big hammer to nail down a good idea.

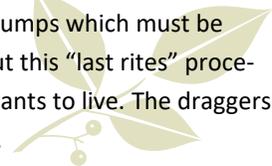
I retired two years later, many years earlier than planned and spent a year or so reveling in a life with no deadlines. What a joy it is to have a day with everything possible and nothing planned! But, of course, joy fades as it wont to do, and boredom crept into my days. Anything will grow given the correct environment and nutrients. Boredom can grow into depression and mature into apathy. With no obligations and numerous electronic distractions, I found myself wanting. But what to do?

I want to give props to my niece. Kelly Farrell is a veteran nature guide and lead interpreter for Arkansas state parks. The National Association of Interpreters (NAI) is devoted to this art, which has as its aim to help human beings connect with their long-lost family – which is all the life around them. In other words, a walk in the park with Kelly is much more than just learning the name of a tree or bird. It’s personal. There is a feeling out there beyond the edge of the trail that escapes capture by mere technical acumen. You are outside, now look inside. Understand that the DNA sequence your body uses to oxidize sugars into energy is the same as that huge cottonwood tree. Not similar mind you, but exactly the same. This little fact provokes a big feeling for me. The majestic cottonwood is my cousin.

Kelly helped me join the NAI just in time to attend their regional conference in Grapevine in 2018. I met so many great students of nature during this 4-day immersion in the world of naturalists who have made careers of bringing people into nature, and vice versa. Kelly introduced me to Lisa Cole, the education coordinator for Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). Lisa pointed me to Richard Freiheit, the restoration manager, and I showed up for my first day of work in the Spring of 2018 with thin gloves, short sleeves, and tennis shoes. Lesson 1: wear thick gloves, long sleeves and boots.

So on a hot morning in July, the chain-sawer crouches to cut a swath across the brier, privet, mesquite and countless others that steal the sun from the tall grasses. The painter is close behind, watching for the small stumps which must be anointed within a few minutes. It is amazing how plants seal up their wounds so quickly. Without this “last rites” procedure, that 3-inch trunk of the mesquite tree will sprout a mesquite bush by next summer. Life wants to live. The draggers waded in at last, and try to solve the problem of extracting long thorny branches from the tangle.

Cont’d





*Knowledge  
applied on the  
prairie!*



*A Year on the Prairie cont'd*

A natural prairie isn't pretty in a way that, say, a designer garden is pretty. It may seem lovely from a distance or even from the well-trod path, but when "in it," up close and personal, it is chaotic and home to tribes of families that offer little affection for human company. There are animals big and small that bite, sting, and even burrow into skin. It is ironic, and not a little disappointing, that the big creatures we love to glimpse run and hide from us, while the irritating little ones engage us with passionate vigor. There are plants aplenty that seem to have evolved with the singular aim of repelling humans.

At some point in all this, a thought came to me: "I am not supposed to be here." If I were alone and absent all technology including the clothes on my body, how long could I survive in this wide open space where hundreds of other living creatures thrive? Not long. There is respect for all these things and their adaptations earned by generational experiments that span ages vastly greater than my species has been around on this earth. While dragging an unruly bunch of greenbrier, I step on a thorned mesquite twig laying just so on the ground as to pierce through my thick rubber mud-boots and into enough of my foot flesh to make me squeal. So who, really, is the invasive species here?

I wonder what it would look like if I could travel back to 1800. Before the first farmers set down the blade of the plow, the soil was a kind of rich that no amount of money can now purchase.

The tall grasses dominated the view. Millennia of life and death, growth and decay, small adaptations, cleansing wildfires and vast herds of grazing bison teamed up to create this blackland prairie, named so after the charred, alkaline clay. It is somewhat ironic that we had to create a huge dam on the Elm fork of the Trinity River to end two centuries of farming and ranching of the 2,400 acres of land now reserved by the Corps of Engineers as a flood plain. The land we work upon has been idle since 1955. Safe from the plow and cattle, but ripe for Chinese privet, and all the other opportunistic species that were unknown to the land just a second ago on the evolutionary clock. So we cut, and paint, and drag, and burn.

We also plant. How do you restore a prairie? Take out the stuff that shouldn't be there and replace it with the stuff that should. Back at the greenhouse we plant seeds gathered by hand that have the ancient genes we favor, and propagate them throughout the year. A close eye on the weather helps to find the right time, because there is no potting soil at hand nor garden hose to water-in. Look for rain and roll the dice.

We haul heavy racks of gallon pots (plants) or PVC tubes (grasses) containing Big and Little Bluestem, Indian grass, Echinacea, Compass plant, Penstemon, to name only a few. Gas-powered augers create the holes and speed the work, but there is no automation for the last step. It is an on-your-knees job. It is an active prayer, this careful art of giving a living thing a chance to grow. The soil is dark, sticky, and clumpy. The hole might be too deep, or shallow. Whatever the case, the plant must be left level with the ground and no big air pockets around or under it. Otherwise, when it rains air pockets erode causing bigger pockets and more root exposure. When I am done packing in the sides with the malleable clay, I stand and further pack it down with my foot and think, "We've done all that we can for you, my little friend. God speed, and good luck." I stretch my back and look for the nearest new hole.

My back is sore the next day. But it rains and I am happy.

*"I wonder what it would look like if I could travel back to 1800. Before the first farmers set down the blade of the plow, the soil was a kind of rich that no amount of money can now purchase."*



## Springtime on a Prairie

Irene Hanson



Gaura

**W**

hat could you see on a prairie in the springtime? Imagine the land when the buffalo grazed instead of cattle or horses. So quiet, only the wind through the grasses and birdsong from the trees nearby. So many different wild flowers in bloom.

This place that is a remnant of the vast prairie of yesterday is called Cross Timbers Trail, and it is in the flood plain of Grapevine Lake. A group of us walked some of this trail. We didn't go very far in distance, there was so much to see in the two hours we spent. It looked like it was going to rain, but it was just a little mist or drizzle that gave us pictures with dewdrops on the flowers.



Drummond's Skullcap

Some of the wildflowers we saw are indicators of an undisturbed prairie, like ground plum. It was good to see all the little bluestem grass. We saw stork's bill, cornsalad and buckwheat that was just starting to grow. The flowers will come later in the year. One lovely flower that was tall, with buds just bursting to bloom, kept us all guessing until higher on the hillside we saw some open flowers to show us it was foxglove (*Penstemon cobaea*) sometimes called false foxglove. The true fox-

glove is *Digitalis*. We saw fringed puccoon, winecup and Drummond's skullcap.

We came upon clusters of flowers that looked like little blue tulips. Not possible; but eventually we identified them as Prairie Celestials, Prairie Pleatleaf (*Nemastylis geminiflora*), a true prairie flower.



Penstemon Cobaea

Along the way we saw Berlandier's Yellow Flax and another different yellow flax. Walking up a hillside, we saw dainty blue flax and the fluffy head of a 10-petal anemone gone to seed. Hidden in a low spot was Foxtail Cactus, easy to overlook. We saw whole patches of Indian Paintbrush on the hillside and Lindheimer Daisy, or Texas Star. We found a butterfly's chrysalis on a stem, Texas dandelion and the tiny, tiny Dwarf Dandelion (*Krigia*).

Another puzzler was the clusters of tall plants that looked like a tassel nodding at the top of each stem. Finally seeing some blooms, we could identify it as a Gaura. Still, there are many surprises along the trail, flowers yet unopened. What will we see a month later? Come see for yourself.



Texas Stork's Bill



Ground Plum



Prairie Celestial



## A Walk Through the Prairie

Prairie Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia occidentalis*)  
(Commelinaceae) —  
photos & ID this page  
from **Dorothy  
Thetford**



..."has a dainty, three-petal flower and blooms throughout the state in spring. Color variations include white, blue, pink and purple." [https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trv/wildflowers/wildflowers\\_brochure.pdf](https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trv/wildflowers/wildflowers_brochure.pdf)



## Accepting a New Challenge

### Sue Yost class of 2017

Permission granted to use photos

Last month I was approached by a teacher wanting to do a lesson on bird feeding. Being one of my areas of expertise I jumped at the chance to teach young minds, our future leaders about nature. As I soon found out, these children were not your usual children. Yes, they could be future leaders and, yes, they could be future caregivers of Mother Earth, but they face many challenges. More than most. They were all special needs children. Mrs. Anderson's class at Valley Ridge Elementary in LISD was the special ed class. I was aware of "special ed" children. I have seen them out and about but I have never interacted with them let alone taught them. I accepted the challenge just as they accept the daily challenge of learning.

There were 6 in the class. The ages ranged from 6 to 10 but their cognitive level was that of a pre-schooler. OK. That made it easy as I have a 4 year old grandson who likes the birds. I would plan activities around what he could do. But these kids also



have physical limitations as I found out once I got to the class. Some were visually impaired, one little boy was in a wheelchair and several had trouble controlling their movements. There were trained aids in the classroom to assist each child.



So how did I accept this new challenge? First thing we did was all go outside. I installed the pole and feeder. Being around children in other projects [and having my own kids and grandkids] I knew *everyone* would want a turn at filling the feeder. They each got a small bag of seed that they happily poured into the tray feeder. I picked out the tray feeder for several reasons; ease of filling, ease of visibility and every bird can feed from a tray feeder. While outside we used our ears to listen for birds. We used our eyes to try and see a bird. Scored on both with a male Great-tailed Grackle! Then it was back inside for more fun! I talked to them about the food birds eat. I had brought live mealworms and there were several that were not afraid to hold one in their tiny hand. I also told them it might take the birds a little while to find their new feeder. We flapped our arms and "flew" like a bird. I had pre-made "binoculars" out of toilet rolls. Much fun was had decorating them with stickers and paint the teacher provided. Once decorated we then all looked for the chicken on the mural in the classroom. Luckily no one had a peanut allergy so out come the pine cones, peanut butter and seed that parents donated for the pinecone feeder craft. This was a physical challenge for most of them. The scooping up of the peanut butter with the plastic spoon and the smearing on the pinecone was hard as most did not have the hand control needed to complete the task. Again, all adult hands pitched in to help. Then one of the boys shouted "Bird!" running to the window with his "binoculars". Sure enough...a Northern Mockingbird was on the feeder! They didn't care that we had not put in the right kind of food for a fruit and insect eater. It was a BIRD on THEIR new feeder! How exciting!



My grandson likes to play Memory Match games. I thought, why not make a memory game of bird pictures for the class? I searched the internet for pictures of common birds, printed, laminated and cut them into squares. The kids play a memory match game on the computer so they knew the concept but again it was a challenge for them as it was different than being on a computer screen. My timing was perfect for all my planned activities. I was starting to lose their attentiveness. An hour was plenty, 45 minutes would have even been better. It

was getting close to lunch and it was Friday so that meant a walk to Marco's pizza for lunch. I thank them for inviting me and I get hugs and BIG smiles from each and everyone of those special needs kids.

These kids face challenges daily. They accept them. I am so glad that I accepted the challenge to get out of my comfort zone. Thank you Jimmie, Mae Mae, Ben, Lilly, Taylor and Xavier for the challenge.

Who or what will challenge you today?





*Field Notes in Focus*



*Showy Primrose (Oenothera speciosa) (Onagraceae)*  
*from Gallery of Dorothy Thelford*



## Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Weekly Digest Bulletin



Chimney swifts travel from Peru to Texas each spring to raise their young. They normally build nests in the hollows of large trees, but most of those trees have been cut down. Since they can't perch like most birds, building a nest in limbs isn't an option. So, the birds started using chimneys as nest sites.

If you have swifts in your chimney, be aware they're protected and it's illegal to disturb them or their active nests. The nests aren't a health or fire hazard but should be removed each year, so clean your chimney in fall after the young have left the nest. Read our magazine story *Chirrup in the Chimney* for more about chimney swifts.

*"If you have swifts in your chimney, be aware they're protected and it's illegal to disturb them or their active nests."*

Chimney swift numbers are in steep decline. These aerial acrobats eat tons of mosquitoes, and they can use your help. Become a swift steward by providing them with a nesting site. You can get started with this basic tower design (PDF).

[tpwd@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:tpwd@service.govdelivery.com)

---

### Book Review by Abigail Miller

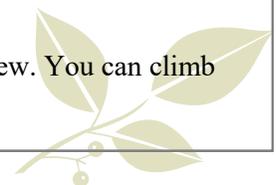
A book naturalists would enjoy, recalled to me by Betty Zajac's recent post on the EFCTMN Community website of the link concerning the importance of lichens to determining the diversity of an old-growth forest.

**The Wild Trees**  
by Richard Preston  
2007 Penguin Random House

In the mid-eighties, some daredevil climbers, botanists, and amateur naturalists started climbing the coast redwoods, *Sequoia sempervivens*, the 350-foot trees a few of which remain along the Pacific Coast. Preston wrote about them and their discoveries.

The most remarkable thing is that there is an entire ecosystem, not just a few birds, in the treetops. Three hundred feet in the air, on the interlaced branches, are soil, mosses, lichens, ferns, huckleberries, voles, salamanders - all living out their lives with absolutely no reference to the ground below.

So you don't have to live a century ago, or travel to the Amazon, to discover something new. You can climb 300 feet in the air.

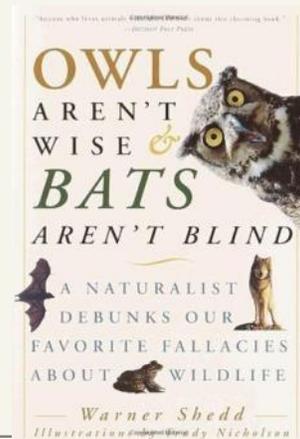


**Betty Zajac recommends the following book:***Owls aren't wise & Bats aren't Blind*

A naturalist debunks our favorite fallacies about wildlife.

By Warner Shedd

Can be found at Good Reads; Barnes &amp; Nobel

**O P P O R T U N I T I E S**

**EFNP/McInnis Parks** will begin bird walks the third Wednesday of the month (May 15th) and the third Saturday (May 18th). The hours are now 7:30 am until 10:30 am. The hours have been CHANGED.

The address for both parks is the same: 2335 Sandy Lake Road, Carrollton, TX 75006  
 All birds walks are the third Wednesday and Saturday of the month. Call me at 469-986-9045 or [steve.romaine71@gmail.com](mailto:steve.romaine71@gmail.com)

**Steve Romaine**  
**Project Manager**

**O F I N T E R E S T***Rogers Wildlife Rehab Baby Shower*

In March and April I hosted a "Baby Shower" for Roger's. Their wish list was in the newsletter and at the general meetings. Following the April meeting, Regina Dale [starting class in August!] and I loaded up and headed to Hutchins to deliver the goods. My "EFMN donated trunk was FULL with everything from heating pads to paper towels to doggie pee pads to soaps to syringes to lactate drip cash!" bags. PLUS YOU ... EFMN donated over \$1,000 in cash! Can I say we are AWESOME! Regina and I were given a personal tour of the facility by one of the board members.



I thank you. Roger's thanks you. The wildlife patients thank you.

Sue YOST  
 Class of 2017



O F I N T E R E S T - c o n t ' d

From Fran Witte

Lecture Audit during 2019 Training Program



We are offering 12 lectures over a span of 6 sessions (2 per training day). We will be registering members at the Training Committee table starting this month during the Chapter meeting as well as July and August Chapter meetings.

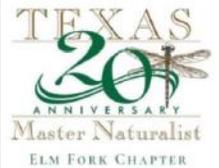
Limit is 10 members per lecture, based on first come, first served. Cost per lecture is \$5.00 or \$10.00 per day, which is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Cash and check will be accepted. No credit cards please.

For additional information, individuals may contact Fran Witte at [recycling\\_emma@yahoo.com](mailto:recycling_emma@yahoo.com) or Elise Spain at [elisespain2@gmail.com](mailto:elisespain2@gmail.com).

**2019 TRAINING PROGRAM  
MEMBER ONLY ADVANCED TRAINING**

**Earn 2.5 AT hours per lecture!**  
Morning – 9 to 11:30 a.m.  
Afternoon – 12:30 to 3 p.m.



Open to 10 Elm Fork Chapter members only, per lecture. First come, first served.  
\$10 per day; \$5 per lecture.

Pay when you register – CASH OR CHECK ONLY. **This is non-refundable and not transferable.**  
All classes are held at Global Spheres.



September 3, 2019 – Session 2  
AM: Ecological Regions of TX: Rick Torres, TPWD  
PM: Climate & Weather: Michael Slattery, Ph.D.

October 1, 2019 – Session 6  
Tom La Point, Ph.D.  
AM: Aquatic Systems  
PM: Texas Water Resources



September 10, 2019 – Session 3  
Reid Ferring, PhD  
AM: Geology and Soils of Texas  
PM: Archeology

October 15, 2019 – Session 8  
AM: Mammalogy: Earl Zimmerman, Ph.D.  
PM: Herpetology: Ryan Blankenship, TPWD

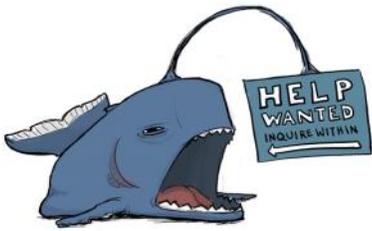


September 17, 2019 – Session 4  
AM: Native Plants: Randy Johnson  
PM: Ornithology: Erich Neupert,  
Blackland Prairie Raptor Center

October 29, 2019 – Session 10  
Sam Kieschnick, TPWD  
AM: Urban Ecology  
PM: Laws, Regulations, Ethics



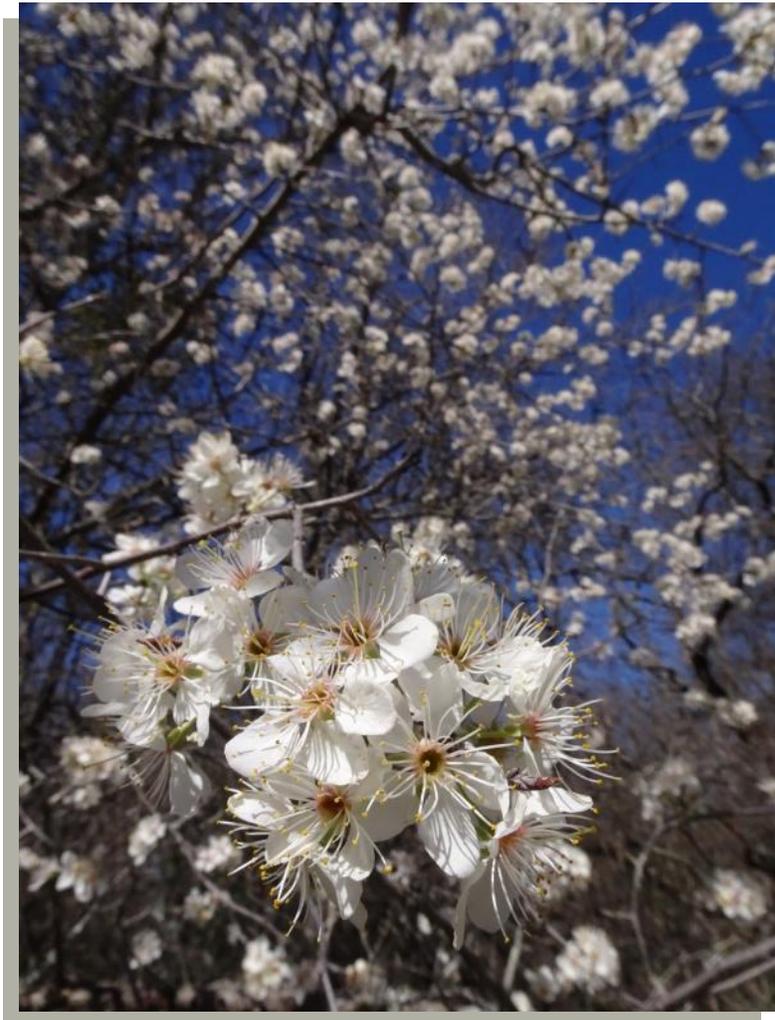
From Lisa Cole [lcoble@cityoflewisville.com](mailto:lcoble@cityoflewisville.com)



**Re: LLELA seeking summer camp assistant**

We are still short a summer camp assistant to work the weeks of June 10-14, 17-21, and 24-28? This is a paid seasonal position. The summer camp assistant works with our Environmental Educators to support program delivery and keep the kids safe while we're hiking, fishing, kayaking, catching bugs, and having summer fun. The hours are roughly 7:30 am-2:30 pm, but will vary by the day. Interested folks can apply through May 18 here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lewisville/jobs/2358267/se-day-camp-attendant?page=2&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

**Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*)**  
—Jonathan Reynolds



"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want—oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!" - **Mark Twain**

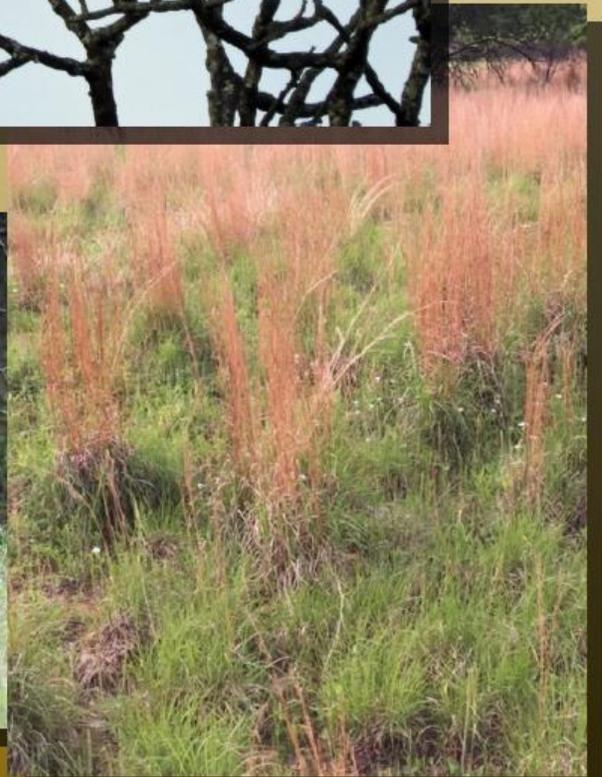
Mary Morrow

## Lake Ray Roberts State Park FIELD DAY WITH ADVANCE TRAINING\*

On Tuesday, April 23rd, around 40 EFC members defied the weather and joined together at Lake Ray Roberts for a day of learning, observing, friendship, and of course, food!

The weather was kind, slightly overcast, nice lake side breeze and mild temperatures.

Some were early birds and arrived before the sun peaked to scout out the birds in and around the lake with Scott Kiester. A few hits were male Tufted Titmice loudly defending their territories from the tree tops. A Song Sparrow pair, a migrating Swainson's Thrush and a beautiful male Yellow-Rumped Warbler gobbling insects.



Next on the agenda was a Tree Walk and Talk thru the Randy Bell Scenic Trail led by Diane Wetherbee and Mary Morrow bringing up the rear. Diane explained the history of the Cross Timbers Forest, consisting mainly of Post Oaks, Black Jack Oaks, Burr Oaks and Pecan, succession plants - such as Cedar Elms and Eastern Red Cedars, and how controlled burns benefit the forest. This part of the forest had been burned last spring and was looking mighty healthy - no briars and very little poison ivy. Fran Witte noticed two Post Oaks with spiraling bark. A google search shows there may be a few reasons for this unusual look: allows resource sharing all around the tree, spiral growth gives a tree greater flexibility making the tree more resistant to high winds. For more information Diane shared this link: <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/.../why-so-some-trees-grow-i.../>



The last walk of the day was a Wildflower Walk led by Marilyn Blanton and Irene Hanson. As usual, it proved to be much more than just a wildflower walk - they saw butterflies, other insects, birds and of course wildflowers.

Can you name all the species in the photos?





And then - more FUN!  
Ray, Adelaide, Sarah and myself embarked on kayaks with Ranger Rick and Brenna. We learned kayak safety and how to stop - those things don't have brakes! The lake was like a sheet of glass and went on for miles. We didn't want to come back even though we knew we wouldn't be moving our arms much the next day...  
Thank you to Ranger Rick and Brenda Wellenreiter for a fun-filled AT Day at Lake Ray Roberts - we need to do it again!!!

Mary Morrow

*From Sue Yost*

## Meet a Master Ray Kreutzfeld



**Where are you from?** Born in Port Clinton, Ohio, Raised in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

**Marital status?** Single

**Kids, grand kids?** I have a daughter and a son plus a granddaughter and two grandsons.

**Pets..**A 7 year old Maltese named after Winston Churchill.

**Work history..**Every thing from laying sod to loading trucks and switching trailers at UPS to wholesale distribution to financial services to corporate systems access control.

**Schooling..**I am a proud graduate of The Ohio State University with a BSBA in Marketing.

**How long a MN?** 5 1/2 years.

**What class year?** 2014

**Favorite pastime..**cars and snow skiing.

**Favorite food...**BBQ and chocolate.

**Favorite place to visit...** The tall pine country.

**Favorite animal...**Horses and Big Cats.

**Favorite MN volunteer opportunity...**Any activity is great but it's being out in nature with good folks that energizes and satisfies me.

**Share a funny story or antidote about being a MN.** On the day of the 2014 Open House, fresh out of bed I was reading the Dallas Morning News. I saw a small ad in the metro section about the meeting. What to do....I got myself together and made the Open House....signed up that day. Interestingly enough, I found a printout in my files from 2002 about the program. Funny how things stay with us, twelve years later I became a Texas Master Naturalist!

**Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you.** I can build or fix almost anything. I don't read for fun....I read product manuals and "How To" instructions. I have cultivated self-sufficiency and manual skills. It's fun, mind expanding and rewarding...I just seem to have been born this way!

## Why I became a Master Naturalist

By David Ford: 20 year member.



Being outdoors and observing nature has always been my favorite activity.

My family was always interested in plants and animals. My mom favored plants and my dad birds.

Being from the Northwest U.S. I was familiar with that area but knew little about the Southern U.S.

My interest in nature really was directed toward geology. After I retired,

I had time to pursue my interest in Texas flora, fauna and ecology.

I learned about the Texas Master Naturalist program and signed up.

It was good finding a group of folks who shared a common interest.

However, I never really became a birder but focused on plants.

### Thank You to Our Contributors



Robert McLaughlin class 2017



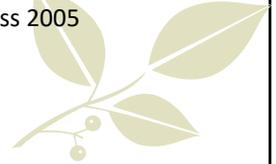
Tim Trosper class 2018



Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Editor wanda Odum class 2005



Mary Morrow class 2014

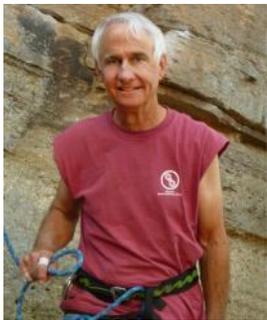


Judi Elliott class 2009



Denise Remfert class2015

Photo unavailable  
Irene Hanson class 2014



Jonathan Reynolds class 2104

Sue Yost class 2017



Rita Lokie class



Abigail Miller class 2003



Fran Witte class 2017



Betty Zajac class 2003



## *A L M O S T   T H E   L A S T   W O R D*

### **According to Theodore Roosevelt:**

“We have taken into our language the word *prairie*, because when our backwoodsmen first reached the land [in the Midwest] and saw the great natural meadows of long grass—sights unknown to the gloomy forests wherein they had always dwelt—they knew not what to call them, and borrowed the term already in use among the French inhabitants.

*Prairie* is the French word for *meadow*; the root is the [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie) *pratum* (same meaning).”

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie)



*From Dorothy Thetford*

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

*Dolly Parton*





**T E X A S M A S T E R  
N A T U R A L I S T , E L M  
F O R K C H A P T E R**

**Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension  
Joseph A. Carroll Building  
401 W. Hickory Street  
Denton, TX 76201-9026  
940-349-2883**

*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. Next meeting will be May 16, 2019 at Elections Bldg, 701 Kimberly Dr. Denton TX 76201

**Board Meetings**

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met May 9, 2019. Next monthly Board meeting is June 13, 2019

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.



**B L U E J A Y - W O D U M**

