



Naturalist News

Texas Master Naturalist,
Elm Fork Chapter

Volume 20, Issue 10

October 2019

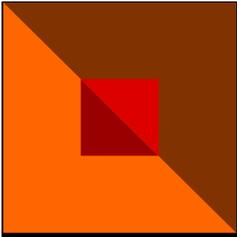
Photo by **Dorothy Thetford**—Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) — “Our prairie is beautiful in early morning when sun back-lights our east prairie native Indiangrass. The bloom tops are gold and glisten with sunlight on them.”



To make a prairie

Emily Dickinson – 1830-1886

To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,
One clover, and a bee.
And revery.
The revery alone will do,
If bees are few.



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Rise and Shine! On the trail at Lake Ray Roberts—
from Jonathan Reynolds



Inside this issue:

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We're on the Web
www.txmn.org/elmfork

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

Special points of interest:

- Meet 2019 class
- Becky Bartoni updates of Green Acres project
- See who's manning the AgriLife desk
- Meet the mystery Master of this month

Those who contributed to this issue of Naturalist News—Thank you!



Editor, wanda odum, class 2005



Denise Remfert class 2015



Marilyn Blanton class 1999



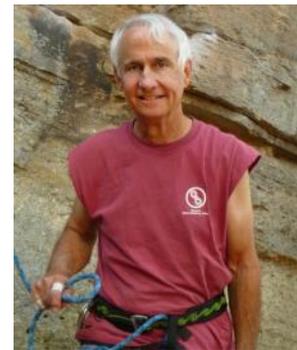
Elise Spain class 2017



Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Janice Goetz class 2016



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Judi Elliott class 2009



Van Elliott class 2009



Regina Dale class 2019



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Sue Yost class 2017



Fran Witte class 2017

What Happened Last

Photos from Denise Remfert



AWARDS:

initial Certification: Angela Lindsey 2018

Recertifications:

Denver Kramer 2018; Wilbur Poppe 2001; Jonathan Reynolds 2014; Diane Wetherbee 2000

250 Hr: Charles Swatske 2018

2000 Hr. Richard Johnson 2009

2500 Hr. Tom Mills 2014



What Happens Next

See you all there!

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
ELM FORK CHAPTER

Serving Denton, Wise and Cooke Counties

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

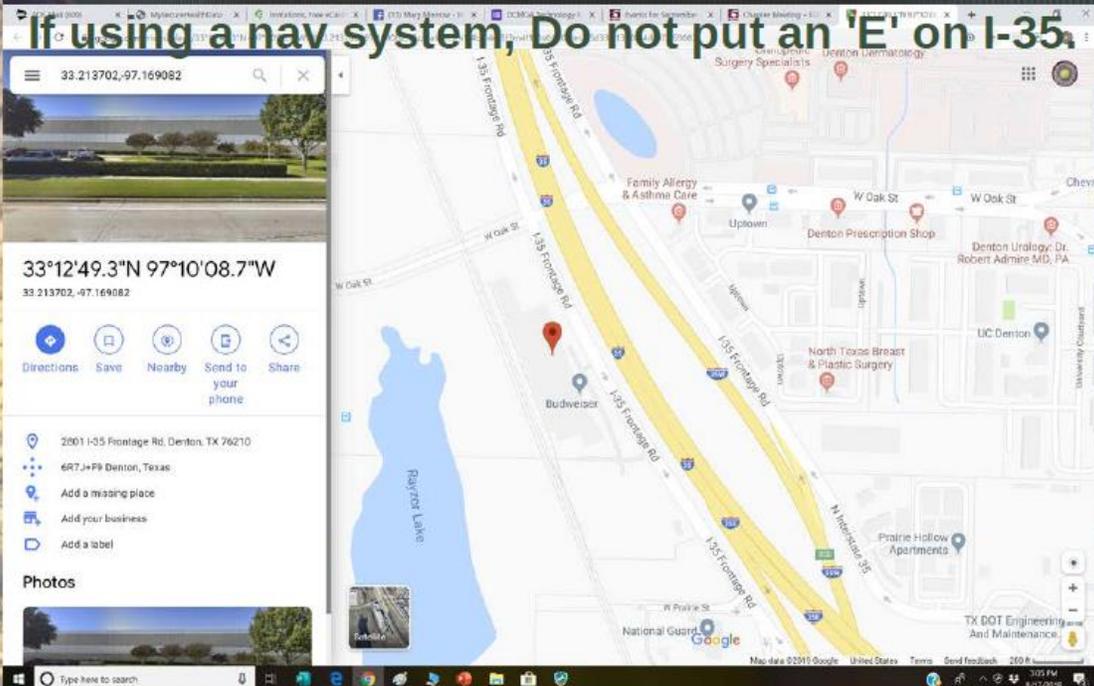
Ben E Keith Hospitality Room
2801 I-35 Frontage Rd
Denton

October 17, 2019
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



TEXAS
20
ANNIVERSARY
Master Naturalist
ELM FORK CHAPTER

Best route, I-35 University/380 exit, south frontage road to 4-way stop, go straight, BEK is on the right.



T-shirts may be picked up at the Extension Office from 10 - 2, until 12:30pm on 10/16. The remaining t-shirts will be at BEK on 10/17



Projects in and Around the Community

Green Acres, Fall 2019

by Becky Bertoni

After a very wet spring, we are finally in a strange fall, without rain to end the drought and without relief from the summer heat. New this summer, we started receiving volunteers from the Mormon missionaries; we appreciate the extra hands to help! Here is how some things are going at Green Acres:

The bluebird boxes: Lee Ann Weaver monitored the 7 boxes through the nesting time. From March-July 2019, we had 51 baby bluebirds and 2 titmouse babies in ornery box 7 (for 3 years no baby bluebirds there).



monarch butterfly on late blooming boneset

The edible natives garden: Planned in the winter and planted in this spring, as any new garden it needs some tweaking. Maybe we will add a beautyberry to replace coneflower that doesn't want to grow there, and we want to try again with the horseherb and chile pequin.

The monarch station: One monarch this fall so far—it is still early. We have had monarch, gulf fritillary, black swallowtail, and pipevine caterpillars, and lots of pollinators. We just spotted a mantid (praying mantis) cocoon. In the winter we will "rearrange the furniture", move some of the plants to better locations.

The Davis Wildflower Prairie: We have added a good deal of black plastic areas, and hope to be planting lots of little bluestem and maybe more from our plant rescue, along with our own gathered seed—mid November is the timing now. We hope to get some ironweed and beautyberry, too—from St Jo, TX and OK!

The wet area: This is new—we have two defined spots now, and look forward to developing these areas on the east side of the park. The false foxglove was a pleasant surprise this year, and we also saw silver bluestem and white tridens growing nearby that we will try to get growing up in our prairie.

Green Acres is at 4400 Hide-A-Way Lane, Flower Mound 75022, about 5 minutes driving from The Flower Mound, by the intersection of 2499 and 3040. It is a 13 acre former residence and horse farm. We welcome you all to come and visit.

We are there every Tuesday, discovering, learning, preserving, documenting—and weeding and deadheading, too, with a great variety of projects. Come and see and volunteer—please email or call Becky Bertoni, becky.bertoni@gmail.com, 940 487 0045.

prairie false foxglove (agalinis heterophylla)



mantid cocoon in monarch station



praying mantis on yard aster on the prairie

Projects in and Around the Community

New AgriLife Office Services MNIS

From Van Elliott

On October 3rd, 12 members of the 2019 class received advanced training in preparation for serving on project P160211, AgriLife Office Services. It was a very good session, which was presented by Nancy Waldo (Training specialist), Betty Mullenweg (Scheduler), Van Elliott (Project Manager) and AgriLife Admin Assistant, Nikki Johnson.

The session started with a question and answer introduction to the MNIS AgriLife Office procedure. Then a tour of the duty desk with input and assistance from on duty MNIS Norma Wilkerson.

Very shortly, in keeping with our long history of using acronyms, they will be referred to as MNIS (Master Naturalist Information Specialists). These folks already possess many of the administrative talents needed for the 'meet and greet' duty at the AgriLife Office, J A Carroll building. Now they can begin accumulating service and advanced training while attending the TMN basic training class.



Pictured from left to right and back to front:

Savannah Thomas (back), Shirlee Singer (front of Savannah), Debbie Fulbright (right of Shirlee), Sandy LaQuey (behind Debbie), Karen Dreger (right front of Sandy), Norma Wilson (on duty MNIS, seated, front), Maren Medlock (behind & right of Norma), Missy McCormick (behind Maren), Bob Bender (behind Missy), Donna Weeks (behind and right of Bob), Steve Simpson (front and right of Donna), Cindy Edington (front and right of Maren), Nancy Waldo and Nikki Johnson behind and right of Cindy.

Features

Poem and photos
from Marilyn Blanton

Marvelous Monarchs

Marvelous Monarchs are drifting by today.
Their fall migration is underway.

Wanderers and drifters in orange and black,
Moving south slowly with the north at their back.

Sailing and floating as they wing by,
Fluttering low and rising high,

On a meandering journey with so far to go,
Will they make it? I really hope so.

Bits of orange and black dancing in the autumn air,
Appearing light and joyous without a care.

But they'll face many perils before they arrive.
An amazing feat for all that survive.

With wings fluttering and sparkling in golden light,
I wish them well as they spread delight.

They're on a dangerous mission, wild and free.
Traveling wonders for all to see.



Features

What's a Master Naturalist to do?

Sue YOST. Class of 2017

There are countless volunteer opportunities for Master Naturalists. I have been asked to talk to senior citizens about bird watching, scout troops about owls and local garden clubs about bird feeding and special need students about bird feeding outside their classroom window. I especially like to volunteer with kids. Most of that is done at LLELA my favorite place to go. This month I helped with 4th graders visiting from Krum as they did aquatics and CSI studies involving a REAL dead animal. (Also the teachers were so impressed with the insect lodge a group of EFMN designed that they are going to add one to their school yard!) I also regularly help out with the home school classes that LLELA organizes. My favorite are the little ones K-2. I am usually teamed up with Master Naturalist and LLELA educator Rita Lokie or Erin Piper.

Whether it's leading a bird walk or nature hike, working alongside UNT students at the bird banding station, or helping the next generation get excited about nature you can usually find me at LLELA. Find your niche and get out there and spread the Master Naturalist seeds and watch them grow!

Sue YOST

Class of 2017

Sent from ProtonMail Mobile



Learning about Screech Owls.

Trophy Club troop #328

(permission was granted to use photo)

Field Notes in Focus



*Bristle Fly (Epalpus signifer) — From the gallery
of Regina Dale*

Meet 2019 Class

From Fran Witte and Elise Spain

Welcome to the Class of 2019! Pictured is our enthusiastic group of 36 Members-in-Training, eager to provide service hours and learn through advanced training. We look forward to our new interns achieving their initial certification and becoming Texas Master Naturalists.



See ID's below

1 Steve Simpson, 2 Savannah Thomas, 3 Debbie Fullbright, 4 Mary Strickland, 5 Cindy Edington, 6 Maren Medlock, 7 Cathy Milliger, 8 Tricia Kelly, 9 Cindy Valcik, 10 Regina Dale, 11 Karen Dreger, 12 Hugh Franks, 13 Mark Sandel, 14 Shirlee Singer, 15 Maggie Watt, 16 Sandy Laquey, 17 Susan Pritchard, 18 Diane Pihl, 19 Janet Myers, 20 Donna Weeks, 21 Lauren Cordova, 22 Missy McCormick, 23 Dawn Tallman, 24 Laura Jones, 25 Bob Bender, 26 Ron Edington, 27 Chris Teves, 28 David Jones, 29 Leonard Chochreck, 30 Craig Blow, 31 Bill Derow, 32 Dale Denton, 33 Pam Bennett, 34 Jeffrey Laquey, 35 Jim Gerber, 36 Jim Hardy

“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Meet a Master

Interview by Sue Yost class 2018

Some fun facts about Linda Cox:

I was born in Brooklyn, New York City - and lived in Queens (actually in a small town named Springfield Gardens that had been a Dutch farming community - full of big back yards and open fields to play in) until I was eleven. I was the only member of my family that claimed New York - my father was a Texan and my mother claimed Virginia/Washington DC as her home town. We spent summers in East Texas and spring break going to Washington DC for cherry blossom time. We moved to Carrollton, Texas the year I turned twelve - complete culture shock - back home in the big city little girls of 12 wore pigtails and played with dolls, but in Texas 12 year old girls went to beauty parlors for "big hair" and wore high heels and full make up and were all about boys.

I graduated from RL Turner High School in Carrollton
Got my BS in nursing from TWU (the Denton and Dallas Campus)
MS in pediatric nursing child growth and development from The University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

I retired from nursing in 2015 when the Denton hospital closed its pediatric and maternity units. At that time I decided I didn't want to start all over again in a new specialty and/or location - I had achieved every job that I really wanted in nursing including being a Certified critical care nurse, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a case manager/utilization review specialist, nursing manager and shift supervisor, working every where from pediatric clinics to state of the art intensive care units. (I think I decided I'd done enough and now I get to take walks in the woods and watch the birds and bees.)

I have one son - he's 38 this year - puts up with my "weird nature stuff", but he's a computer kind of guy as is his wife - they currently have 3 dogs and have informed me that those are the kind of grandchildren I can expect.

After getting involved with the humane society's TNR (trap, neuter and release program for feral cats) I now have 10 cats living in my house (some are more friendly than others, but none of them are catching birds!), and another 4-8 cats who regularly hang out by my patio waiting for food - since they were "fixed" they have gotten fat and lazy so that helps the birds, too.

I can't pick a favorite animal - every time I go to a training program I fall in love with someone new.

If I had to pick a "favorite food" - it would have to be something like a traditional Christmas/Thanksgiving dinner - turkey, stuffing, gravy and all the "fixins". But, that said, my favorite is food that someone else cooked.

I was in the Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist class of 2005 - I remember our class of 25 doubled the size of the chapter at the time - my goodness how we have grown!

My favorite place to visit is the woods - any woods will do - the mountains of Colorado, the Grand Canyon, the trails of Clear Creek, as a kid I loved going to the Catskills in upstate New York - these days I visit the greenbelt near my home in Lewisville, or always there's LLELA.

My favorite thing about being a master naturalist is all of the training opportunities and all of the knowledgeable people I get to meet and learn from.

My Dad was the one who loved nature and would tell me the names of all the plants and trees and birds in the wood when we went out for a walk, but my Mom was the community volunteer who organized things, and showing up early and helping set up and clean up after meetings came as a direct result of being her daughter - and that's how I ended up hospitality chair (or "coffee lady") for the chapter. We are all the result of countless things that we were exposed to growing up, as master naturalists I hope we are the inspiration for a new generation of "nature nerds" to follow.

"I wonder if the snow *loves* the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."

— Lewis Carroll, [*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass*](#)

Opportunities for Training and Other

AT approved**Introduction to Nature Photography**

Steve Simpson, class 2019, steve@catshomemakeover.com is conducting this workshop at Eisenhower State Park October 11 and 18 and November 2. This Introduction to Nature Photography is geared toward the novice photographer, but all skills are welcomed! Learn the basics of nature photography and the tricks of the trade from an experienced photographer.

Website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/eisenhower/intro-to-nature-photography-2>

Ongoing AT Opportunities

- [2019 Monarch Conservation Webinar Series](#)
- [Cornell Lab Bird Academy](#)
- [Raptor Rapture Online Course](#)
- Any of the [Native Landscape Certification Program](#) Classes and most of their programs offered by the Native Plant Society of Texas
- The Citizen Forester Class
- Skywarn class
- [NOLS Wilderness First Aid classes](#)
- Second Saturday Events at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge-Saturday, August 10 6465Refuge Rd, Sherman, 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Free & open to public. Presentation, slides and possible field trip within the Refuge. Topics which are geared to 11 years – adult interest vary monthly. For more information 903-786-2826.
- SWAt Meetings – Fourth Thursdays 9:30 am
- Friends of Furneaux Creek Nature Trail – Fourth Monday 7 pm
- Bird and nature walks offered by nature centers, such as LLELA and Clear Creek

Pre-approved webinars

- o Habitat Restoration Fundamentals: Time-tested approaches and new advancements in creating monarch butterfly habitat (Eric Lee-Mäder, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation) – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gij_gjCsGHQ&feature=youtu.be&list=PLZb5DyVcCk955KQKL4J_Ca7aVmzBbM7pr
- o On the Wings of Monarchs: A 10,000 foot view of species conservation – <https://fws.rev.vbrick.com/#!/videos/fc559008-1640-457e-933c-90d868147dfa>
- o Meadow Establishment in the East (Larry Weaner, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates; Ann Aldrich, Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy) <https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-conservation-webinar-series> – (No direct link, but it is on the page towards the bottom.)
- o Learn to transcribe for BRIT – <https://fccdl.in/4be45lpu7j>

Of Interest

From: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Weekly Digest Bulletin

The monarchs are headed this way. Their numbers are up, and they'll need to refuel on nectar when they get here, so now is a good time to water your butterfly-friendly autumn blooms and maybe plant a few more.

If you don't have a butterfly garden, Oct.-Dec. is the best time to plant in most of Texas. Your flowers also support other migrating pollinators, like the nosy American snout – read about them in our blog post, *A World Full of Butterflies*.

Fall migration means it's time to kick off the Texas Pollinator BioBlitz challenge! Take photos of butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators, then share them on iNaturalist and social media (#TXpollinators) from Oct. 4 - Oct. 20. You can also take part in events at parks and other sites. Join us – it's free, it's fun!



The findings of an extensive study released in Sept. 2019 show that the overall bird population has gone down 29% since 1970 – nearly 3 billion birds. And a surprising amount of common, backyard bird species have been hard hit.

Here are a few of the simple actions you can take to support birds in your area:

- Make windows safer
- Keep cats indoors
- Avoid pesticides
- Avoid single-use plastics

Cont'd at:

https://www.3billionbirds.org/7-simple-actions?utm_campaign=OWT&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Oct2019

Earn volunteer hours
Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2019

The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2019 is underway! We have 21 of Denton's elementary schools participating! Think of all the fourth graders that will be introduced to native plants as they create their artwork and all the fun we'll have judging it and setting up displays. For more information or to join our volunteer team, contact Marilyn Blanton -- marilynblanton42@gmail.com



From the Album

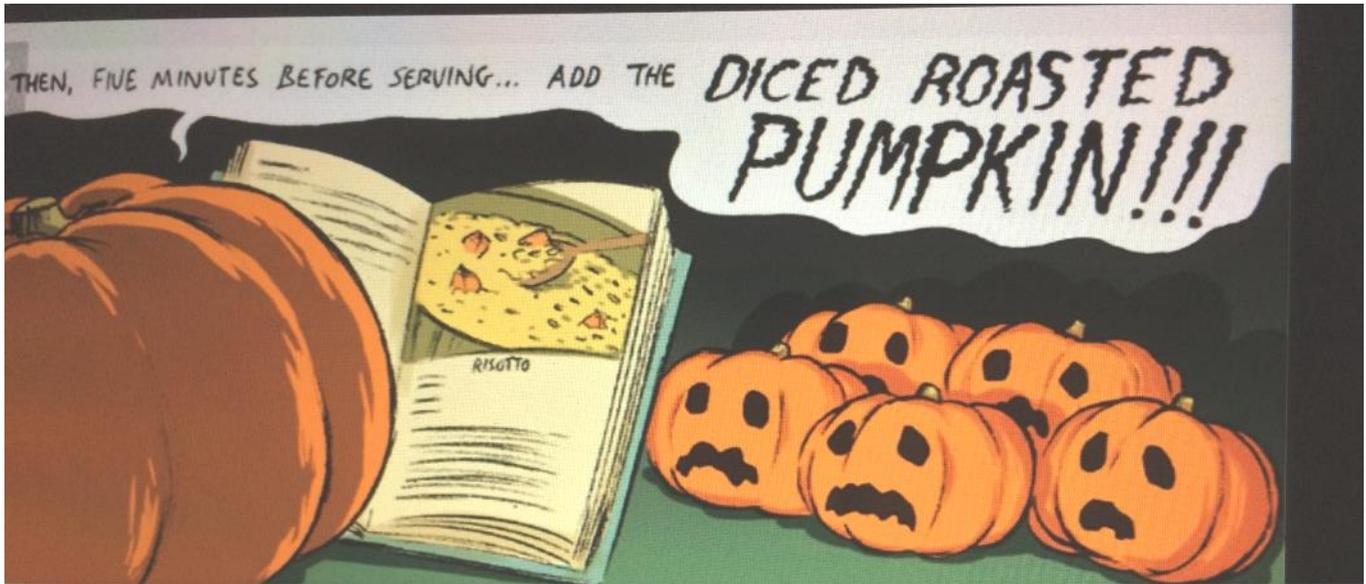


Spheg ichneumoneus - the Great golden digger wasp
photo at Clear Creek by Janice Goetz



“Hummers taking aim”—photo from Jonathan Reynolds

Almost the Last Word



HAVE SOME FUN ON HALLOWEEN

Do plants communicate with each other? Do they listen when you talk? Who can say. After all we Master Naturalists treat our plants with the same caring attitude as we do our pets.

Interesting article on WIRED: "How Plants Secretly Talk to Each Other" https://www.wired.com/2013/12/secret-language-of-plants/?mbid=email_onsiteshare"



If you have something you'd like to share on this page, send to Naturalist News editor, wanda odum. (Make it short, please!)

**Texas Master Naturalist,
Elm Fork Chapter**

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE



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

We're on the Web
[www.txmn.org/
elmfork](http://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."



w odum—pen & pencil—Roadrunners have four toes on each zygodactyl foot; two face forward and two face backward.

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

ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent
TPWD—Ricardo Torres

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 20th Anniversary Celebration on October 17, 2019 at Ben E. Keith, 2801 N I35, Denton TX 76207

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met October 10, 2019. Next monthly Board meeting is November 14, 2019.

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.