

February 2020
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Naturalist News

A Publication of Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

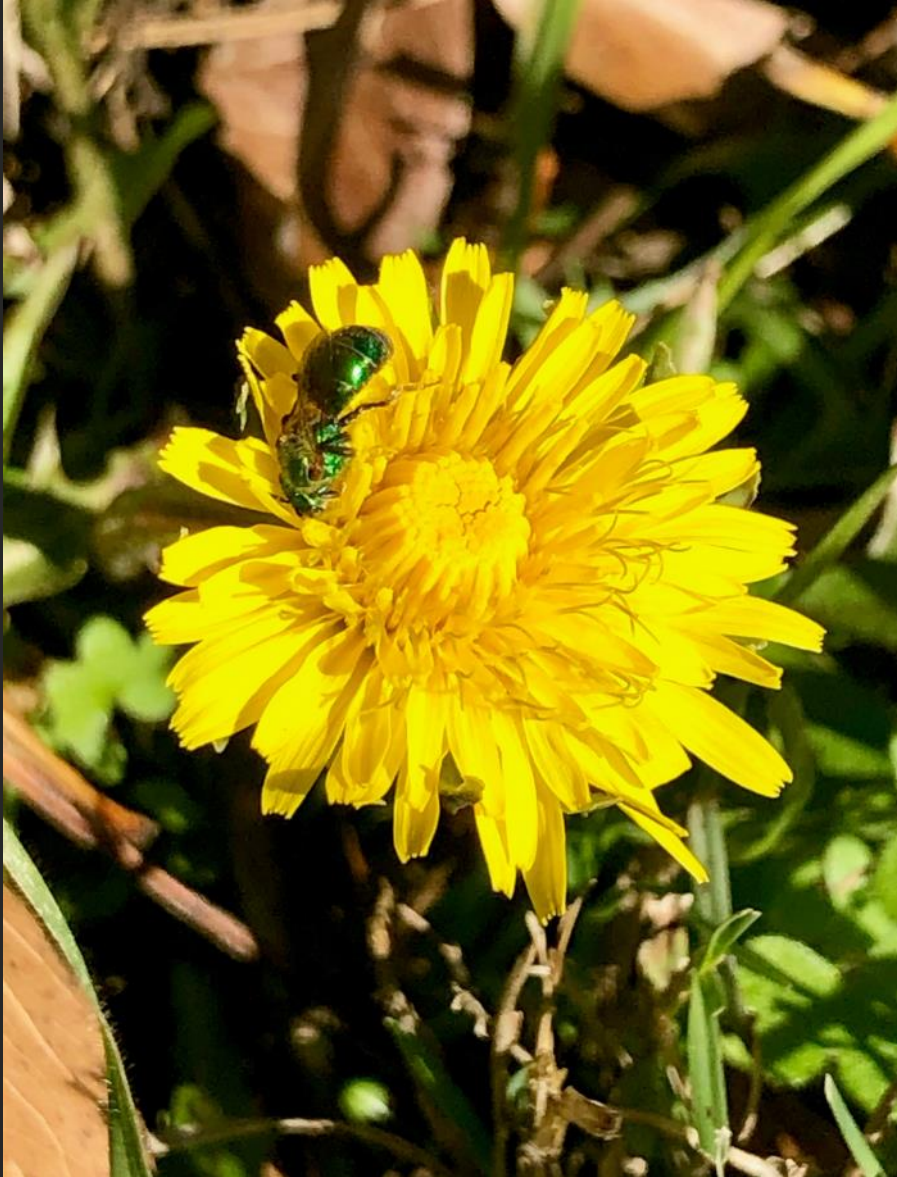


“Three for Dinner”—Denise Remfert

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**Native Bee on Dandelion
from Kathryn Wells**

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

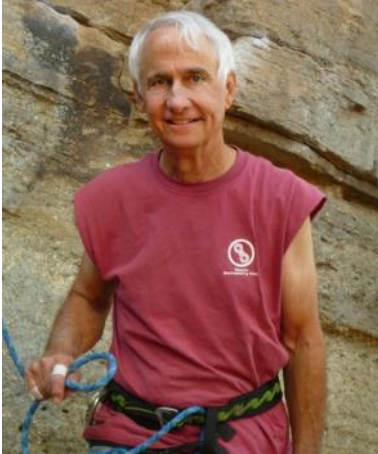
On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/](http://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/)

THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE OF NATURALIST NEWS—THANK YOU!



Editor, wanda odum, class 2005

Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Van Elliott class 2009

Kathryn Wells class 2017



Judi Elliott class 2009

Marilyn Blanton class 1999



Denise Remfert class 2015



Jean Mason class 2017

Sue Yost class 2017



ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2020

At: Ben E. Keith, 2801 I35, Denton

- Who will be honored as Volunteer of the Year?
- Which project will earn the title Project of the Year?
- But wait! That's not all. There are to be numerous other recognitions so don't miss out on this celebratory meeting.



- Oh, did I mention what comes after the recognitions?
—cake provided courtesy of 2019 class.

PROJECTS IN AND AROUND THE COMMUNITY

What are you doing Tuesday?

Come to Green Acres!

Jean Mason

Green Acres Farm Memorial Park was donated to the Town of Flower Mound, by Larry Davis, prior to his death in 2007. His donation was to honor his wife, Agnes Pyne Davis. It is a 13-acre passive park in near Grapevine Lake in south Flower Mound. The Davises had a house with a yard and a pool on the hilltop. The rest of the land consisted of a pasture and a horse arena, with a horse barn and storage buildings. There are ponds outside the property on two sides, which attract additional birds and other wildlife. The house and pool are long gone, but there remains a storage building, a couple of grain bins, and a barn. The horse arena is now a Town of Flower Mound tree farm.

In the spring of 2010, the Greater Lewisville Newcomers Garden Group, through Keep Flower Mound Beautiful, adopted Green Acres. With the help of Flower Mound Parks and Recreation staff, they created a 20' by 20' monarch station, near the barn. The soil was improved and mulched, and following guidelines from the University of Kansas Monarch Watch program, plants that can host, and provide nectar for butterflies were added. In August 2011, it was designated #4842 Butterfly Oasis and an official Monarch Watch sign was posted.

PROJECTS IN AND AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Since 2016, the Elm Fork Master Naturalists have become very active on the property. Under the leadership of Becky Bertoni (who was with the original Newcomers group), several native gardens have been added, including Irene's garden, wildflower gardens, an edibles garden, and a shade garden. We continually maintain the Monarch Station and recently expanded it. We have added three bee lodges, two in the monarch station and one up on the prairie. We've begun work on our wetlands area to reclaim the native riparian environment. We are also digging 100's of holes in several gardens we have prepared (using hugelkultur methods) in anticipation of a Little Blue Stem rescue, which is scheduled for March. This spring, we'll watch for our bluebird population in all eight of our bluebird boxes, monitoring them throughout the breeding season.

We have a fun and hardworking crew that regularly meets on Tuesdays, to continue the good work of restoring the land to its native environment. Please visit the Green Acres Farm Memorial Park on iNaturalist to see all the flora and fauna observations:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/green-acres-farm-memorial-park>

We encourage you to stop out some Tuesday, look at all we've done, and all that can yet be accomplished!

Green Acres Farm Memorial Park
4400 Hide-A-Way Lane
Flower Mound, TX 75022



Digging holes for our Little blue stem rescue



Digging a hole for our water oak



Expanding the monarch station



Monarch station work



Prairie crew



Preparing garden for Little Blue stem and hugelkulturs



Russell and the Native bee house

From Marilyn Blanton, Project Manager

Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2019

All of the award winning artwork from the Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2019 is currently displayed at UNT. The Elm Fork Education Center in the EESAT Building is hosting the exhibit in their gallery.



The artwork is grouped by schools and makes an impressive display.

Additional artwork is now being showcased at the Carroll Court Building hosted by AgriLife. It's a colorful display just inside the front door on the first floor.

Our committee would like to thank the Elm Fork Education Center and AgriLife for their support. We hope you have an opportunity to see the exhibits. If you are interested in joining us to work on this project, please contact Marilyn Blanton, marilynblanton42@gmail.com



Field Notes in Focus



Chipping sparrow — From Gallery of Denise Remfert

Meet a Master; Gale Bacon
By Sue YOST Class of 2017



Where are you from? My father was in the Air Force and we moved somewhere new every 3 years. I attended high school and college in Austin, TX, and I'm proud to call Austin my 'home town'.

Marital status? Married to my wonderful soul mate for 18 years.

Kids, Grand kids? No children, but together my husband and I have over 25 nieces/nephews, grandnieces/grandnephews that we love to spoil.

Pets? Over the years, I've cared for many cats, dogs and a bird. Once had a baby boa constrictor, named Herman, who gave birth, and I promptly renamed her 'Cleo' and returned her to the pet store. We were adopted by our current 17 year old border collie, when she wandered onto our property 15 years ago.

Work history? Worked in a variety of jobs over 35 years in the technology industry: software developer, software instructor, pre-sales consultant, technical support and tech support manager. Retired in 2018.

Schooling? Bachelors in Management Information Systems from the University of Texas at Austin, minors in computer science and biochemistry. Yes, it took me awhile to figure out a major...

How long a MN? What class year? Class of 2018.

Favorite pastime: scuba diving (in recent years past), herb and vegetable gardening.

Favorite food: Greek dolmas

Favorite place to visit: I love to travel. My favorite so far is New Zealand. Great people, great food and the landscape and ocean views are incredible!

Favorite animal: Love them all, except scorpions.

Favorite MN volunteer opportunity: Haven't been to all the projects yet, but I spend most of my time at benthic monitoring, water quality monitoring, and serve on the VMS and training committees.

Share a funny story or antidote about being a MN: In the summer of 2018, I'd already signed up for the TMN fall class, and decided to attend the open house. While standing in the lunch line, I got to talking with Tim Trosper. How did you hear about TMN?, I asked. He said that he'd been volunteering at LLELA and several TMN members had urged him to join - repeatedly. So, are you going to join? He was worried it might be a cult. I laughed pretty hard at this and so did he. In truth, he was worried that might be too late to get into the class as it was nearly full. I grew up in Austin during the 70s & 80s. I've seen a few cults. The open house was entirely different. There were so many interesting projects on a variety of topics, and members with a healthy passion for all things in nature. I met people who were into insects, snakes, trees, forests, birds. There were folks who spent hours examining the health of river bottom. Who knew? There were professional organizations, like Texas Parks and Wildlife present. Everyone I met displayed a genuine desire to make a difference in the community. I knew I was in the right place. Tim and I still have a good laugh about our first meeting. There is an exceptional "zeal" to this group. And no doubt, we all share a real gratification from the work we do and the time we spend together, be it emotional, mental, even dare I say - spiritual. What I have discovered is a family that takes very good care of our house and each other. All that said, if the board ever comes up with a rule about wearing robes at the Elm Fork chapter meetings, well... Master Gardeners here I come!

Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you: In my mid 20's, when my girlfriends started having children, I became a mid-wife and assisted with 8 deliveries. There is truly nothing more miraculous than a birth. Now, before the birth happens, that's sometimes not so miraculous, as all the moms (and dads) know. That probably played a part in why I never had children myself. ☺ I discovered later in life that it's pretty darn good to be an Aunt.

From Van Elliott



Trail Guide Training Workshop Agenda Saturday, March 28, 9 am - 3:30 pm

Bring a refillable water bottle, a lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. We advise long pants and closed-toe shoes for protection from the sun and biting insects.

- 9:00—9:20 am: Introduction to LLELA
- 9:20—10:15 am: Introduction to nature interpretation and guiding
- 10:15—11:00 am: The trails, one by one
- 11:00 am—1:30 pm: Lunch and Blackjack Trail interpretive hike (bring a sack lunch and drink)
- 1:30—3:00 pm: Cicada Trail interpretative hike
- 3:00—3:30 pm: Volunteer paperwork

for those interested

This workshop is for volunteers who are planning to lead hikes and educational programs at LLELA. For Texas Master Naturalists, this counts as 5 hours of advanced training. Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist and long-time LLELA trail guide Clyde Camp will be leading the training.

Please contact Lisa Cole at 469-635-5481 or lcole@cityoflewisville.com to register.



NOT AT APPROVED

Register Your 2020 Birding Classic Team Today at www.birdingclassic.org! Deadline is April 1.

Gather your friends, family, fellow bird or nature club members, and colleagues to join your team for the [24th Annual Birding Classic!](#)

Make plans now to be one of the more than 100 teams participating all over the state and enjoy one of the best experiences in Texas: spring bird migration.

Tournament Dates: April 15 through May 15 (your choice of day).

Novice birders, expert listers, and everyone in between are welcome! There are many categories to choose from based on your birding ability and region of the state. From half day or full day to full week tournaments, there's something for everyone.

Participants receive t-shirts with the official 2020 artwork of American Avocets, by Craig Farquhar. Stay tuned for a vote on shirt color coming soon!

Registration fees and sponsorship dollars go toward [Conservation Grants](#) for birding, nature tourism, and habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout Texas. Select winning teams will help choose which projects are funded. The more teams that register, the more funds we can award!

Questions? Email [Shelly Plante](mailto:shelly.plante@tpwd.texas.gov) (shelly.plante@tpwd.texas.gov), Nature Tourism Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, about the event.

AT APPROVED

North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference – AT
February 19 @ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Registration is now open for the 2020 North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference! Join us Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 8:00 am in Hurst. The conference theme will be the connection between healthy trees and healthy lives, with a focus on how to keep trees healthy when faced with pests, disease, changing climate, and poor soils. The anticipated speakers are Dr. Mike Merchant, Dr. Hans Williams, Sam Hill, a panel of municipal foresters, and state officials. The full schedule is available on our [website](#).
[Conference Registration](#)

The UNSCRAMBLED words
 How many did you get right?
 Sue YOST class of 2017

Ecology	Aquatics
Prairie	Amphibians
Climate	Birds
Naturalist	Vegetation
Geology	Carnivore
Habitat	Reptiles
Insects	Wetland
Butterfly	Fossil



How'd you do?



Last month's puzzle unscrambled to fit answers above.

Scrambled Master Naturalist Words we all [should] know.

Let's have some fun and keep those brain cells active!

Sue Yost class of 2017

yoogecl
 iipearr
 lictmae
 rautstilan
 oyoggel
 bahttia
 ssnciet
 tflerbuy

ctiauaq
 pbaihimsna
 sdrbi
 vneogietta
 arervocni
 ieerptls
 wdlactn
 lssfoi

Only I know the answers!

Feel free to send me your unscrambled words sdyst@asunnytexas.com

Answers will be in next months' newsletter}

A LITTLE EXTRA

Greenbelt south from Jonathan Reynolds



ALMOST THE LAST WORD



Correction from January newsletter: this area was misidentified as being along Green Belt; however, Jonathan Reynolds advised that it is at Lake Ray Roberts DORBA trail through the recently controlled burn in that area of the park.

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



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."

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

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



w odum

"To draw you must close your eyes and sing"
Paublo Picasso

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD:

PRESIDENT—Brenda Wellenreiter
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—Adelaide Bodner
VICE-PRESIDENT/PROJECTS—Jody Springer
SECRETARY—Kathryn Wells
TREASURER—Jerry Betty
MEMBER-at-LARGE—Harriet Powell
CLASS REPRESENTATIVES— David Jones & Susan Pritchard

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 is

Annual Awards and will be at:

Ben E. Keith, 2801 I35, Denton

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met February 6, 2020. Next monthly Board meeting is March 12, 2020

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.