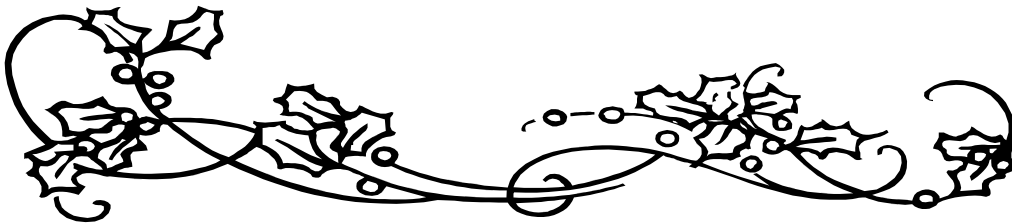


# WOODDUCK WHISTLER



Volume 8 Issue 1  
January 2012



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*Special Points of Interest*

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December greetings everyone!

Hope you are enjoying the fall colors and colder weather. The Sumacs, Red Oaks, and Sweet Gum's red and orange leaves make a beautiful mosaic in the woods. Also the Black Gums dark red /orange and Sassafras add a nice touch to the fall colors.

The cold wet weather has brought on the winter rosettes of many plants such as Sow Thistles, Dandelion, and Shepard's Purse, just to name a few that I have observed recently. With the cold and warm days some of these will be sending up there bloom stalks. The above plants are wild edibles and can be used as cooked greens or salad greens. Henbit and Chickweed are two other wild edibles that spring up this time of the year as well. Henbit is a little mealy tasting and makes a nice garnish, as does parsley, to any dish.

The great horned owls are back and can be heard in the early morning these days, which is good news; they have survived the harsh summer.

In my neck of the woods, the Yaupon has produced a bounty of fruit that will help feed the birds over the winter months. The Live Oaks in the yard pulled through with a medium crop of acorns for the squirrels.

We still need more rain but are thankful for what we have gotten. Hopefully the rainfall we've received will benefit the frogs and toads as well as other wildlife.

Water is such a precious resource that we as master naturalists can help others to use our water wisely.

To all of our readers have a Happy Holiday season!

Neal



**HEY WE ARE ON  
FACEBOOK!**



## TREES

The Old North Church Oak (from "Famous Trees of Texas"  
by Texas Forest Service published March 1984)

This historic post oak once played an important role in the religious life of early Texans for it was under its spreading branches that the settlers secretly met and worshipped.

Under Mexican rule, religious freedom was denied those of a faith other than Catholicism, the state religion. Consequently, until the defeat of the Mexicans at the Battle of San Jan Jacinto on April 21, 1836, Texans of other faiths were forced to meet in secret.

As early as 1832, settlers in the Nacogdoches area met and worshipped under this historic post oak tree, which was somewhat removed from the settlement but which had nearby a good spring of water.

In 1835, a 10 acre site around the tree was donated for use as a graveyard and church site by Dr. John M. Sparks, son of Richard Sparks, the last alcalde of Nacogdoches. The first use of the graveyard came when a child from a passing wagon train was buried.

Immediately after word of Santa Anna's defeat reached the settlers, Elder Isaac Reed, a Missionary Baptist who had come to Nacogdoches from Tennessee in 1834, preached the first Baptist sermon in the shade of this tree. In October of that year, the settlers erected a log structure near the tree and named it "Liberty School House" to commemorate their battle for freedom from Mexican rule. This is said to be the first Protestant school in Texas.

On the first Sunday in May 1836, the first Baptist Church was organized in the log schoolhouse. Old North Church, as it is now known, originally was called Union Church to signify a union of the Primitive Baptists. Although it was built by Baptists, other denominations have never been refused the use of the building for religious purposes.

A storm in 1930 nearly destroyed the tree when almost the entire crown was blown off. It has since healed and hidden its wound with a dense crown of branches and leaves.

The Old North Church Oak is located on the southeast side of Old Highway 35, a few hundred yards east of US Highway 59, just north of the city limits of Nacogdoches.

Submitted: Mike Price



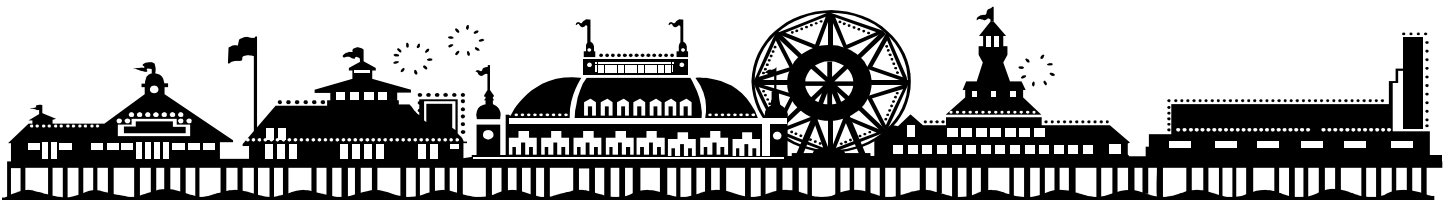
## **Email to our membership from the East Texas Fair Director**

The 2011 Fair has come and gone. We have analyzed and evaluated and already begun the process of planning for next year. One oversight on my part was thanking each of you individually for your time and commitment to make this a spectacular year in AgriWorld. I have thanked your organization collectively, but wanted to express to each of you my (and the Fair's) sincere appreciation for your work and your cooperative spirit. Everyone agrees that this was the best AgriWorld ever, and it is due to the hard work and creativity of volunteers like you!

Enjoy this holiday season and rest on your laurels for a while. 2012 is just around the corner, and we look forward to seeing each of you again.

With much appreciation,  
Deborah Newman

Deborah Newman  
Director of Competitive Events  
The Park of East Texas  
Home of the East Texas State Fair  
2112 W. Front Street  
Tyler, TX 75702  
www.etstatefair.com



## **FYI**

Please refer to our website for all updates!

We have added volunteer opportunities, advance training, current and past newsletters, and most importantly what is coming up.

Please refer to it frequently, save it as your favorite!

<http://txmn.org/etwd/>

**EAST TEXAS CHAPTER—TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM  
CLASS SCHEDULE—SPRING 2012**

**CLASS 1— SATURDAY, MARCH 3 THE NATURE CENTER, TYLER**

Morning Session 9 AM to 12 Noon:  
Introduction to the TMN Program--Chapter Information--Class of 2012 CD  
Neal Stilley, Chapter President, Presiding  
(10:00) "What is a Naturalist"—Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research  
Institute of Texas (BRIT), Ft. Worth  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Geology and Soils of Texas---Steve Lange, TPWD, Tyler

**CLASS 2—SATURDAY, MARCH 10 THE NATURE CENTER, TYLER**

Morning Session 9 AM to 12 Noon  
Weather and Climate--Steve Lange, TPWD Natural Resource Specialist  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Ecological Regions of Texas—Steve Lange, TPWD Tyler

**CLASS 3—SATURDAY, MARCH 17 THE NATURE CENTER, TYLER**

Morning Session 9 AM to 12 Noon  
Mammology--Kevin Herriman, TPWD, Northeast Texas Ecosystem Project  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Ecological concepts and ecological management—David Sierra, TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Tyler

**\* CHAPTER MEETING – THURSDAY, MARCH 22 6:45PM, THE NATURE CENTER**

**CLASS 4---SATURDAY, MARCH 24 CADDOAN MOUNDS, ALTO, TX**

Morning Session 9 AM to 12 Noon, First Methodist Church, Alto  
Archeology---Neal Stilley, East Texas Chapter, TMN Program  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Field Visit to Caddoan Mounds Historical Site, Hwy 21 South out of Alto

**CLASS 5—SATURDAY, MARCH 31 THE NATURE CENTER, TYLER**

Morning Session 9 AM to 12 Noon  
Ornithology---Jeff Kopachena, PhD., Texas A & M, Commerce, Wildlife Conservation Science Program  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Entomology – Allen Smith, Texas Forest Service, Longview

**CLASS 6---SATURDAY, APRIL 14, THE NATURE CENTER, TYLER**

Morning Session 9:00 AM to 12 Noon  
9:00 to 10:30 Ichthyology – Rick Ott, PhD., TPWD, Tyler  
10:45 to 12:30 Plant Taxonomy – Ruth Loper, Retired, UTT Botany Faculty  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Field Activity—Ruth Loper and Sonnia Hill (Volunteer Botanist)

**CLASS 7---SATURDAY, APRIL 21 FIELD TRIP TO CLYMER MEADOW**

All day activity, arrive at Clymer Meadow by 9 AM. Bring sack lunch.  
Jim Eidson, Texas Nature Conservancy, Celeste, Texas

**EAST TEXAS CHAPTER—TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM  
CLASS SCHEDULE—SPRING 2012 (Continued)**

**CHAPTER MEETING --- THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 6:45, THE NATURE CENTER**

**CLASS 8—SATURDAY, APRIL 28 OLD SABINE BOTTOM WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA, LINDALE (All day activity, bring sack lunch)**  
Wetland Ecology and Management—Scott Bosworth, TPWD, OSB-WMA  
Herpetology—Kevin Herriman & David Sierra, TPWD, Tyler

**CLASS 9---SATURDAY, MAY 5 THE NATURE CENTER, TYLER  
CHAPTER ACTIVITY DAY**  
Morning Session 9 AM to 12 Noon  
Forest Ecology and Tree Identification – Daniel Duncum, Texas Forest Service  
Lunch  
Afternoon Session 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Urban Systems---Brett Johnson, TPWD, Biologist

**CLASS 10 —SATURDAY, MAY 12 THE NATURE CENTER**  
9 AM to Noon  
Threatened and Endangered Species—Aron Flanders, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Biologist,  
Sulphur Springs  
Noon: Graduation and awards/picnic.  
Afternoon: Chapter Information (Forms, Chapter, Operating Handbook,  
Questions) -- Board

- **These dates are our monthly meeting, and we encourage you to attend these!**

12-20-2011

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROMK THE 2010 GRADUATING CLASS !**



MINUTES FROM ETCMN BUSINESS MEETING 12/3/11  
CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

President Neal Stilley called the meeting to order at 11:38 AM. In attendance were Janet and Ron Cook, Neva and Robert Gates, Richard LeTourneau, Cindi McCullough, Clyde McKinney, Helen Mar Parkin, Mike Price, Gloria Rognlie, Neal Stilley, and Laura Wilson. Since the minutes of the last meeting (Curriculum Committee, 11/28, at Tyler Ford) have already been emailed to the Executive Committee, they were approved without being read.

**Officers' Reports**

The President summarized the proceedings of the last meeting. The Vice President did not have a report. The Secretary was not present. Treasurer Mike Price gave the November financial report. We have 32 active members, two of whom are Honorary Members who do not pay dues.

Mike has requested two more keys for the P.O. box, but was told they must be requested by the primary box holder (Gloria). Gloria will get the keys.

**Committee Reports**

**Database update:** Cindi received an email from Michelle Haggerty regarding the year-end MN report and how to prepare it. She will be calling on us for help in preparing the report. Cindi plans to attend the Curriculum Committee meeting on December 15 to discuss this issue.

**Curriculum report:** Laura spoke of the recent Curriculum meeting on 11/28. She said letters will be sent to the presenters for the 2012 Curriculum Training in mid-December, with follow-up letters sent 30 days later. There will be 10 or 11 classes in the training. A tentative schedule has been set. The classes will be held on consecutive Saturdays starting March 3, 2012, except for Easter weekend. There will be three field trips.

**Website/newsletter report:** Laura is resigning from this position. Ron Cook has agreed to take over the website. Since our website is based on the state MN website, there may be a class that Ron can take to familiarize himself with how it works. Laura will give up her responsibilities on the newsletter as soon as she has found a replacement. Until Ron and the new newsletter person are comfortable with their responsibilities, articles and photographs for the website or newsletter should be sent to Laura.

**Membership report:** Helen Mar reported that the project at the American Legion has fallen through; it was not approved by the Legion. Since we have a ten-year partnership with the Legion, however, and since Mary Ann Nilson, who will be a member of the 2012 class, is in charge of their Public Relations, it is hoped that some volunteer projects may develop in the future. Helen Mar announced that we will be establishing a mentoring program for the 2012 class. She will be sending out an email to the active members describing the proposed program and asking for mentors. An initial meeting will be held in January to discuss how the program might work. Ideally, mentors will be matched with students based on geographical proximity and interests. Helen Mar also asked for volunteers to bring refreshments for the upcoming chapter meetings in the New Year.

MEETING 12/3/2011  
CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY  
(continued)

**New Business**

**Election of officers:** Vice president Clyde McKinney, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers: Neal Stilley, President; Mike Price, Vice president; Janet Cook, Secretary. There was no candidate for Treasurer. Those present voted unanimously for the slate. Nominations were taken for Treasurer. Laura Wilson offered to serve as Treasurer and she was elected unanimously.

**Adopt-a-Highway volunteer project:** Mike has received a letter from TxDOT asking if the chapter wishes to continue the maintenance of a two-mile section of Highway 1804 in Lindale. The project was set up by Mary Jo Madden. It involves picking up trash along the highway four times a year. There was evidently a lot of activity on this project for a while, but interest has waned. Helen Mar agreed to serve as coordinator. She will contact TxDOT and the active members and will work out a maintenance schedule.

**Proposed dues increase:** Mike mentioned that an email was sent to the active members 60 days ago suggesting an increase in dues from \$15 to \$20 for individuals and from \$25 to \$35 for couples. Only one member, Gene Gordon, who was not present at this meeting, raised an objection. Ron Cook asked if we are being driven to a dues increase because of budget concerns. Mike said the reason for the increase is that Irene Hamel used to absorb a lot of costs (amount not known) of running the chapter out of her budget. Mike said the biggest expense with the curriculum class is the food at the meetings, although Gloria said this cost of covered by class fees. Ron asked if we must pay presenters. Mike said that we have not up to now paid speakers from TPWD and AgriLife, but we have given honoraria to two independent speakers (self-employed wildlife rehabilitator) to cover their travel expenses. We will have more speakers who are not affiliated with TPWD or AgriLife in the future and we will need to cover their expenses. Texas AgriLife will be implementing "program participation fees" in 2012 to cover the costs of their programs and speakers, a policy that will impact our budgets. Gloria said that a big AgriLife seminar would require payment of the presenters. Clyde pointed out that dues are tax deductible and Mike mentioned that any donations to the chapter are deductible as well. Laura pointed out that there were only 12 members present and asked if that represented a quorum. A discussion ensued regarding the definition of a quorum. Gloria said a quorum is defined by the chapter By-Laws. No one had a copy of the By-Laws, which are usually brought to meetings by the Secretary. Gloria suggested we take a vote on the dues increase and hold the results until we determine if we had a quorum at this meeting. Someone asked if we should consider mail-in votes. It was decided that those present were evidently the only members who cared enough about the issue to attend and vote. Janet said we don't want to lose new members by raising the dues too much. Neva pointed out that our dues are pretty low in comparison with other chapters. A vote was taken to raise the dues and it passed unanimously, although the results will be considered tentative until we can confirm the definition of a quorum.

MEETING 12/3/11  
CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY  
(Continued)

**Presentation of awards:** The following members received awards this year.

**Initial certification** (pin presentation delayed for various reasons)

Neal Stilley, Class of 2010  
Bea Taylor, Class of 2010  
Carol Wilcox, Class of 2008

**2011 re-certification**

Tappa Burt  
Robert Gates  
Richard LeTourneau  
Cindi McCullough  
Helen Mar Parkin  
Mike Price  
Ann Reynolds  
Neva Rizley-Gates  
Gloria Rognlie  
Neal Stilley  
Carol Wilcox  
Laura Wilson

**250 hour milestone pin**

Gene Gordon  
Carol Wilcox  
Laura Wilson (pin received at state MN conference)

**500 hour milestone pin**

Helen Mar Parkin

**Congratulations to everyone!**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Helen Mar Parkin  
December 3, 2011



**EAST TEXAS CHAPTER MASTER NATURALISTS  
P.O. BOX 131184  
TYLER, TEXAS 75713  
PHYSICAL ADDRESS TO TEXAS NATURE CENTER:  
OFF LOOP 323 ON STATE HWY 248( OR IT'S  
CALLED UNIVERSITY BLVD). RIGHT ON FM 848  
(BASCOM ROAD) ON THE RIGHT.....**

I encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, quotes, (with permission web links , and other forms of submission with written consent).

TMN.EDITOR@GMAIL.COM  
Deadline is 15th of every month!!

**HEY WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!**

*\* East Texas Chapter Master  
Naturalists*



**We're on the WEB!!**

**<http://txmn.org/etwd/>**



## Our Officers, Committee Chairs, & Meeting Dates

The East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists meetings are on the 4th Thursday of every month @ 6:45 pm. Texas Nature Center

**Neal Stilley - President  
Janet Cook - Secretary  
Cindi McCullough - Database Mgr**

**Mike Price – Vice President  
Laura Wilson - Treasurer  
Helen Mar Parkin - Membership Mgr.**

### *Our Advisors:*

**Kevin Herriman    Chad Gulley**

