

Wood Duck Whistler October 2024

President's Message by Wanda Rauscher



I am looking forward to the October Texas Pollinator Bioblitz (11th-27th). I hope many of you will also participate and record those photos of flowering plants and pollinators to iNaturalist. Claim volunteer service hours by reporting under Chapter Data Collection Projects noting TX Pollinator Bioblitz under "Describe your service". I'll be stalking bees in particular! We have a special speaker for October with an unusual date- Tuesday Oct 22. This will be a ZOOM format meeting. Kelly Simon, TPWD State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, will talk to us about how the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list is updated and the planning that comes next to develop a new State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). I am also looking forward to the State Annual Meeting in San Marcos (cross your fingers for me that my home front remains quiet & I get to participate without emergency interruptions!)

October is the month where we sort out volunteers for open positions. If you are interested in helping with chapter administration, please let us know (an email to tmneastxpres@yahoo.com will do it). The offices of Secretary and VP/Program Chair

need candidates for the 2025-2026 term (in order to serve you must have completed initial certification and be current with chapter dues payments). We also will be seeking help for some of the appointed Director positions.

At our September Board Meeting we heard an appeal to join Tyler Audubon in a service project at the Neches River Wildlife Refuge: to design and build an accessible bird blind. The Board voted to pledge our support. Project scope is still being explored but by the time we meet for our holiday party December 7 we'll know more about what will be possible based on funds available from all cooperating parties.

I submitted a nomination for Outstanding Chapter Project (and will present at TMN Tuesday Project Fair Oct 8).

"Texas Master Naturalist East Texas Chapter recognized a great opportunity to help make the Tyler Nature Center complex a better place for the community. The site closure for the office construction project 2020-2022 meant that the native plant demonstration garden originally created in 2012 by East Texas Chapter TMN and the Tyler Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas fell into disarray. Trails were also in need of attention! We reached out to Stephen Lange (Regional Director Wildlife Division, Region 3) and asked if we could take responsibility for the native plant demonstration garden at the Tyler Nature Center and start trail work. He agreed and we submitted a "Bring Back the Monarchs" grant proposal in January 2023. Private donations enabled us to start work in January 2023 and receiving the grant in March enabled us to acquire more plants & mulch. Our trails team's main focus has been to clear the hiking trails so the public might once again enjoy this natural area. In addition, we have also been involved with the renovation of park benches, repurposing of cedar posts to mark trail entrances, plant ID, and the removal of invasive privet. Chapter effort has continued from 2023-2024."



Recertifications

Todd Guest
Kay Jenkins
Rodney Schroeder
Kari Steph

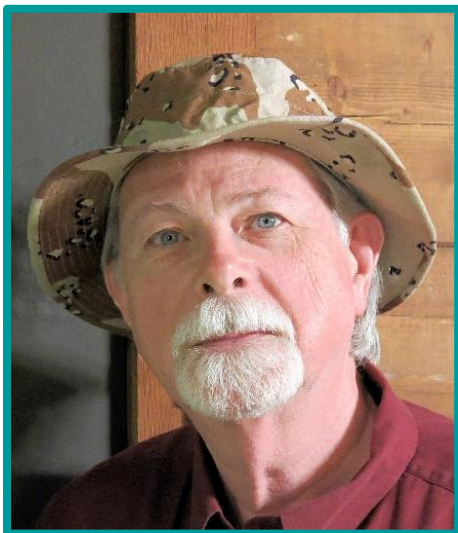
Milestone Award

Carol Lanthrum – 250 hours

Member Spotlight

Ann Reynolds

Please welcome to the spotlight this month,
Curtis Farmer!



Where were you born/raised? I was born near the Fort Devens military base in Massachusetts, where my father was an Army officer. My father left the service the following year, and I grew up in the suburbs of Dallas and Houston.

Where do you live now? I currently live in a log cabin home on fifteen wooded acres southeast of Palestine.

Would you care to share with us about your family? My wife Beverly and I have four children.

What is/was your career? Education? I spent 26 years of my life as a student, and over two decades as a university lecturer. I was an economics analyst for the government of Mexico, a research associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC, and an English as Foreign Language instructor with Texas A&M University, including fourteen years at the engineering branch campus in Doha, Qatar in the Middle East.

What are some of your hobbies? As a youth and college student, I studied classical and jazz piano. I have played with many types of musical groups over the years. I have also served as a composer, and at times as an orchestra conductor. My passion besides music and nature studies is genealogical research, which I have pursued for more than fifty years.

What do you attribute your love of nature? My love of Nature seems to be an inherited trait. My mother really enjoyed birds and plants. Even though I grew up in cities, I seemed to come alive whenever I found myself in a forest.

What was it that interested you in the Texas Master Naturalist program? I was intrigued by the holistic approach to Nature found in the Master Naturalist program. It was a chance to learn a little bit about a lot of things; and to keep my mind active in my later years.

What class were you in? just before Covid. 2019?

What has been your favorite volunteer experience? Favorite nature activity? I really enjoy teaching classes on East Texas tree identification. I have been fortunate to have been able to speak regularly in Smith, Anderson, and Leon Counties.

Describe what would be your perfect, bucket-list natural science encounter or experience. My favorite Nature experiences involve encounters with species of trees I have never seen before. When I travel, I always keep my eyes open. One of my favorite surprises was a fully blooming Royal Poinciana (*Delonix regia*) in Villahermosa, Mexico and Baobab trees in southern Oman.

Advice for new master naturalists? Just find something that interests you and make time to pursue it.

Tyler Nature Center Update Kay Jenkins



The next workday is **October 5** starting at 8:00 am. Volunteers are welcome to come and go as they can between 8:00 am and noon.

Remember **this is OUR demonstration garden** to show the community that native plants in a landscape can be beautiful and ecologically responsible. We recommend bringing the tools listed below if you have them. There will be extra tools for those who don't have them.

Please RSVP to Kay so she can plan the work around the number of volunteers. Her email is: kay-jenkins@sbcglobal.net.

- Gloves, hat, sunscreen and water to drink
- Knee pads, kneeling pad or towel to kneel on
- Shovel, rake, pruners, clippers, loppers, hoe
- 5-gallon bucket

Garden chores become pleasure when we work together.



Odolympics Treasures Wanda Rauscher

I did see a new species for me: the damselfly Smoky Rubyspot (*Hetaerina titia*). I saw it on the Princeton section of the Paul Boorman hiking trail in Longview. I almost missed it as there were several Ebony Jewelwings hanging out on the same stream bank and I was distracted watching their wing claps. Wing claps are a thing that male and female Ebony jewelwings do- slowly spreading their wings open and then closing them with a snap. Both of these damselfly species are in the family Broad-winged Damselflies, *Calopterygidae*. Both of these species also prefer running water/ small streams over ponds.



Smoky Rubyspot on Paul Boorman trail



Ebony Jewelwing at Paul Boorman Trail

After Toni's presentation, class of 2009 Chapter Member Ann Reynolds gave a presentation on how to use iNaturalist and Seek apps to help us identify SGCNs (species of greatest conservation need), other plant and animal species as well as how to upload discoveries in iNaturalist as citizen science data (unit 24). Heidi Kryger-Bailey, TPWD Region 3 Wildlife Biologist finished the day with a presentation on mammalogy (unit 16) then showing us interesting skulls and skins and how the animals' adaptations serve the animals.

On September 14, chapter member and UT Tyler Professor Emeritus in Biology, Neil Ford, Ph.D. presented on the topic of herpetology (unit 15) and brought live specimens for show and tell. Next, chapter member and UT Tyler Senior Lecturer in Biology, Jessica Coleman presented on ornithology (unit 12) and brought stuffed specimens to help participants learn to identify some of the common birds in the area. Chapter member, Crystal Mann, gave an informative presentation on ichthyology (unit 14). The presenters did a great job engaging the audience on these topics.

We made our first offsite field trip on September 21 to the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Anderson County where wildlife biologists, **Kyle Brunson** and Charles (Chuck) Anderson, took us on a great field trip in the WMA, showing us post oak savannah habitats that they have been managing with

Fall 2024 Initial Training Kay Jenkins

The Fall 2024 initial training classes kicked off on Saturday, August 24 with 18 trainees representing nine counties signing up for the training. Barney Lipscomb with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas provided excellent presentations on the historical naturalists of Texas (unit 3)



and the nature of naming (unit 10).

On September 7, Toni Aguilar, Region 3 Fire Coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Division, presented an overview on how TPWD uses prescribed fire as a management tool (unit 17) and then led a field trip at the Tyler Nature Center to look at the fire management units. Several of the trainees expressed an interest in volunteering for prescribed fires on wildlife management areas. Information on how chapter members can volunteer in conducting prescribed fires is presented in another part of this newsletter.



prescribed fire and brush control. We were also treated to a visit to one of the bogs on the



WMA northwest of Palestine--16149 North US Hwy 287, Tennessee Colony, TX, 75861--that provides public hunting and public use opportunities. However, its primary role is to serve as a wildlife research and demonstration area for the Post Oak Savannah Ecoregion.

The WMA was originally named after Milze L. Derden, who sold the land to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). However, in 1952, it was renamed after Gus A. Engeling, the game warden and first biologist assigned to the area.

Unarmed, Engeling investigated gunshots and confronted a poacher who had bagged two ducks. The trespasser shot the warden and hid his body under a submerged tree in the marsh. The suspect was traced by a pair of eyeglasses left at the scene. Alton Paris confessed to the murder, was sentenced, and was promptly electrocuted.

Sidebar: In 2020, Paris' great-great grandson, Antwoine, apologized on Warden Engeling's online Reflections page.

[Warden Engelings Reflections](#)

The GEWMA encompasses 2,000 acres of hardwood bottomland floodplain, almost 500 acres of natural watercourses, 350 acres of wetlands, and roughly 300 acres of sphagnum-moss bogs. The area demonstrates management practices such as prescribed burns, brush treatments, grazing, hunting, and native grass restoration.

Home to over 1,000 botanical species, the GEWMA's uplands flora includes a dense overstory of elm, gum, hickory, and oak with a shade tolerant understory of American Beautyberry, Dewberry, Farkleberry, Flowering Dogwood, Greenbriar, Hawthorn, Possumhaw, and Yaupon.

Oak trees--primarily Water and Willow oak--are the main trees of the bottomlands. Wetland plants include common Duckweed, Giant

WMA where Kyle slit open a pitcher plant tube to show us the decomposing insects plus one live maggot that the plant had trapped. Kyle and Chuck gave excellent presentations on hog management, rangeland ecology and management (unit 20) and wetland ecology and management (unit 19).]

I cannot say enough about how much I appreciate the TPWD Wildlife Division staff and our own chapter members for sharing their expertise with us and giving our Fall 2024 trainees an excellent introduction into their respective fields. In addition, chapter training committee members Wanda Rauscher, Lindsey Smith, Dawn Bahr, Ann Reynolds, and Carol Lanthrum have been invaluable in their support during the planning of the Fall 2024 program and by serving as concierges at the sessions. Lindsey is patiently teaching some of us how to hook up and use the chapter's audio system. Chapter members, Joe and Caryn Vorsas, Vickie Hoppis, Angela Hudson, Ruth Adame, and Bob Lumkins have served as class concierges, for which I am grateful! We are looking forward to more presentations and field trips in October and appreciate the volunteers who have signed up to be concierges for those activities.

Sundews and Don'ts

Karen Hulene Bartell – ETCMN 2024 Class

The Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area (GEWMA) is a nearly eleven-thousand-acre

Cutgrass, Plumegrass, Pondweed, rushes, sedges, and Yellow Lotus.

Sidebar: Depending on rainfall, the rangers assured this author that spring displays of flowering dogwood and wildflowers can be spectacular.

Wetlands are the “kidneys of the landscape” with their ability to purify polluted rivers, but they--along with their flora--are vanishing.

On September 21, 2024, the East Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist visited the GEWMA to observe its wetland and rangeland ecology / management programs. In addition to the classroom studies, our group made three stops within the WMA.

We toured a wooded Post Oak Savannah, showing the difference between prescribed burns and prescribed burns with brush treatments. In this instance, the combination proved the more successful.

We stopped at Catfish Creek to observe one of the few remaining undisturbed riparian habitats in the western Gulf Coastal Plain, where I identified *Heliotropium indicum*, AKA In [Indian Heliotrope](#)

However, the most interesting stop, in this author's opinion, was the sphagnum moss bog, but I've been playing in swamps since I was three. We found two of Texas' four carnivorous



plants, the *Sarracenia alata*, AKA the Pale

Pitcher plant and the rare *Drosera capillaris*, AKA the Pink Sundew.

[Pink Sundew](#)



Photos courtesy of Ann Reynolds

The Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area (GEWMA) is a treasure trove of Texas flora and fauna just waiting to be discovered. A self-guided auto tour is available to steer visitors through nine stops addressing wildlife habitat and management techniques.

To enjoy the WMA, visitors must purchase either an Annual Public Hunting (APH) Permit or Limited Public Use (LPU) Permit from any license-sale location in Texas or call 1 (800) TXLIC4U (895-4248).

Sidebar: For a comprehensive list of GEWMA's flora, see [Vegetation of Gus Engeling WMA](#)

For more information, see the Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Curriculum, Unit 19, pp 601-632, and Unit 20, pp 633-662.

A Homeschool Journey into Nature

Kay Jenkins

SFA Gardens hosted an event called EcoAdventures: A Homeschool Journey into Nature on September 16 with the help of ETCMN members. Over 100 homeschool students in kindergarten through 12th grades from Nacogdoches, Lufkin, Tyler and other areas of east Texas came to the SFA Gardens for an educational event. Seven activity stations offering engaging and educational

programs were set up on the grounds of the Pineywoods Native Plant Center (PNPC) in Nacogdoches. Four stations were visited by groups of students in kindergarten through 5th grades, and three stations were visited by groups of students in 6th through 12th grades.



ETCMN members Wanda Rauscher and Vickie Hoppis came to the PNPC ahead of the event and helped plan activities, make materials for the activities, and practice providing the activities. Vickie led kindergarten through 5th grade students in the “Birds and Bugs” activity that helps students understand adaptations that animals have to survive including camouflage. Wanda led an activity for 6th through 12th grade students called “Bottleneck Genes” that helps students understand the need for and benefits of genetic diversity in animal populations. [photo of Vickie Hoppis at the Birds and Bugs station]

Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale

Kay Jenkins

SFA Gardens is hosting its **Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale** on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center at 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches. The plant sales feature some hard-to-find natives as well as popular non-natives including Japanese maples. Parking is available at SFA’s Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center on Raguet Street south of the Pineywoods Native Plant Center. Bring your wagon if you have one (some are available onsite) and join the fun. Early birds

get the best plants! Fabulous Fall Sale Plant List is available for downloading from the website: [Fabulous Fall Plant List](#)

Xerces Project: The State of the Bees Initiative: Our Plan to Study Every Wild Bee Species in the U.S.



Wanda Rauscher

The Xerces Society of America has announced a project that aims to protect the incredible diversity of United States’ native bee species, all +3600 of them, by completing an extinction risk assessment for each and every species! According to Xerces, “To date, only the bumble bees, and a few other groups of bees have undergone any extinction risk assessment. A conservation or extinction risk assessment is a scientific report that identifies species that are likely to become extinct without any conservation interventions. The assessment takes into account a species’ life cycle, diet, habitat requirements, population size, distribution, and how different factors put them in danger.” The project actually began in 2022 starting with genus *Andrena* species. Project funding includes a competitive State Wildlife Grant for 2024–2026 awarded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a technical project that involves bee taxonomists and research groups. The cooperating partners include the state wildlife agencies of Texas (TPWD), Washington, California and Vermont; the Woodard Lab at University of California, Riverside; and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. There will likely be a place for citizen science contributions at some point. In the meantime, may I recommend that as we are doing pollinator observations that we continue getting our best bee shots &



submitting to iNaturalist (even if we can't get to species identification level).

iNat observation confirmed by Dr. John Ascher to be subgenus Callandrena

Want to Volunteer on Prescribed Fires?

Kay Jenkins

Interested in volunteering on on prescribed fires conducted at Tyler Nature Center and on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife management areas?

When Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Region 3 Wildlife Fire Coordinator, Toni Aguilar presented to the Fall 2024 initial training class, several trainees expressed an interest in learning how they can volunteer on prescribed fires. Toni provided some follow up information about how if we get enough people interested in gaining fire, she can hold the training. The required entry level training for a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) is a 40-hour long blended training consisting of 32 hours in online training and eight hours in an in-person field day. The training consists of 5 online courses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). A PowerPoint presentation

further describes the process to sign up for the courses.

In addition to taking the courses and participating in the field day, you must see your medical professional to have them sign a health care provider certificate stating that they have conducted a health risk assessment of you and that you are approved to take a pack test. Once the document is signed then you will need to pass the moderate pack test (walk 2 miles in 30 minutes with a 25 lb. pack). These physical requirements are set for all TPWD fire staff (full time employees and volunteers). Annually, all wildland firefighters are required to attend a full day refresher and pass the pack test to keep qualified.

TPWD requires a minimum of 10-15 folks who have taken the online courses and are ready for a field day before Toni will put on a field day training. She asked me (kay.jenkins@sbcglobal.net) to keep a roster of chapter members and trainees who are interested so she can keep us informed about the feasibility of holding a field training day. Links to online courses (recommended order):

1. ICS-100, Introduction to ICS for Operation First Responder (**2 hours** to complete)
 - a. Link: [Intro to ICS for 1st Responder](#)
 - b. Course information: [Course Information](#)
2. IS-700b, National Incident Management System (**3 hours** to complete)
 - a. Link: [National Incident Management System](#)
 - b. Course information: [Course Information](#)
3. L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (**4 hours** to complete)
 - a. Link: [Human Factors in Wildlife Fire Service](#)
 - b. Course information: [Course Information](#)
 - c. Student workbook: [Student Workbook](#)
4. S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (**6-8 hours** to complete 3 modules)
 - a. Link: [Intro to Wildfire Behavior](#)
 - b. Course information: [Course Information](#)
5. S-130, Wildland Firefighter Training (**~25 hours** to complete 11 modules)
 - a. Link: [Wildland Firefighter Training](#)

b. Course information: [Course Information](#)

You must have the course certificates or certificate for each unit to complete the Wildland Firefighter field day. At the end of each S-130/S-190 module is a Challenge Review or course test. It is recommended to use the Snipping Tool or save the results of the quizzes you passed, as sometimes completed course certificates have not been issued. Each Challenge Review/certificate must have your name and a passing score on it.

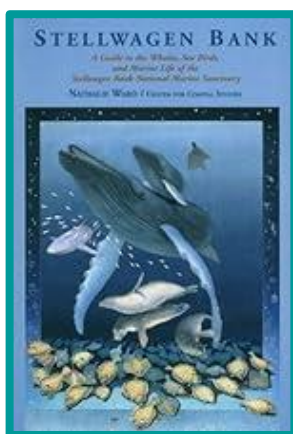
If you want more information about the wildland fire programs, Toni provided the following links that explain prescribed fire well.

1. Business of Burning (TPWD), 6 minutes: [Business of Burning](#)
2. Using Prescribed Fire in Oklahoma (OSU), 18 minutes: [Using Prescribed Fire in Oklahoma](#)
3. *Optional* additional information:
 - a. Texas Extension (link to 20 additional videos): [Texas Extension](#)
 - b. TPWD (additional videos & links): [TPWD](#)
 - c. Texas Forest Service: [Texas Forest Service](#)

Book Reviews

Lance Homeniuk

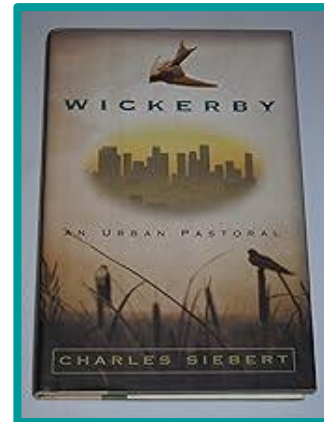
Stellwagen Bank by Nathalie Ward, 1995. Down east Books, Camden, Maine. Paperback, 232 pages.



A guide to the whales, sea birds, and marine life of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine sanctuary by the project director of the Center

for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Massachusetts. One of the better local nature guides I've come across. More than just gorgeous photos for tourists to page through, this little gem incorporates articles by geologists, whale researchers, marine biologists, oceanographers, and photographers. I had never heard of this underwater bank of gravel and sand but it is smack dab in the center of many well-known dry land sites and cities. I am not a sailor (blame it on the inner ear) but even so, it is tempting to go whale watching, diving, or birding. If ever we get out that way, I will pack my copy of this guide. I'll have to double bag it in Ziploc bags so no harm comes to it.

Wickerby: An Urban Pastoral by Charles Siebert. 1998 Crown Publishers Inc., NY. Hardcover 216 pages.



Unlike a modern Thoreau or Joyce, the author leaved the city for a spell of the country but manages to stay in the city, hence the subtitle. His vision flips back and forth from inner city Brooklyn to a country property just across the border the Vermont-Canada border. I don't mean in alternating chapters – sometimes it's paragraph by paragraph. The main characters are the author, his dalmatian, Lucy, and a menagerie of those who can be best described as real characters. There is the absent-in-body but in the forefront-of-thoughts Bex, whose family cabin he has removed himself to (while she is in Africa), Rusty the rhino who has also moved (to Minnesota, not Africa), rooftop mumblers and Brooklyn Street people, an unnamed, but possibly immortal

woodchuck, Rastedy the soon-deceased parakeet, and Albert the neighboring farmer who springs straight out of an episode of Green Acres. Oh, and Wickerby itself: collapsing wood cabin, woods, Ynot Lake, Bex's Rock and the maple tree. Not quite essays, not quite stream-of-consciousness, barely nature writing, bits of poetry, and thankfully not depressive or crude enough to be classed as postmodern literature. So, satisfactory overall with nuggets of enjoyment.

There is no such thing as nature. Wickerby would remind me of this. There is just the earth and us, the namers, standing upon it, naming those places without us, nature. The stars would have passed forever silently ... had I not arrived to interrupt them, to look back up and call them a name.

This is a theme he returns to often in Wickerby, but never considers while in Brooklyn. Siebert even refers to a scene from Alice in Wonderland for support. I am not sure what to make of it. But it seems important.

A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey. By Jonathan Meiburg. Published 2021 by Vintage Books, NY, NY. Paperback, 366 pages.



You do not know how many red Suburbans are on the road until you buy one. Then try to find it in the Walmart parking lot and they are everywhere! For me this has been the month of Caracaras. First, I found this book, then Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine has them as the cover story. I have only seen the bird once – while driving to a guided birding trip, and when

I described it to the experts (accurately so I thought) I was received like the boy who cried wolf.

Meiburg relates by turns the historical records and natural history of the bird, the life and writings of W. H. Hudson, and his own research and travels. Any one of the above would make an intriguing book yet he weaves the threads together so well they make a whole, colorful tapestry. Even the 48 pages of notes are good reading. We meet various caracara species at home in Tierra del Fuego, the Falklands, the Andes, Guiana highlands, California islands and individuals in New York, the Cotswolds of England, and on Steeple Jason Island. He likens the curious, adaptable, omnivorous, problem-solver bird to humans, who share those characteristics: "...only looking to the nonhuman world, with all the tools of science and art, can we see what we really are - and that we aren't alone as we feel."

By the by, there are a plethora of other creatures in the book, all dealt with as characters, not background scenery: vampire fish, black caimans, flamingos, giant armadillos, goliath bird eating spiders, and penguins. Even the New Caledonian crows make an appearance. These are the avians recognized as the world's smartest; that is why our strangest of falcons are qualified in the subtitle.

INTERPRETATION - MAKING THE CONNECTION - CONTINUED

Sharon Hanzik

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

What's Hot. What's Not.

As you gather your resource materials, remember:

People love to hear...

- Good stories
- Unusual facts (catfish have over 100,000 taste buds all over the surface of their body)



- Inspirational thoughts and quotes
- Gee-whiz information in terms they understand (over 4,000,000 bathtubs full of water go over the falls every hour)
- Things that evoke emotional or physiological responses (scary things, beautiful things, sad things, happy things)
- What's important to them

But don't really care much about...

- Ordinary scientific data (this waterfall averages 3,694,524 cubic feet per second in flow)
- Doom and gloom predictions or rehashings of catastrophes (the ozone layer will be totally depleted, and the Earth will burn up in X number of years)
- The same thing they've heard or read at every other interpretive site or talk they've ever been to (65 million years ago, this area was covered by a vast inland sea)

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things.
 Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them.
 Put there just a spark.
 If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire.
 ---Anatole France, as quoted in The Earth Speaks

TANGIBLES AND INTANGIBLES

Tangible – real, substantial, evident, things we can see and touch, Intangible – emotions, ideas,
 (describe an object first using tangible then intangibles)

UNIVERSALS

Universals are feelings that all humans can relate to: FEAR, ACCEPTANCE, SURVIVAL.....

THE INTERPRETIVE EQUATION

The National Park Service describes the opportunity to deliver interpretation in the following manner:
 $(Kr + Ka) \times AT = IO$

Knowledge of the Resource + Knowledge of the Audience + Appropriate Techniques = Interpretive Opportunities

It is important to remember that the equation can quickly become unbalanced, like a teeter-totter, if too much emphasis is placed on either of the (Kr + Ka) or AT components. Either way, your interpretive opportunity may not stand up to the strain, so strive for balance in your presentations.

REFERENCES

- Interpreting Our Heritage - Freeman Tilden
- Environmental Interpretation - Sam H. Ham
- The Interpreter's Guidebook - Jim Buchholz, Brenda Lackey, Michael Gross
- National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide course book

“Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much.”
 -Ralph Waldo Emerson



Serving Wood and Surrounding Counties



Wednesday, October 2nd, 2:00-3:30pm
Bob Wells Nursery at Sorelle Farms
975 County Road 2220 in Mineola



(A short meeting will follow the presentation)



Email us: Lakes-and-Pines-Chapter@npsot.org

“OUTDOOR SPACE NATIVE DESIGN”

Learn the basic steps of how to approach a landscape design using native plants



STACEY L. GATES
of Gates Outdoor Spaces

Native to Oklahoma, Stacey recently moved to Winona Texas from San Antonio, where she had previously resided for over 20 years and earned her degree in Horticulture Sciences. Stacey focuses her degree in the areas of Residential Landscape Design and Personal Garden Coaching. Stacey has a passion for soil health, water conservation, and embracing stewardship. In this presentation, Stacey will lay out the basic steps on how to approach a landscape design, using native plants, from scratch.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS MISSION STATEMENT: Promote conservation, research and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example.



Native Plant Society of Texas

Meeting of the Tyler Chapter
Business Meeting & Guest Speaker
Monday, October 14, 2024
2:00 PM at the
Tyler Nature Center
11942 FM 848, Tyler

<https://www.npsot.org/chapters/tyler/>

The mission of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote conservation, research and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach, and example.

Soil: The Living Layer of the Earth Bob Dailey, Master Gardener, Lecturer, and Author

Bob will share his vast knowledge and personal experience about soils and their essential role in providing the basis for a healthy garden and ecosystem.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Bob grew up on a farm in south Louisiana, spending his time wandering through pine forests, cypress swamps, and open fields. During his college years, he worked in the oil fields to fund his education. He has been a journalist, an investment banker, and a political analyst. He has written hundreds of online and print articles and maintains the Gulf Coast Gardening website.



Bob pioneered The Woodlands Water Conservation Program, which helped reduce the per-person water consumption in The Woodlands from 200 gallons per day to 91 gallons per day. His department received the *Blue Legacy Award* from the Texas Water Development Board. Other honors include *Educator of the Year* by the Montgomery County Master Gardeners and *Outstanding Water Conservation Leader of the Year*.

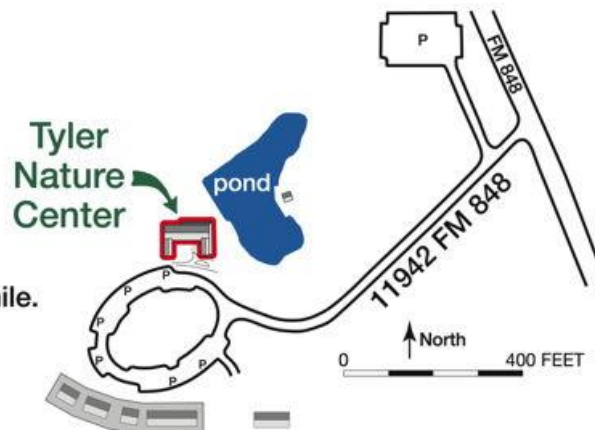


GULF COAST
Gardening
GARDENING WITH PASSION
<https://gulfcoastgardening.com>

DIRECTIONS

Tyler Nature Center 11942 FM 848

Located southeast of central Tyler.
Take Loop 323 to University Blvd (SH 248).
Go east on SH 248 past the UT Tyler Campus to FM 848 (about 3 miles).
Turn right on FM 848 and travel about 0.7 mile.
Turn right at 11942 FM 848.
The meeting is in the first building on the right, next to the pond.





Hello Caddo Mounds Volunteers!

Thank you for your dedication to Caddo Mounds and its mission.

As the summer winds down, we have several opportunities available. We are also gearing up for Fall and have field trips already lined up.

Volunteering at Caddo Mounds is a great opportunity to learn about things you are interested in. Do you love to garden? Snake Woman's Garden is a great place to learn about gardening. Love indigenous culture and want to know more about Caddo? Working in the museum is the perfect place to volunteer.

New Volunteer System for Texas Historical Commission: Please sign up today.

THC has instituted a new volunteer system to help volunteer coordinators like me keep up with our volunteers, their hours, and opportunities. I have put the links below. Please follow the links and sign up. Many of you have already done that so there is no need for you to do it again. Thank you for signing up for this new system.

<https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1636499635> This is the application page.

<https://www.volgistics.com/vicnet/login> We are not using the system yet but when we do, this is where you will sign in.

Here are the volunteer opportunities that I know about for the next few months. I will send out more dates and times as the summer ends and fall begins.

Museum:

Working in the museum and gift shop is a great opportunity to learn about Caddo Mounds. We need volunteers to cover the museum desk on occasion. If you are interested in volunteering a day or two each month, reply to this email and we will get you signed up for training and your first day. The museum front desk is the setting for many fascinating conversations with historians, hobbyists, and history buffs.

We have a **field trip** for 80 students and 10 adults on October 17 at 9 am. This is Owen Elementary School, and they will be with us until 1:30. If you are interested in helping with field trips and you have never done a field trip before, please contact me and we can arrange a short training. These field trips are so much fun and I always learn so much. We need someone to help with the museum, the garden, the grass house and atlatl demonstration.

November:

Caddo Culture Day is November 2. If you are available on that day, please let me know. I am working on activities and volunteer assignments in the next few weeks. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Caddo people and culture.

Caddo Artist Series – On November 15th Raven Halfmoon will offer her Caddo Artist Series artist talk. Raven is a nationally renowned artist with work in museums across the country. She will be at Caddo



Mounds to speak about her work, her journey as an artist, and her Caddo culture. We need volunteers to bring finger foods, help set up the museum classroom and hospitality, and help clean up afterwards.

As you can see, there are lots of fun opportunities for volunteering at Caddo Mounds. I am always available to answer questions. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please email me and let me know.

Thank you,

Maggie

Maggie.Leysath@thc.texas.gov



Maggie Leysath, Ed. D.

Educator/Interpreter

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site

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Phone: +1 936 858 3218

visitcaddomounds.com



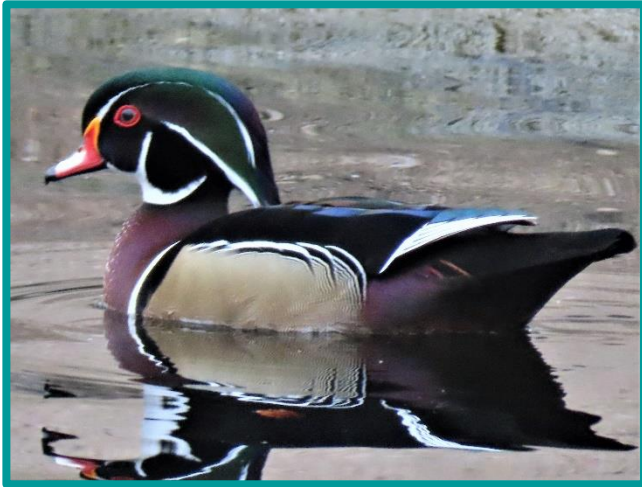


Photo courtesy Ann Reynolds

If you are interested in learning more about the business side of the chapter, all ETCMN members are invited to attend the quarterly chapter Board meetings. You can also access the Board meeting minutes on the chapter website under Members Only section, select Board of Directors and enter the current password.

The Wood Duck Whistler is a monthly publication of East Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome. Please email them to Ann Reynolds at ann@etex.net.

 Photos for Book Reviews are courtesy of Amazon. Unless otherwise noted, all other photos belong to the author of the article.

Upcoming Events

October 5, 8:00 am, TNC Wildscape Workday

October 8, TMN Tuesday, noon – 1:00 pm, Chapter Fair project

October 11-27, Texas Pollinator Blitz

October 22, NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR ZOOM MEETING Chapter Meeting 7:00 pm, Kelly Simon, TPWD State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator - SGCN

October 25, articles for the chapter newsletter due to Ann Reynolds at: Reynolds.ann1@gmail.com

IN THE COMMUNITY

NETFO – 1st Wednesday 6:30 pm, Alethea SS Classroom at Greggton UMC 1101 Pine Tree Road in Longview.

Tyler Audubon Society, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Education Room, 3232 Jan Avenue. October 8, Jessica Coleman

NPSOT-Tyler – 2nd Monday, 2:00 pm, TNC

NPSOT – Wood County – 1st Wednesday, 2:00 pm Sorrelle Farm, Mineola

NPSOT – Longview – 4th Thursday 2:00 pm, Longview Arboretum



WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

You can find East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists here:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/EastTexasMasterNaturalist/>

<https://www.instagram.com/easttexasmasternaturalist/>



<https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Texas Master Naturalist – East Texas Chapter Monthly Chapter meetings are held the **fourth Thursday of the month at the Tyler Nature Center, 11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707**. Meet and greet 6:45 pm; meeting at 7:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Safety Guidelines from TMN: Safety is our guiding principle. Follow all federal, state and county guidelines for TMN activities. Virtual platforms are useful and should remain an important consideration for planning meetings and events. Masks and social distancing considerations are encouraged. (July 2021)

ETCMN CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

****President: 2024-2025** Wanda Rauscher

****Vice President: 2023-2024** Cindy Smith

Hospitality Co-Chairs: 2023 Caryn Vorsas, Joe Vorsas; Bonnie Edwards

****Secretary: 2023-2024** Carol Lanthrum

Historian/Archivist: TBD

- ****Treasurer: 2024** Robert Lumpkins

Immediate Past President: 2022-2023 Paul Wick

DIRECTORS:

Advanced Training (AT): Lead – Karen Rueb-Hall, with Amy Cumbie and Cindy Smith

Volunteer Service Projects (VSH): Lead – Dawn Bahr with Lance Homeniuk and Greg Marshall

Community Education/Outreach: Lance Homeniuk

Speakers Bureau: Greg Marshall

Diversity and Inclusion: TBD

Training Class 2024: Kay Jenkins

Membership: Donna Smith

Volunteer Management System Director: Lindsey Smith

Communications Support:

E-Blast: Wanda Rauscher

Newsletter: Ann Reynolds

Photography: Lindsey Smith

Public Relations: TBD

Social Media: Lead - Greg Marshall, Dawn Bahr and Julie Davis

Website: Jessica Coleman

State Representative: Wanda Rauscher or appointed alternative

2023 Class Representatives: Natalie Curley

Chapter Advisors:

Clint Perkins – A&M Agrilife Extension Agent-Smith County

Boyd Sanders – TPWD Advisor

**** = Officers & Executive Board Members**

Revised 4/30/24