



# Wood Duck Whistler

July 2026

East Texas Chapter TMN



## A Message From President Carol Lanthrum

It's summer in East Texas – hot and humid! At least we got some good rains in late May and early June, and our lakes are full - but we have a bunch of mosquitoes (sigh). So, it's a good time to read some books, do some indoor projects, and watch some webinars in the air conditioning.

- The next book for book club needs to be read (see article in this newsletter) – and I bet you have a stack of books by your recliner or bed that you've been meaning to get to. Both of those can get you VS – not for reading them but for participating in the zoom book club or writing an article for the newsletter.
- BRIT Armchair Botanist is a fun project for you plant and history lovers. The upcoming chapter meeting has Wendy Anderson from Texas Nature Trackers talking about iNaturalist. And Tyler NPSOT and the Lakes and Pines NPSOT have some summer meetings.
- Have you seen all the TMN Tuesday webinars? Catch up indoors! Checked to see if there are any TPWD and AgriLife seminars you are interested in?

Remember you need 8 AT hours for 2026 certification and 16 AT hours for double certification. There are plenty of AT opportunities to help you meet your goals! If you view all TMN Tuesday webinars, live or recorded, that's 12. And we have 10 chapter meetings a year with presentations. You can also check out the Generally Approved-Do-Not-Have-To-Ask list on our website under *Members, AT/VS Opportunities & Forms*. Plenty of AT to choose from.

Those of you who want to get out in the summer heat also have plenty to do. Try to get out early in the morning and don't forget your sunscreen and insect repellent while you are out enjoying nature and volunteering. I know Tyler Audubon has a couple of birding events this summer and are planning a cleanup on Langley Island at Lake Tyler. Get a group together and use iNaturalist to add photos of plants, insects, birds and fungus to the database. You can find approved VS opportunities on the same website as AT at *Members, AT/VS Opportunities & Forms*.

I have been working on the *Chapter Operating Handbook* (COH). Not very exciting, but as your president, it is something I am required to do. This year, 2026, is the year that all our state documents need to be updated and approved. Our chapter has completed the process for approval of the *Bylaws* and the

*Chapter Management and Operations Protocols* (CMOP). Our final step this year is to update and approve our COH.

Bylaws are required by the IRS for non-profits to maintain their tax-exempt (501c-3) status, shield directors and officers from personal liability, and provide operational clarity for parameters such as board duties, quorum requirements, term limits and such. CMOP sets the minimum requirements for chapter administration providing consistency across our multiple chapters. Initial training and certification requirements, advanced training and volunteer service requirements, mentor program, etc. are addressed. There are also *Code of Ethics*, *Standards of Conduct*, *Records Retention*, and *Brand Guide* documents that do not allow adjustment and must be followed.

The *Chapter Operating Handbook* is a resource for each chapter, detailing the day-to-day procedures to be followed, and allowing for inherent difference for each chapter to be addressed. For example, chapters in rural areas generally have fewer members and greater distances to travel than larger chapters concentrated in urban areas. Board and committee duties may need to be divided differently. State provides a framework and our COH must comply with the intent of the document. State requires that defined duties must be done by someone, but allows some leeway for each chapter to make it work for them.

I have been working with Wanda Rauscher, Caryn Vorsas and Debbie Shafer to develop the document. After the committee completes its review, the document will be placed on the website and marked DRAFT so the board and membership can read and make suggestions. The process requires board approval, then membership approval. The process is tedious, but next year the COH can be quickly reviewed, updated and approved, if needed.

If you haven't heard, Screw worm has made it to Texas. If you have livestock, especially cattle, check your animals. Authorities suggest checking daily and remind us that other mammals are susceptible, including your dog. There is a webinar on AgriLife you can view for AT credit, or you can view the TMN Tuesday from 2025, but without AT credit.

Happy volunteering!

The Wood Duck Whistler is a monthly publication of ETCMN. News, essays, comments and ideas are always welcome! Please email them to Casey Boggs at [caseylynnboggs@gmail.com](mailto:caseylynnboggs@gmail.com)

Would you like to be featured in the Wood Duck Whistler's "Get to Know Your Fellow Master Naturalists" spotlight? Email Casey Boggs at [caseylynnboggs@gmail.com](mailto:caseylynnboggs@gmail.com)

# An Enhanced Landscape Greets Visitors to the TPWD Regional Headquarters Building

by Kay Jenkins

ETCMN volunteers upgraded the entrance beds on either side of the walkway to the TPWD Regional Headquarters building in May with new native plants. Stephen Lange, Wildlife Regional Director requested the project during a meeting with our president, Carol Lanthrum. The request was presented at the April 23 board of directors meeting and enthusiastically supported by those present.



*Figure 1 a view of one of the entrance beds after initial weeding but before landscape was upgraded.*

Pam Boyd Bombyk, a member of the class of 2026 trainees, weeded the two beds during the first week of May. Dennis Minor, Pam and I worked on May 10 to remove non-native plants, landscape fabric and more weeds from the beds. We also transplanted a few existing native plants to new locations where they will thrive better.

On May 17, Pam and I placed the new native plants purchased from a grower near Reklaw. Several volunteers including Joe and Caryn Vorsas, Neil Ford, Kami Rutherford, and Maci Ferguson joined us to plant the new plants and spread the mulch. Kami and Maci are also from the 2026 class of trainees. It was a hot day, but in the end, the job was well done!



*Figure 2 Pam Boyd Bombyk cuts landscape fabric.*



*Figure 3 Kay Jenkins pulls up old landscape fabric.*



*Figure 4 The landscape crew takes a break. From left to right: Kay Jenkins, Pam Boyd Bombyk, Maci Ferguson, Caryn Vorsas, Joe Vorsas, Kami Rutherford and Neil Ford.*

Pam is going to monitor the new landscape beds during her daily walks and water the new plants as needed to help them get established. She reports that visitors and TPWD staff speak with her often and are appreciative of the upgraded landscape. We may even get some people interested in joining the 2027 training class.



# Book Reviews

by Lance Homeniuk



**The Ice Museum by Joanna Kavenna. 2006 Viking Penguin Group USA, New York, NY. Hardcover, 294 pages.**

If you like your nature on the side with an entrée of history and literature, you might enjoy this little morsel. Kavenna carries out a search for “the Lost Land of Thule” through time and across geography. She begins the story with Pytheas in 4 BC and follows it through the ages into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly every land and island of the Arctic is investigated for writers and explorers seem to have needed an unknown land just beyond those already known. As they pushed further north and west and a little east the mythical land moved ahead, just out of reach. Was Thule originally the Shetland Islands? Or was it Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Greenland, Svalbard? When the US army established a far northern base and named it Thule it finally gave a real geographic location, though the one much less satisfying of all.

In her survey Kavenna personally visited each possible site and gave clear observations and insightful impressions of the environment and occupants, human and animal. I read through in the coldest month of the year (such as it was this past winter in east Texas) and could step outside the warm house for a sniff of bracing air. Blame the weatherman, not the author that I couldn't smell snow or feel frigid winds.

**Fishes: their Journeys and Migrations by Louis Roule, translated from the French by Conrad Elphinstone. 1996 by Kodansha International, NY, N. Y paperback, 270 pages.**

Sometimes I wish I had learned to read Latin or Greek or Russian or Japanese. This time it is French I miss. The translator is pretty good as far as I can judge, but he gives glimpses of sentence structure and nuance that the English reader (me) is missing out. First published in 1933 by Norton, the book is a collection of a lifetime of piscatorial research in his native land and the maritime waters around it. Nothing seems out of date – information I have seen recently in Nat. Geo. And Texas Wildlife magazines support his conclusions even though the fishes are, if not different species, at least are populations in the western Atlantic.

Though the settings are the eastern Atlantic, western Mediterranean and rivers of France, the subjects are familiar to me – salmon, trout, shad, sardines, eels, herring, anchovy, mackerel and tunnies (tuna) though I am not much of a fisherman. Roule's close observations lead to paradigm-shifting conclusions about the drivers of migration and reproduction that seem in retrospect to be so obvious and logical. But I especially liked his final chapter wherein he waxes eloquent in an extended fictional (maybe) banquet.



On ecological interconnectedness:

What in fact is life? A succession of mutual giving and taking between the animal and its environment, interchanges of matter, interchanges of energy... in order that it may be maintained there must be harmony between both.

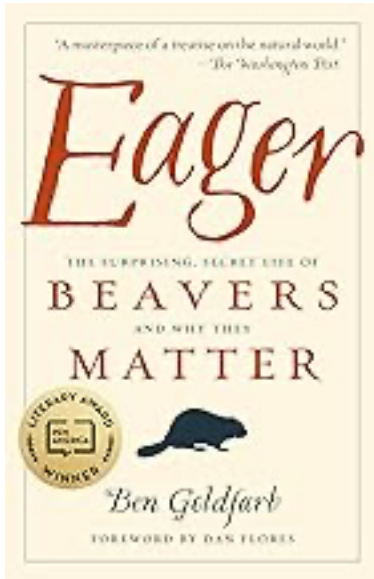
And in more philosophical tone:

So, on a larger scale, we do what the salmon in its water, the insect on its plant, do on a small scale: the origin is the same. Nature has a soul, compact of all the energies which transverse it, made up of all movements which give life to it ... Life is spirit, and all creatures, in varying degrees, are inspired by the breadth of that spirit.

Ending in the spiritual plane:

The study of Nature, beginning on earth with the contemplation of realities, mounts higher until it attains the highest degree of spirituality ... is governed by the supreme law which it has received from the creative omnipotence which brought it into being

In my reading of the text, he has travelled from the details of the physical to instinct, to intelligence, to Nature, to nature's God; through the creatures to the Creator. A satisfying feast it was.



**Eager : The Surprising Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter by Ben Goldfarb. 2018**  
**Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, Vermont. Paperback, 286 pages.**

This is the first book to be read by our own Book Club so I will not give anything away. If you have not gotten your own copy yet I can be persuaded to loan mine. But this one is a keeper so I'll want it back.

One of the items I learned is a class of device used to keep beavers from blocking culverts, a nuisance behavior that does not endear them to property owners and road maintenance crews. On our recent driving trip of 7000+ miles I saw not a single buck-toothed furry engineer, but I did espy a lodge and pond in northern Montana. When I stopped for the photo op I saw the metal framework around the mouth of a culvert that ran beneath my feet. And then the funky, musky odor slightly reminiscent of skunk but not as disagreeable. The little rodent had been bringing sticks to the sound of running water but was not able to reach it so they piled up to one side of the pipe and mesh cage. I reckon it had spooked when the vehicle pulled up and I had missed the sound of the famous tail slap before I opened my door. (Bonus – I did hear the repeated call of a sora hidden in the nearby grasses!)

### Upcoming ETCMN Meeting Topics

**July 23 - Nothing! Time TBD.**

August 27 - John Zumwalt

September 24 - Trivia Night

October 29 - Jessica Coleman - Christmas Bird Count\*\* *meeting date changed due to State Meeting on 10/22*

**November - no meeting**

December 12 - Holiday Party at Tyler Nature Center

All meetings at Tyler Nature Center unless otherwise noted.

ETCMN 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 at 6:45 PM; meeting at 7:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome!

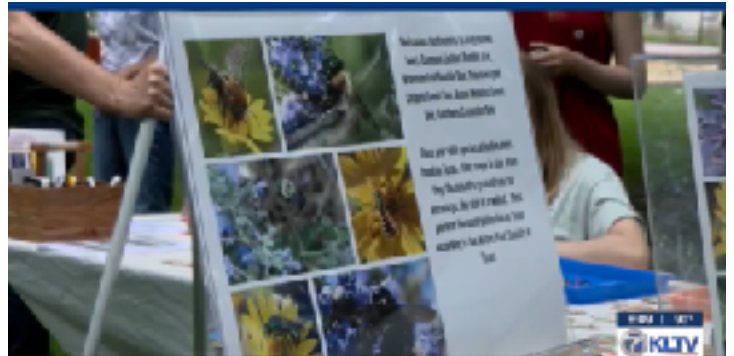
If you are interested in learning more about the business side of the chapter, all ETCMN Members are invited to attend the quarterly chapter Board Meetings.

# Keep Tyler Beautiful's Sixth Annual Bee Day

by Wanda Rauscher

The June 2026 event, held at Goodman-LeGrand Museum Grounds, was the 6<sup>th</sup> Bee Day celebration in Tyler, and East Texas Chapter TMN has been part of the program every time!

KLTV included a couple of shots of our pollinator display in their reporting of Bee Day.



Ann Reynolds, Kami Rutherford, Traci Schiska, Marsha Lucas, Ginger Wick, and Wanda Rauscher worked our booth at the event. Our spotlight this year was bumble bees. We had wooden bumble bees for the kids to color and take with them. There were 110 adults and 82 children who visited the booth during the festival hours from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.



Did you know bumble bee nests are annual? That means each spring a young queen who was in diapause for winter has to start her own nest all by herself. Bumble bees make their nests underground in old rodent burrows or above ground in haystacks, tree cavities, tree stumps, or thick grasses and may even use an empty birdhouse. The young queen collects nectar & pollen and lays the eggs that will be her first group of workers. She continues foraging along with her daughters until she decides there are enough bees gathering at which point she remains in the hive laying more eggs. In mid to late summer, she lays eggs that will be males and also several queen eggs.

The young queens will be the only bumble bees to survive through the winter – but not in their mother’s nest. The queens will scatter and find warm dry spots to hide. There are 9 bumble bee species reported for Texas but only 3 (American, Common Eastern, & Brown-belted) are seen regularly in East Texas. The Two-spotted bumble bee has been seen in the chapter catchment a few times with Ann Reynolds capturing an image. The Southern Plains bumble bee has been seen only 5 times in our chapter catchment and Lindsey Smith captured its image.



Bumble bees can buzz pollinate, also called sonication. The bee hangs on a flower anther and vibrates its flight muscles to cause pollen release. Plants that require buzz pollination include potatoes, eggplants, blueberries and cranberries. There are other bee species that can do the buzz such as the blueberry digger bee, but honey bees can't or at any rate don't. The size of a bumble bee colony varies by species with 200 bees as a typical mature colony but 1000 being possible. In contrast honey bees can have 60,000 bees in a single colony. As Jim Walker can attest bumble bees will vigorously defend their hive and unlike honey bees that can only sting once, bumble bees can sting repeatedly. Best to offer hive resources away from the path of mowers/ walkers.



# Texas Rock Rose: A Tough and Beautiful Native Plant

by Ann Reynolds



The Texas rock rose, scientifically known as *Pavonia lasiopetala*, is a tough, drought-tolerant native perennial known for its delicate, bubblegum-pink blooms that resemble miniature hibiscus. Each flower is typically 1 to 2 inches across and features five soft pink petals that range from pale pink to rosy magenta. At the center is a prominent deep pink to red staminal column tipped with yellow pollen, creating a striking contrast against the petals. Individual blooms last only a day or two, but the plant produces a continuous succession of flowers from late spring through fall, giving the shrub a long season of color. This small shrub typically grows 2 to 4 feet tall, with a loose, spreading canopy of distinctive, velvety pale green, heart-shaped leaves. The blooms open in the morning and often close up by the early afternoon heat.

*Pavonia lasiopetala* 'Ellen's Legacy' (commonly known as the Ellen's Legacy Rock Rose) is a cultivar that is prized for its vibrant, deep-red blooms. It has the same water and hours of sun needs as the pink Rock Rose. The plant was named to honor a Texas native plant advocate.

Once planted, it must be water regularly during first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Shearing periodically will encourage a dense, compact shape and prolific flowering. *Pavonia* is reputed to be short-lived: 3 to 6 years, but self-sows readily or may be easily propagated by saved seed or softwood cuttings.

The Texas rock rose thrives in full sun to partial shade and adapts well to many soil types, including rocky and dry conditions. Because it is drought-tolerant and requires little maintenance, it is an excellent choice for native landscapes and water-wise gardens. Mildew is unavoidable but sometimes more sun seems to make it go away. . .sometimes not.

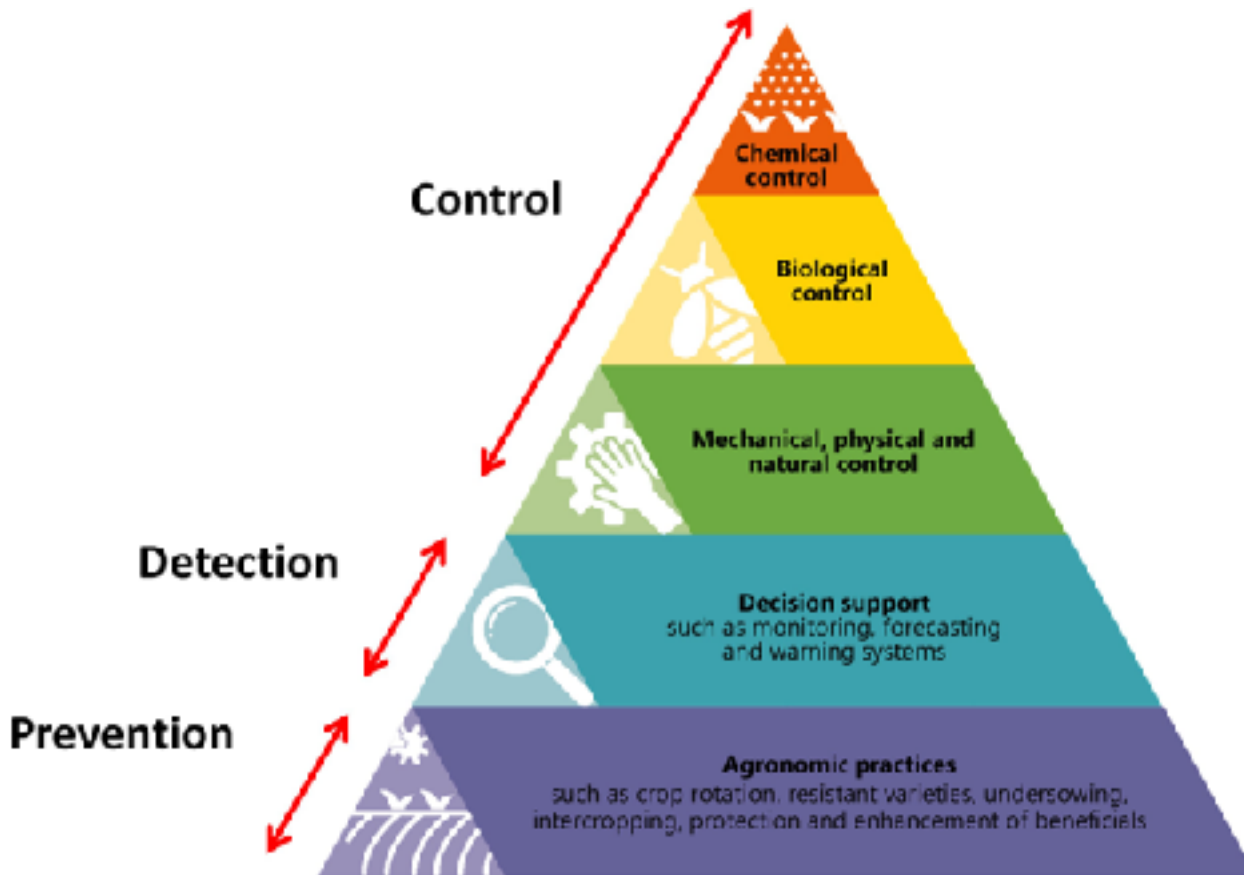
Beyond its beauty, the Texas rock rose provides important ecological benefits. Its flowers attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators throughout the growing season. While the plant is not a primary host plant for butterfly caterpillars, their vibrant, nectar-rich blooms are fantastic magnets for adult butterflies. The bright, rose-like flowers are heavily visited by Skippers, Hairstreaks, Painted Ladies and Sulphurs.

By planting Texas rock rose, gardeners can enjoy vibrant blooms while supporting local wildlife and preserving Texas's natural heritage.



# Natural Pest Control

From WadeVillage



**The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Pyramid**

Over the past week two pest control companies came by peddling their services. I asked both young men what chemicals they use...neither knew. One said, "You know, it's just for mosquito and spiders control." "OK, but what is the chemical name," I asked. He answered, "Uh, pesticide?"

Yes, I do know. It is Bifenthrin. A pesticide used to control 75 different "pests" along with every other insect with which it comes in contact. Unfortunately, it kills other creatures, too. It is highly toxic to fish and small aquatic organisms like dragonfly nymphs and tadpoles. It remains low toxicity for birds and mammals, unless one eats a fish that has died of toxicity.

Over 600 products containing Bifenthrin available as sprays, granules, and aerosols are used as a residual barrier control lasting for several months. Should your dog or cat ingest it the symptoms range from excessive drooling to diarrhea and even tremors and paralysis. Most humans react with nose, throat, and lung irritation, and, with enough exposure, vomiting. However, it is not poisonous. Studies on its cancer causing effects remain mixed.

As an alternative around your yard and garden try Integrated Pest Management.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

Simply put, it is firstly, knowing what pests invade your landscape and secondly, treating those in the most effective manner with the least impact on your neighbors, your property, your money, and your environment.

How does it work?

Do not confuse total eradication of your pest problem as the ultimate answer. Remember, the insect that is a problem for you looks like dinner to a bird, a lizard, a snake, etc. So, your IPM goal is not to eradicate insect pests, but rather to provide a landscape (ecosystem) more favorable for your plants than for pests.

Remember, stressed plants attract pests. Strong, healthy plants resist disease and insects. Some preventive methods include, mulching garden areas, pulling weeds before they establish roots, and placing collars in the soil around vegetable stems.

Follow these steps for effective IPM.

## Identify the problem or pest

You can think of insects in your landscape as good guys, bad guys, and ho-hummers.

The ho-hummers do no harm. The good guys are beneficial. The bad guys cause damage. Your IPM program stays alert for pests, identifies them accurately, and promotes appropriate control decisions based on your action thresholds. This monitoring and identification leads you to selecting and applying the right approach to control the pest.

## Determine the severity of the problem

Before you flood the landscape with pesticides, ask yourself how big a problem you have. Seeing one caterpillar in your flowerbed should not prompt the need for total insect eradication. Is the pest damage affecting your overall landscape? First and foremost, your defined threshold at which pests become a noticeable threat to your landscape guides your pest control decisions.

## Assess the control options

You can do nothing or employ a variety of proven controls.

Cultural – planting native varieties that are pest resistant.

Biological – protect and attract natural enemies of pests.

Mechanical – set up barriers or traps for pest exclusion.

Chemical – regulate insect growth, pheromones, and biological/chemical pesticides for severe cases of infestation.

## Select and apply one or more options

Once you have identified the best approach, get started. Monitor your results and record them for future gardening reference.

For additional information visit the Texas A & M Agrilife Extension website at:

<https://ipm.tamu.edu> <https://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/bifgen.html>

[View all posts by wadevillage](#)

### ETCMN Book Club



You are invited to join us on Sunday, September 20th, at 6pm for our second ETCMN Book Club. The book will be *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl. You may read a physical or electronic copy, or you may listen to the audiobook. You do not receive AT credit for reading the book, but you do for participating in the discussion. Each participant must provide one thoughtful question for the group to discuss beyond, “Did you like the book?”

We will meet on Zoom at 6pm. Bring a snack and a drink and be ready for a hearty discussion! You will receive one hour AT for your active participation!

Please RSVP to [etcmnprograms@gmail.com](mailto:etcmnprograms@gmail.com) and the link will be sent to you.

# Sheet Web Weavers: Part 4 of the Guild Identification System

Text and Photos by Robert Boggs

*This is part 4 in a series on the informal guild classification system for spiders. This classification system categorizes spiders into eight “guilds” based on the way they catch their prey. The guilds can be further divided into four that rely on webs to catch their prey (Sensing Web Weavers, Sheet Web Weavers, Orb Web Weavers and Space Web Weavers) and four that do not (Ambush Hunters, Ground Active Hunters, Other Active Hunters and Spider Hunters). Using this system can help narrow down the type of spider you’ve discovered and make it easier to find in a guidebook.*

After exploring the fast-moving Ground Active Hunters last month, this month we’ll look at a guild that creates some particularly thick structures with their webs. The four web-building guilds are all named after the distinctive webs they create, and the Sheet Web Weavers are aptly named.

Spiders in the Sheet Web Weaver guild create horizontal platforms of webbing, most of which is not sticky. When a prey animal approaches the web, the spider relies on its considerable speed to attack and envenomate the unlucky victim. Many of the spiders in this guild also make a funnel-shaped retreat where they can hide and drag their food into.

## Family Agelenidae

Spiders in the family Agelenidae are commonly known as grass spiders or funnel weavers. East Texas is in the range of a number of spiders in this family, including *Tegenaria domestica* (the barn funnel weaver), *Coras lamellosus* and *medicinalis* (neither of which have a common name) and *Barronopsis texana* (again, no common name), but the ones I see most often are from genus *Agelenopsis*.

The spiders in this genus are very difficult to identify to the species level; in many cases you need an expert to examine their genitalia under a microscope. They have a strong resemblance to the rabid wolf spider, but they can be distinguished from wolf spiders by the arrangement of their eyes: While wolf spiders have two eyes that are larger than the others, grass spiders have two rows of eyes that are all about the same size. Grass spiders also have much more prominent spinnerets extending from the back of their abdomens. But most immediately telling are their webs, which form a thick horizontal carpet emerging from a funnel-shaped hiding place. In my barn, I’ve seen these sheets get several feet across, so you can’t miss them.



## Bowl-and-Doily Spider

When you see the unusual web of *Frontinella pyramitela*, you'll see right away where it gets the name "bowl-and-doily spider." Unlike the simple sheets of the Agelenidae family, *Frontinella* builds a distinctive web shaped like a bowl with a horizontal sheet underneath. The spider normally stands on the underside of the bowl, with the dorsal (top) side of the spider facing the "doily" sheet below.

Interestingly, male and female spiders often share a web; you can distinguish the males by their reddish prosoma (the front body segment), while the females are typically brown. Both males and females have striping on their abdomen, but it tends to be more



## Filmy Dome Spider



Last, we have *Neriene radiata* to prove that classification systems can never make it *too* easy on you. While the previous spiders' constructions are instantly recognizable as "sheet" webs, the filmy dome spider's spherical silk doesn't have the typical horizontal layout. Their webs are normally built in low vegetation, and when covered in dew it is a bit easier to see that their webs are not as chaotic as they initially appear; they remind me of a balloon, with the spider typically perched toward the top on the inside of the largely hollow interior.

The female has white stripes along the abdomen that are similar to the bowl-and-doily spider, but the color becomes a more striking yellow toward the sides and underside.

Upcoming Opportunities for AT and VSH

## Tyler Audubon Activities

### **Bellwood Lake Clean-Up – Saturday, June 27, 8:00–10:00 AM**

Please join us this Saturday for our Bellwood Lake clean-up event. We will spend approximately an hour helping clean up the area and then enjoy a little birding afterward. This is a great opportunity to give back to one of our local birding areas while also enjoying some time outdoors with fellow birders.

**Report Clean up Hours as Audubon Service Projects: East Texas Master Naturalist**

**Report birding hours (reporting bird species to iNat or Ebird) as iNaturalist: East Texas Master Naturalist**

### **Urban Bird Walk – Woldert Park – Saturday, July 11, 8:00–11:00 AM**

Our next urban bird walk will take place at Woldert Park on Saturday, July 11, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced birder, everyone is welcome to join us as we explore this urban green space and see what species we can find.

Questions? Contact Jerril Burnette @ [jerril1959@gmail.com](mailto:jerril1959@gmail.com)

**Report birding hours (reporting bird species to iNat or Ebird) as iNaturalist: East Texas Master Naturalist**

### **Early Morning Bird Walk at Laura Wilson's Property – Wed., July 15, 6:00–11:00 AM**

Tyler Audubon Society President Laura Wilson has graciously invited members to visit and bird her property in Bullard on Wednesday, July 15, from 6:00 AM to 11:00 AM. You do not have to come at 6am (you can come a bit later if you like), but the early start time will hopefully allow us to possibly get Chuck-will's-widow and a pair of Great Horned Owls.

Location: **1337 CR 3402, Bullard, Texas**

Laura will have green and white survey tape streamers on the mailbox to help guide you to the property. She has also generously offered to provide brunch for attendees. This should be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some excellent birding, fellowship, and good food!

If you have questions, contact Laura at 903-521-8292 [hummingbirdhill95@gmail.com](mailto:hummingbirdhill95@gmail.com).

**Report birding hours (reporting bird species to iNat or Ebird) as iNaturalist: East Texas Master Naturalist**

We hope to see many of you at these upcoming events. Please feel free to contact Laura or me if you have any questions.

Jessica Coleman

Tyler Audubon Society – VP - [jcoleman@uttyler.edu](mailto:jcoleman@uttyler.edu)

**Tyler NPSOT**  
**Monday, July 13, at 4pm**  
**Tyler Nature Center**

**Speaker: Keith Hansen**  
**Horticulture Agent Emeritus, Smith County AgriLife Extension**



# Lakes and Pines Chapter

(Wood & surrounding counties)



**Wednesday, July 1, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Bob Wells Nursery at Sorelle Farms**  
**975 County Road 2220 in Mineola**



Email us: [Lakes-and-Pines-Chapter@npsot.org](mailto:Lakes-and-Pines-Chapter@npsot.org)  
Chapter Website: [npsot.org/chapters/lakes-and-pines/](https://npsot.org/chapters/lakes-and-pines/)



**Brandon Hall** is a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner and ecologist who lives in Hopkins County. He works as a restoration ecologist for Resource Environmental Solutions, the nation's largest ecosystem restoration company where he

designs, implements, and monitors nearly 25,000 acres of restoration projects across Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. His main work has focused on restoration of Riverby Ranch, a 17,000-acre historic farm and ranch in Fannin County that has been restored back to native habitats through extensive hydrologic modifications and plantings after a century of continuous intensive traditional agriculture. He will provide an overview of this project and provide insights on lessons learned as the project enters its seventh year after commencement of restoration work.

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

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

Find East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists at the following locations:

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

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

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

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/>

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

## Organization

### Officers

Title	Term	Name	Email
President**	2026-2027	Carol Lanthrum	<a href="mailto:clanthrum@gmail.com">clanthrum@gmail.com</a>
Vice President**	2026	Dawn Bahr	<a href="mailto:dmebahr@yahoo.com">dmebahr@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary**	2025-2026	Ann Reynolds	<a href="mailto:reynolds.ann1@gmail.com">reynolds.ann1@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer**	2026-2027	David Shafer	<a href="mailto:davidrshafer@gmail.com">davidrshafer@gmail.com</a>
Immediate Past President	2026-2027	Wanda Rauscher	<a href="mailto:wwrauscher@gmail.com">wwrauscher@gmail.com</a>

\*\* indicates Officers and Executive Board Members

### Committees 2024

Title	Name	Email
Hospitality	Caryn Vorsas	<a href="mailto:carynvorsas@gmail.com">carynvorsas@gmail.com</a>
	Joe Vorsas	<a href="mailto:jvorsas@utexas.edu">jvorsas@utexas.edu</a>
	Bonnie Edwards	<a href="mailto:edwardsbonnie2020@gmail.com">edwardsbonnie2020@gmail.com</a>
	Open for addition	
Historian / Archivist	TBD	
Advanced Training (AT)	Karen Rueb-Hall	<a href="mailto:karenruebhall@gmail.com">karenruebhall@gmail.com</a>
	Amy Cumbie	<a href="mailto:amycumbie83@gmail.com">amycumbie83@gmail.com</a>

	Kari Steph	<a href="mailto:kabaster@gmail.com">kabaster@gmail.com</a>
Volunteer Service Projects (VSH)	Lance Homeniuk	<a href="mailto:homeniuk@yahoo.com">homeniuk@yahoo.com</a>
	Greg Marshall	<a href="mailto:Marshall7707@gmail.com">Marshall7707@gmail.com</a>
	TBD	
Community Education / Outreach	Lance Homeniuk	<a href="mailto:homeniuk@yahoo.com">homeniuk@yahoo.com</a>
Speakers Bureau	Greg Marshall	<a href="mailto:Marshall7707@gmail.com">Marshall7707@gmail.com</a>
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Vacant roles:

Historian  
Publicity  
Outreach

If you have interest in filling one of these roles, please contact [clanthrum@gmail.com](mailto:clanthrum@gmail.com)

To view the chapter website:

- [www.txmn.tamu.edu](http://www.txmn.tamu.edu)
- Scroll down past the “green blocks” to the State of Texas map.
- Click on our chapter location.
- Select any tab to see the upcoming events on the right. Select the top event, and you can scroll through the event by selecting the back and forward tabs at the bottom of each event. Or go straight to the one you are interested in by selecting it.
- You can also see coming months’ events in calendar format by selecting ‘View Calendar’ below the event listings.
- **NOTE:** It looks different on your phone.
  - Select ‘Chapter Info’ to see pictures and information about current chapter activities.
  - Select ‘Newsletter’ to see current and past Wood Duck Whistlers