

Wood Duck Whistler August 2022

President's Message by Wanda Rauscher



Master Naturalists, we are included in an invitation issued on iNaturalist to participate in a September Bioblitz at the Riverby Ranch. RSVP required to iNat post:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/posts/67605-september-16-18-bioblitz-at-riverby-ranch>).

I wanted to take some time to review the significance of this project. You all know that Texas human population is growing, especially the greater Dallas area. The North Texas Municipal Water District estimates they are gaining 55,000 new customers/year in their 10-county service area. Quite the challenge to plan so that water resources are available! Part of that plan was the construction of the Bois d'Arc Reservoir, a 16,643-acre lake in Fannin County. A dam was built on Bois d'Arc Creek (drains to Red River.) Flow from the creek and rain have the new lake about half full. In 2023 it is expected that the new water treatment plant will begin purifying 70 million gallons a day and the lake will be opened for recreational use. As part of the environmental permit for the reservoir NTMWD must offset the unavoidable environmental impacts of building the lake by restoring and permanently protecting wetlands, forests, grasslands, and streams at the Riverby Ranch mitigation site. The water district contracted with RES, an

ecological restoration company. RES will provide complete stewardship of the mitigation site, from design and implementation through monitoring and maintenance over the next 20+ years. Here's what biologist Brandon Hall says about the status of the mitigation project: "Much of the site, particularly forested and grassland restoration areas, are still in early successional stages, but are progressing well. Those areas that were able to remain resilient through past agricultural activities such as the mature forests and wetland areas are nearly fully recovered and are the real backbones of biodiversity on the site. Many of the wetlands have permanent groundwater influence that offer unique (and very muddy) habitats. The site is certainly lush, and both the quantity and quality of wildlife here has surprised everyone – I've found a number of what I think are state first or rare plant species, aquatic areas are rife with every swimming and crawling thing you would hope for, and the higher tropic levels are responding better than hoped. There has been an explosion of beaver, otter, bobcats, raptors, snakes, and even a black bear sighting. Over the past few years, we've encountered a number of species of note including a western burrowing owl, LeConte's sparrow, grass-hopper sparrow, quail, upland sandpipers, and large numbers of breeding ducks, shore birds, and innumerable dickcissel." The Bioblitz will help document biodiversity at the site and should be a lot of fun for those able to participate. See the iNaturalist link for details and thanks to Crystal Mann for bringing this to our attention! Our Volunteer Service Project Team: Lance Homeniuk, Dawn Bahr, and Greg Marshall have approved this project.

In other news we will be back at the Tyler Nature Center for our August meeting! We will have our Board Meeting (starting at 5:15) prior to the Chapter Meeting.

The agenda for the State Annual Meeting has posted (<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2022-annual-meeting/>)! Dates are Oct. 20-23 at the Omni

Hotel in Houston, Texas. Early registration opens first week of August (best chance to get the classes you want before they fill up)! Registration for the full event will be \$365 and for Friday and Saturday only \$340. Hotel is a separate expense \$125/night (rate also available 3 days prior and 3 days post event) booked through a link found at the registration site.

There WILL be a Texas Pollinator Bioblitz this fall. Tania Homayoun has confirmed. Plan to get out with your camera/camera phone and catch the pollinator diversity in our chapter catchment. Dates are October 7-23, 2022.

Keep reading the eBlasts! There will be reminders for Fall projects and events.



Bring the majesty of Texas home with DEEP IN THE HEART. Narrated by [Matthew McConaughey](#), the celebrated wildlife film is now available on demand via [Apple TV](#), [Amazon Prime](#), and [Google Play](#)

Deep in the Heart is the first blue-chip wildlife documentary ever produced about our beloved Texas. The film celebrates our many conservation success stories while showcasing some of our most important ecological issues through the eyes of wildlife and wild places. Imagine Planet Earth...but in Texas! The film showcases approximately twenty wildlife species ranging from the iconic bison to the mysterious ocelot. The feature-length film begins in the high plains and peaks of West Texas, flows through diverse ecoregions along

our many river systems, and concludes along the bays and estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico. **Deep in the Heart aims to inspire Texans to conserve our remaining wild places, to show the connectivity of water and wildlife, and to recognize Texas' conservation importance on a continental scale.**

Put it on your calendar now as we prepare for our 23rd Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting, an event to gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. We're preparing this year's meeting as an in-person at the Omni Houston this fall, Thursday, October 20th to Sunday October 23rd.

This year's Annual Meeting will be hosted in the heart of one of the most ecologically diverse urban centers in the nation. Houston is nestled in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion of Texas, inviting a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. With a temperate climate and abundant rainfall, more well-known species include the Houston toad and the whooping crane. The conference, held at the Omni Houston, sits on the shores of Buffalo Bayou, creating 160 acres of greenspace in the heart of downtown Houston, and re-introducing the natural world to those who call the city their home.



Davis Mountains State Park---- Birder's Paradise

Pat Spradlin

I don't know about you, but when I think of Fort Davis, Texas, I think about McDonald Observatory, dark skies, brilliant stars and magnificent views of the universe. And yes, the Fort Davis area is all of that and much more. Imagine my delight to discover a birder's paradise in nearby Davis Mountains State Park.

A few months ago, my husband and I spent a few days in the park at the Indian Lodge. The lodge itself was quite a treat. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's and recently renovated, it was like stepping back in time. With 18-inch adobe walls, it is modeled after southwestern Indian pueblos and located inside the park.

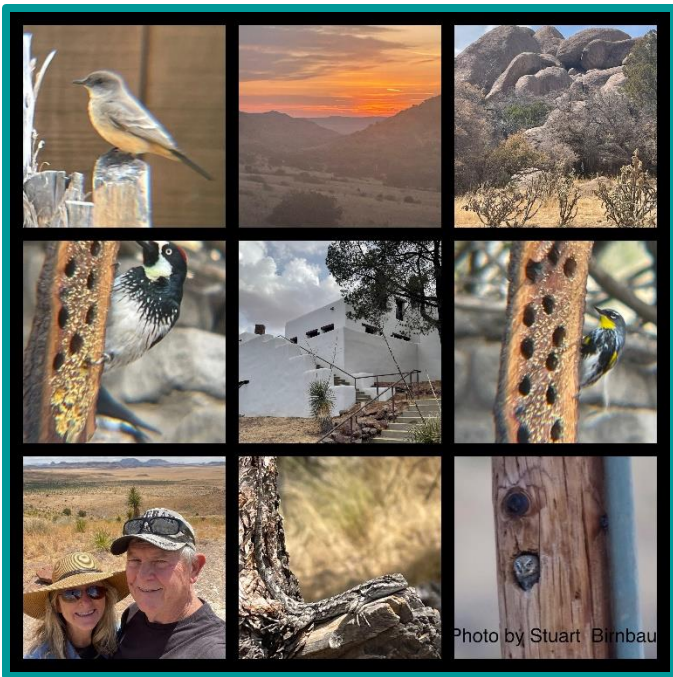
Our first objective as we entered the park was to stop at the Park Office where we visited with a ranger and one of the park hosts. We were given a map and told about the two birding blinds inside the park. We stopped at the first one, the Emory Oak Wildlife Viewing Area, before we checked into our historical room. I believe this was the best bird blind I have ever used, with a nice screened area and also outside obscured observation area from which one could view a large yard with multiple feeders and a running water feature. In addition to a waterfall and pond, it included a winding stream to allow for access by many birds. I identified my first Audubon Yellow-rumped Warbler here with the help of one of the park hosts, Steve. We also saw Scrub Jays, Phainopeplas, Scott's Orioles, Acorn Woodpeckers, Black-headed Grosbeaks and many more.

Next, we went to the second bird blind at the Interpretive Center where we saw more birds. Here we learned about a scheduled bird walk with the park hosts, Sue & Steve, and also about the Elf Owl viewing at dusk each night. An Elf Owl was nesting in an abandoned

woodpecker hole in a telephone pole located in a parking lot across from the Interpretive Center. Needless to say, we took advantage of both events and were thrilled to see the diminutive Elf Owl poke her face up inside the small hole and then shoot out for her nightly forage.

It was also such a pleasure to bird with the accomplished hosts and see such a variety of species. They also identified native plants as we walked. Sue told us that the park is situated in the migration path of many birds and that, depending on when you are in the park, you never know what you might see. With more than 260 species, the Davis Mountains State Park has been recognized by the American Bird Conservancy as a globally important birding area. Although we did not see the illusive Montezuma quail, which does reside in the park, I certainly was not disappointed in the myriad of birds we did see. In addition to the ones already mentioned, these included; Vermillion Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Cassin's Finch, Blue Grosbeak, Common Raven, Barn Swallow, Wilson's Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, Cooper's Hawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-crested Titmouse, Canyon Towhee, Summer Tanager, Canyon Wren, and others.

If birding is not your thing, the area is also a haven for Aoudad (mountain goats), Mule deer, Davis Park Ground Squirrels, Javelina and Mountain Lions to name a few. The Davis Mountains are a wild and remote "sky island". Rising a mile above sea level, they are a remarkable contrast to the Chihuahuan Desert below. The area has been called one of the most scenic places in Texas and one of the most biodiverse. The nearby Chihuahuan Desert Research Center affords another opportunity to explore trails, view native plants and observe wildlife, while the Ft. Davis Scenic Loop presents spectacular vistas. All in all, it was a wonderful trip and I am anxious to return.



(all photos by Pat Spradlin unless otherwise noted)

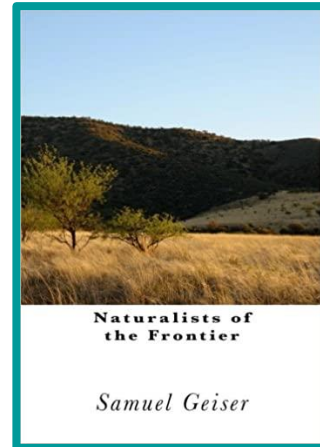
Book Reviews for July

Lance Homeniuk

Naturalists of the Frontier by Samuel Wood Geiser. Southern Methodist University 1948. Hardcover, 296 pages.

At last, the mother lode! For those who remember Barney Lipscomb's naturalist tales, this is the man and the book he used as his primary source. But he didn't mention them all. Any of the eleven men featured herein would make great central characters of an authentic western movie, if they are made anymore. All that's missing is a gunfight with desperados at noon. But if you want conflict and drama, we can treat you to blue northers, record floods, dust storms, prairie fires, revolution, cholera, malaria, starvation, and a pinch of marital infidelity with a burnish of professional backbiting. Although "Indian troubles" and depredations are frequently referred to most in depth accounts of encounters with the Caddos and Comanches (!) are friendly, even hospitable. The big names are here: Lindheimer, Reverchon, Berlandier, Drummond, Roemer, and Lincecum. And chapter 13 gives a somewhat abbreviated

account of those naturalists who worked from colonial times forward and from the Atlantic coast through the states and territories unto Texas. Details are lacking for the 130 other naturalists listed in Appendix B. A heartbreaking

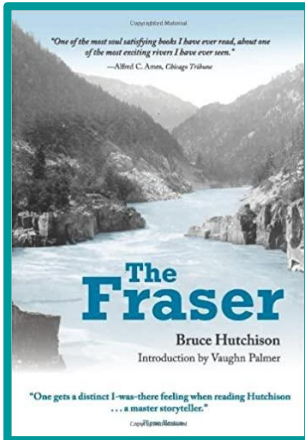


note: when Gustaf Belfrage, Swedish nobleman and Texan insect collector, died in Bosque County in 1883, among his meager possessions were 36,881 (!) pinned insect specimens, plus several boxes and pages of coleoptera and lepidoptera, and a large "manuscript, no value" (his life's work – an entomology of Texas) which were all consigned to the flames, his body to an unmarked plot. One of the few books I searched for and bought online. And I am glad I did!

The Fraser by Bruce Hutchison. Published by Clarke, Irwin, and Co., Toronto, 1950. Paperback, 336 pages.

Of the two major rivers that empty into the Pacific Ocean the Fraser is the only to flow only through Canada; the Columbia, though larger and longer, zigzags through British Columbia, Washington, and forms the border with Oregon. But what the Columbia is to the US northwest as a major transportation, irrigation and hydroelectric artery the Fraser is to western Canada. And like its southern sister river, it was the key passage to western exploration, in fact it has the prior claim, as Alexander Mackenzie travelled its upper reaches on his way from Canada to the coast in 1793 before portaging to the Bella Coola.

The author grew up in the central B.C. plateau, lived and worked in Vancouver and Victoria thus brings much personal knowledge to the history of discovery, exploration, and settlement of the Fraser and its surrounding areas. He met with old Barkerville gold miners, spent time with ranchers, natives, and settlers

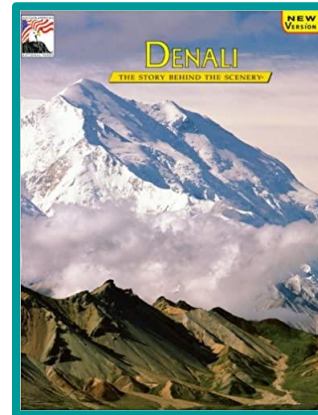


of the towns, reported on highway, railroad and hydro power development (the politics included). All of this predates my experience as the book was born before I was. So, everything I have seen of the various stretches of the river, its gorges, rapids, and development is of the conditions and "progress" he could only hint at as future prospects. I know someone must have written a more recent account of the "most important waterway of the west". I must seek it out! OBTW – according to Bruce a major consequence of exploring and exploiting the Fraser valley was connecting the west coast to eastern Canada, thus keeping BC British and ultimately Canadian, thwarting the manifest destiny of the greedy southern neighbor!

Denali: The Story Behind the Scenery by Steve Buskirk, 1994, KC Publications, Inc. paperback, 48 pages, 9 X 11.5 inches.

This is a tourist keepsake or thin coffee table book, but a high-quality example of the former. Every page features full color photos - some are spread across two pages, nearly poster size. There are no real chapters but sizable sections on the mountains, the wildlife, and "those who came before" – the natives,

explorers and mountaineering expeditions of the early 1900's. Ironically, I did not buy the book in Alaska, but took lots photos of fog/cloud/rain obscured Denali. So, I picked this copy up in a thrift store in Texas. Thanks to whoever bought it at full price 'way up north



and toted it all the way down here for me to buy cheap! I think this will henceforth be my *souvenir modus operandi*! Now, if I can just get those panoramic pictures myself...

Night Sounds Wanda Rauscher

Hey fellow Naturalists do you know what's calling as the sun goes down & the non-human summer serenade begins? I hope you all have a place where you can hear the beautiful music. I am trying to figure out one of the critter calls coming from my oak tree from deepest dark until about midnight. I am still not sure what it is yet, but I found some wonderful information as I searched that I am sharing.

First up is a place to survey the songs of the insect world - songsofinsects.com [Songs of Insects: A Guide to the Voices of Crickets, Katydid & Cicadas] This is a great web site to start a search. Not all Texas species are covered but you can get a feel for the type of sound and then look further after you decide the kind of critter you've got. The site also encourages wildlife safaris by flashlight which has the potential to be great fun in my book.



Figure 1 Restless Bush Crickett, Longview

And when you want to know more, everything you could ever want to know about tree crickets is at Oecanthinae.com.



Figure 2 Fast-calling Tree Crickett, Longview

Next up is the call of Texas frogs. Our TPWD has a good place to start:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/amphibian_watch/amphibian_species/ Some of the sound tracks are a little short so in those cases try the frog call look-up from the USGS North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (program ran from 1997-2015 but is still an excellent tool). You can look up the call by species name.

<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.lookup>

All photos by Wanda Rauscher

Wild Crape Myrtles

Ruth Adame

It all began with a rainy evening earlier this summer. I was looking at the crape myrtles in my yard, wondering when they were going to bloom, and it started to rain. In the morning, I

stepped out my front door and was dazzled by a showcase of crape myrtles, branches bowing with the weight of the delicate, pure white flowers that literally blossomed overnight, and I said, "Self," I said, "this is your article for next month." And so, I began my research.

Crape myrtles, the trees gracing my yard, I discovered, are not native to Texas. No, these beauties are an invasive species, brought to the USA from places like Korea and China.

However, in my research, I also discovered that there is a wild crape myrtle that is native to Texas. Here is what I learned:

Scientific name: *Malpighia glabra*
Family: Malpighiaceae (Barbados Cherry Family)
Common names: Barbados Cherry, Mexican Myrtle, Manzanita, Cerez, Huacacote, Wild Crepe Myrtle, Manyonita, Cerezo de Jamaica, Cerezo de Castillo, Pallo de Gallina, Escobillo, Chia, Arrayncito, Xocat, Xocatatl

Location: southern Texas (South Texas Brush Country) as well as Mexico, Central and South America, and West Indies

Growing conditions: sun/partial sun and well-drained, fairly dry soil of almost any type (sand, loam, clay are all mentioned).

The wild crape myrtle is a perennial flowering shrub that, left alone, can grow up to nine feet tall with spreading branches. However, this wild crape shrub can also be maintained around two feet tall to provide a ground cover. It produces bright green leaves, pink flowers with a faint scent, and red, glossy berries (hence the common names such as "cerezo de Castillo," cerezo meaning cherry tree in Spanish). Our southern Texans will enjoy these native plants most of the year as they begin blooming in April and don't stop until December.

The berries are edible; more than one source stated that the berries contain high levels of vitamin C. Several animals eat the leaves and berries, while the bark can be "...used as an

astringent and to reduce fever." The plant also provides nectar and therefore attracts birds and butterflies.

If you take a road trip and end up south of Austin, in the brush country, be on the lookout for the Texas wild crape myrtle. Maybe you'll



Figure 3 Photo courtesy of Dave's Garden

taste the berries!

Sources: www.wildflower.org, <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>, https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/ecoregion_6.phtml

Beware: Poisonous Plants Ahead

Dale Wade

With all of nature's beauty it has a nasty side. Along with the myriad of beautiful plants come a few of which you should be aware. On your treks through the woods pay attention to those that can poison you and your pet through touch, smell, and taste. Here are some commonly occurring poison plants that we need to avoid.

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

As with many non-native plants, folks in the 1800s brought over poison hemlock from Europe as an ornamental "winter fern". Since then, it has spread across the United States along roadsides, through fields, and finally making its way into grazing pastures. Most livestock avoid it due to its unpleasant smell

and taste. Most people confuse it with Queen Anne's Lace, picked for its tiny white flowers to adorn floral arrangements.



Figure 4 photo credit Plants of Texas Rangeland

The differences are subtle, but noticeable. Poison Hemlock grows up to 10-feet tall with a hairless, spotted purple stem. Queen Anne's Lace reaches a mere 3-feet with a hairy, spotless green stem.

Nature has given us two other plants similar to Queen Anne's lace:

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) (top) and Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata* or *Cicuta douglasii*) (bottom)



Figure 5 Photo credit Leslie J. Mehroff and Thomas Barnes



All look like wild carrots, parsnips, or parsley. Several wild plant foragers have **died** by misidentifying these plants. If you cannot tell the differences, leave them be!

All three are deadly poisonous. The root, seeds, leaves, and fruit contain alkaloid toxins. Just touching the plant causes skin irritation. Ingesting even small amounts causes severe reactions within 30 minutes. If you experience erratic symptoms after eating a plant or herb, seek emergency medical attention. Symptoms include Central Nervous System **Depression** and acute respiratory failure. Depending upon the amount ingested, palliative treatment is available. However, there is NO antidote.

Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans)
Poison Oak (Toxicodendron rydbergii)
Poison Sumac (Toxicodendron vernix)

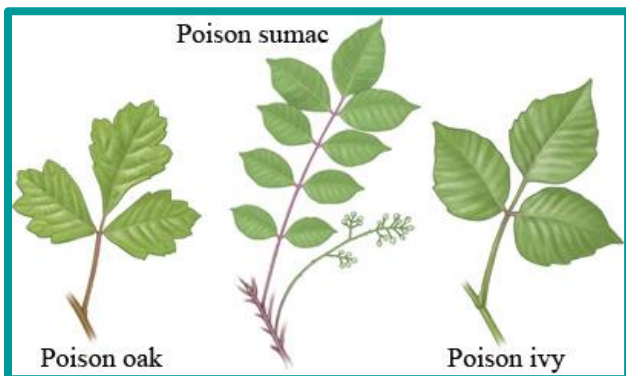


Figure 4 Photo credit MyHealth, Alberta, CA

The first thing to notice is that all the names begin with Poison. Scientifically, they all belong to the genus Toxicodendron, the Greek word for toxic tree. The toxin comes from the plant oil urushiol (you-ROO-shee-aal).

The evil of these is that you do not have to touch the plant. If the oil rubs off on your pet, your shoes, or anything else, it can still contaminate you. Most people who come in contact with this oil develop a rash in a few days. The itchy rash may form blisters lasting up to a few weeks. Worse still, when burned, the smoke contains urushiol. When mowed the oil becomes airborne. Inhaling this can cause severe breathing problems.

You have heard the saying, "Leaves of three, let it be". That is a good general rule for identifying poison ivy and oak. Both are **pervasive** across America in backyards, parks, wetlands, forests, and the roadside. To confuse matters more nature gives us two varieties of each: Eastern and Western Poison Ivy and Atlantic and Pacific Poison Oak. It really does not matter as they all have similar looks and the same ill effects.

How to Identify Them

Poison Ivy begins with a rope-like vine that climbs trees, adorns fences, or snakes along the ground. The vine sprouts stems that culminate into clumps of three distinguishable heart-shaped leaves. The leaves are glossy green turning yellow and red in the fall. In spring and fall they may develop pale berries of yellow or white.

Poison Oak differs only in that it grows into a shrub of 3-10 feet tall rather than a vine. Its leaves are oak-like in shape. This insidious plant blends in with the surrounding foliage by changing seasonal colors. It culminates with clusters of green-yellow or white berries.

Poison Sumac grows into a shrub of 5-10 feet with drooping branches. Its leaves are parallel on the stem and opposite one another ending in a single leaf at the tip. They are oval in shape with a sharply pointed end tip. In spring it develops tiny white flowers that turn into pale berries in the fall. It thrives at low elevations in wet or frequently flooded areas.

Treatments for Exposure

Should you become exposed to any of these there are **treatments** that can minimize the ill effects. First, wash all clothing in hot soapy water. Next, shower away as much urushiol as possible with warm soapy water. This will reduce the likelihood of an allergic reaction.

If a rash develops, soak in a cool bath using an oatmeal-based product. Most importantly, ask



your pharmacist to recommend creams designed to reduce the itchiness. See your doctor if you get a fever of 100°F plus, the rash becomes inflamed, or the itching gets worse.

Whether hiking the trails, exploring the forest, or pulling weeds in my own backyard, I am always plant alert. If I am uncertain of what that vine, shrub, or pretty white flower is, I try to identify it with [iNaturalist](#). I also call on my local county extension agent. Better safe than sorry.

The Nature Nurse: SPF is your BFF

Dawn Bahr, RN

Summer is here and we all want to be outdoors unless it is 105 degrees in the shade, right? When planning an outdoor adventure, no matter how big or small, there is always planning and packing. Snacks, water, hiking sticks, apps on your phone, trail maps, hiking boots, a backpack, a hat...you get the picture. But what about taking care of the largest organ that contains your body which is your SKIN!! SPF IS YOUR BFF every day, no matter what the season. However, it is mind boggling to traverse all the numbers while you are in your local retailer trying to find the one that is best for you. What do all the numbers mean? What is the difference between UVA and UVB? Let's unravel the mystery of the labels that contain the letters and numbers and make sense of it all.

Let's start with the letters first. UVA vs. UVB rays. Here is an easy way to remember these. UVA rays are associated with AGING. These are the rays you get from tanning beds. UVB rays are associated with BURNING and these are the rays you get from the sun. When a label advertises Broad Spectrum that means the sunscreen works on both UVA and UVB rays, so make sure your label says broad spectrum. Now, what exactly is SPF? That means Sun Protection Factor and it is associated with a numeric value which we will cover next. ["SPF is a measure of how much solar energy \(UV radiation\) is required to produce sunburn on protected skin \(i.e., in the presence of](#)

[sunscreen\) relative to the amount of solar energy required to produce sunburn on unprotected skin. As the SPF value increases, sunburn protection increases."](#) Next, let's look at the numbers.

SPF is associated with a number that ranges from 15-100. They are together, for example SPF 15, so a relationship exists between SPF and the number. Therefore, what is the difference between SPF 15 and SPF 50? The higher the SPF number, the more protection your skin has. That is easy! Let's all buy SPF 100 and be done, right? Not necessarily. The name of the SPF game is to be educated consumers so that you are truly getting what you are paying for and you aren't paying too much for the same thing, right? Let's look at SPF 15. This SPF is in a number of cosmetics but we don't often see it because we are focused on the cosmetic itself. SPF 15 means that it takes it blocks **93% of UVB rays** and it will take you 15 times longer to receive a sunburn than you would if you were NOT wearing sunscreen. The biggest jump is with SPF 30 which blocks 97% of UVB rays. Once you start increasing 50 or greater the percentages increase nominally with SPF 50 being 98% and SPF 100 being 99%. If you are still with me, the SPF protection between SPF 15 (93%) and SPF 100 (99%) is a difference of 6%. As you can imagine, there is a price jump between the different SPF factors that you will notice when you are comparing products between manufacturers. Is a store brand (also known as a private brand) such as Walmart's Equate brand the same as a company brand such as Coppertone when comparing price between the products? Yes. SPF is an FDA standard by which all brands are measured.

Hopefully this information empowers you as a consumer to make educated decisions regarding purchasing sunscreen. Sunscreen is as an important piece of equipment as your hiking boots when you decide to embark on your next adventure!

BE A MASTER NATURALIST



Give yourself the best gift of all—knowledge! Learn about our rich E. TX ecosystem from experts in their fields and volunteer with like-minded friends. Whether you are into bugs, birds, bats or botany, you will love these classes! Master Naturalists find fun ways to enjoy the outdoors together while helping to preserve the Earth's treasures for our children and grandchildren. Join us!

More than 40 hours of classroom study & field trips enrich & prepare you to volunteer and sustain our natural world.

\$150 tuition covers materials, instruction, books and more.

Class space is limited.
Applications accepted in order received.

**FOR MORE INFO AND
APPLICATION CONTACT:**

BEVERLY- finwren@sbcglobal.net
Website URL = <http://txmn.org/etwd/>

Non-profit Sponsored by:
TPWD and AgriLife Extension
Approved in most school districts
for CTE Credit

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



2023 CLASSES BEGIN JAN. 17th

6-9 PM Tuesdays thru April.

**In person classes held at
Tyler Nature Center,**

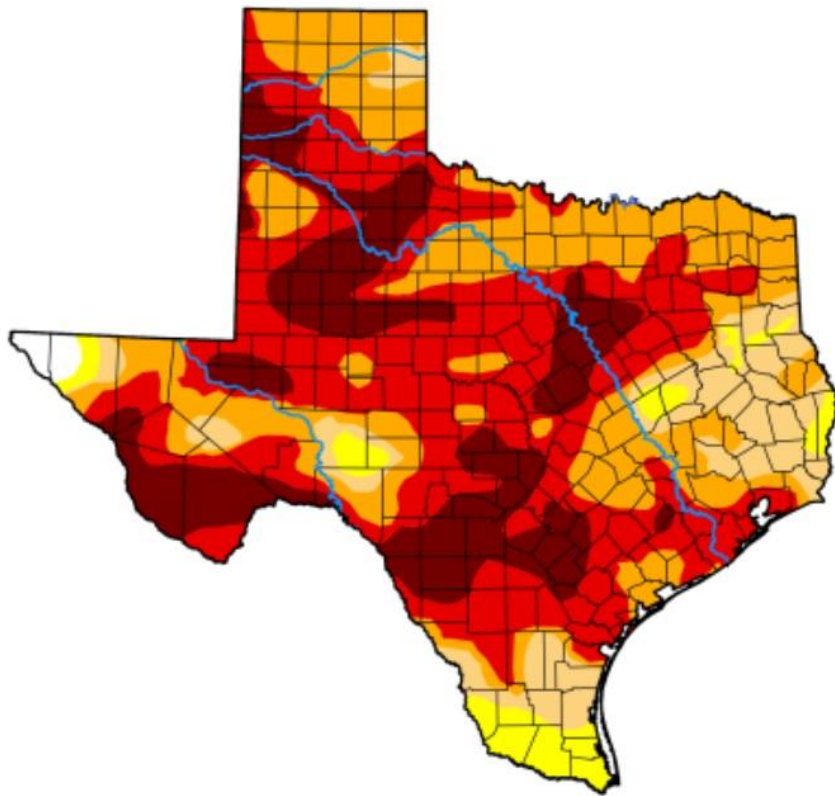
11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707





U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

July 19, 2022
(Released Thursday, Jul. 21, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Map courtesy of Texas AgriLife,
Smith County, Clint Perkins,
County Extension Agent-AG/NR;
County Administrator

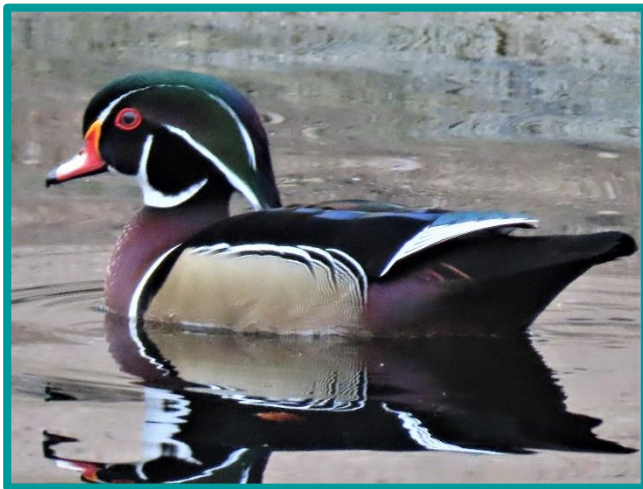


Photo courtesy Ann Reynolds

Upcoming Events

August 9– TMN Tuesday noon – TPWD’s Craig Hensley, “Connecting All Texans to Conservation Through Meaningful, Engaging Interpretation”

August 20 articles for the chapter newsletter due to Ann Reynolds

August 25 Chapter Board meeting 5:15 pm, Tyler Nature Center

August 25 - Chapter Meeting, location Tyler Nature Center, 6:30 meet/greet; 7:00 Ray Rottman, “Strange Weather; Weather weapons”

September 16-18 - Riverby Ranch Bioblitz –

September 23 – October 2 – East Texas Fair, Tyler

September 25 Chapter Meeting, Tyler Nature Center, 6:30 meet/greet; 7:00 Curtis Farmer- “Human-kind and the Oak Tree”

September 30 – October 23 - Texas State Fair, Fair Park, Dallas (Texas Discovery Gardens)

October – Yantis Prairie Days, Yantis

October 7 – 23, Texas Pollinator Bioblitz

October 20-23 – TMN Annual Meeting, Houston

October 27 - Chapter Meeting, Tyler Nature Center, Dr. Dan Bennett, SFA, “Bees of the Big Thicket National Preserve”

December 10 Holiday party, tentative time 11-2

The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.



WHERE YOU CAN FIND US



Chapter dues of \$20 per individual or \$35 per couple are due. Please remit to: ETCMN, Attn. Treasurer, P. O. Box 131184, Tyler, TX 75713-1184



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

You can find East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists here:
<https://txmn.org/etwd/>
<https://www.facebook.com/EastTexasMasterNaturalist/>

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:** Wanda Rauscher

****Vice President:** Ray Rottman

Hospitality Co-Chairs: Karen Rueb-Hall, Caryn Vorsas and Joe Vorsas

****Secretary:** Bob Lumpkins

Historian/Archivist: Bob Lumpkins

****Treasurer:** Phil Guthrie

Immediate Past President: Paul Wick

DIRECTORS:

Advanced Training (AT): Lead - Beverly Guthrie with Amy Cumbie and Cindy Smith

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

Community Education/Outreach: Lance Homeniuk

Speakers Bureau: Greg Marshall

Diversity and Inclusion: Holly Boyd

Training Class: Beverly Guthrie

Acting Membership: Wanda Rauscher

Volunteer Management System Director: Lindsey Smith

Communications Support: Terri Gerber

E-Blast: Beverly Guthrie

Newsletter: Ann Reynolds

Photography: Lindsey Smith

Public Relations: Carol Lanthrum

Social Media: Lead - Greg Marshall, Julie Davis

Website: Dale Wade

State Representative: Wanda Rauscher or appointed alternative

2022 Class Representatives: Denise Gary and Michelle Seaton

Chapter Advisors:

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

Kevin Herriman – TPWD Advisor

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

All ETCMN members listed are voting Board members.

Newly Revised 5/15/22