

Wood Duck Whistler December 2022

President's Message by Wanda Rauscher



As we approach the winter solstice, I hope everyone has the chance to enjoy their own holidays and spend time with family and friends. As you have seen in the Eblast our chapter holiday party is December 10 (with RSVP due to Wanda by Dec 2). We will also handle the chapter business of officer elections and ratification of revised Bylaws at the party. Next up will be another wonderful year for East Texas Chapter Texas Master Naturalist! Please give some thought to how you can contribute.

We **ARE** hosting City Nature Challenge 2023. Polly Jones has stepped forward as one half of a leadership team. We need plenty of volunteers for this project as we endeavor to get our neighbors excited about the native flora and fauna of our area. First chance for outreach will be the Tyler Arbor Day January 21, 2023. City Nature Challenge 2023 observation period will be April 28-May 1 and identification period will be May 2-May 7.

We **ARE** taking responsibility for the Wildscape at the Tyler Nature Center. Kay Jenkins has stepped up as the design leader for the project. We need green thumbs and able-

bodied volunteers to assist. Watch Eblast for scheduled workdays.

We need more volunteers for the Hospitality Committee as they endeavor to serve the needs of the Class of 2023, chapter meetings, and special events. Thanks to Karen Rueb-Hall who is coming off the committee and to Caryn and Joe Vorsas who are continuing to serve. More hands lighten the load, and we need help!

By now you should all be aware of the suite of projects at the I.D. Fairchild Forest in service to the red-cockaded woodpeckers. Be generous with your time if you can. Mark Edmund will let us know work dates as they are scheduled.


Meanwhile there are many other projects where master naturalists can contribute. See the VSH list with the Eblast.

(NOTE: the tentative date for the officer and director retreat is Sunday afternoon January 8, 2023. I have reserved 1-5 at the Tyler Nature Center. We will plan to help stuff notebooks for the Class of 2023 after the meeting proper.)

The First Christmas Bird Count – Christmas Day 1900

Mark Edmund

Many of us have participated in Christmas Bird Counts but did you realize that this year is the 123rd embodiment of what has become one of the largest, and the longest running, citizen-science efforts? Have you ever wondered how the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts got started? Why should we count birds during the winter holidays instead of the summer when they are more likely to be found? The history of the Christmas Bird Count tradition can be found in the annals of the **Bird-Lore** magazine from the December 1900 and February 1901 editions.



Bird-Lore was “An Illustrated Bi-Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds”. **Bird-Lore** was the “Official Organ of the Audubon Societies” (at this time there were only state-level Audubon Societies and no national society). The motto for Bird-Lore was “A bird in the bush is worth two in the hand.”

The magazine was edited by Frank M. Chapman who was a professional ornithologist. In **Bird-Lore** 2:192, Chapman made a proposal for “A Christmas Bird-Census”. In part, his proposal reads:

It is not many years ago that sportsmen were accustomed to meet on Christmas Day, ‘choose sides,’ and then, as representatives of the two bands resulting, hie them to the fields and woods on the cheerful mission of killing practically everything in fur or feathers that crossed their path – if they could.

These exceptional opportunities for winning the laurels of the chase were termed ‘side hunts,’ and reports of the hundreds of non-game birds which were sometimes slaughtered during a single hunt were often published in our leading sportsmen’s journals, with perhaps a word of editorial commendation for the winning side....

Now Bird-Lore proposes a new kind of Christmas side hunt, in the form a Christmas bird-census, and we hope that all our readers who have the opportunity will aid us in making it a success by spending a portion of Christmas Day with the birds and sending a report of their ‘hunt’ to Bird-Lore before they retire that night...

Promptness in sending these lists to Bird-Lore (at Englewood, N. J.) is

urged in order that the best of them may be published in our February number, where they will be not only of interest to other participants in the ‘hunt’ but will also constitute, in a measure, a census of Christmas bird life.

Chapman's appeal for a Christmas Bird-Census was published on December 1, 1900 but it struck a nerve with birders across North America and a surprising number took to the field on Christmas Day 1900 to observe birds and report their sightings as requested.

In the February edition (Bird-Lore 3:29-33), Chapman published the results of 27 individuals (including himself) who reported a Christmas Bird-Census from 25 locations. The locations included two in Canada (Scotch Lake, New Brunswick and Toronto, Ontario) with the remainder scattered across the lower 48 states from Keene, New Hampshire to Pacific Grove, California. Pennsylvania had the most counts with 5 locations. The counts lasted from ½-hour to 5 hours. Many of the counts reported just 3 to 15 species observed. The Pacific Grove census reported the highest count of 36 species (it could have been higher but the report noted “Water birds not included”). Chapman requested that the reports include individual counts for each species but some were apparently too numerous to count – “Crow, immense flocks” at Neshaminy Creek, PA; “White-throated Sparrow, abundant” at Germantown, PA; and, “Desert Horned Lark, thousands” at Pueblo, CO.

It is easy to see that those 27 individuals had a great time with their first Christmas Bird Count. I hope you join in our East Texas counts this year and enjoy your time with the birds!

NETFO Christmas Bird Counts

Mark Edmund

The dates for the NETFO-sponsored Longview and Lake O' the Pines Christmas Bird Counts have changed.

Saturday December 17 will now be the Lake O' the Pines count. Saturday December 31 will now be the Longview count. This change was made to facilitate access to the Eastman Chemical Company lands during the Longview CBC. The line -up for NETFO-sponsored CBCs is now:

- Saturday December 17 - Lake O' the Pines CBC
- Saturday December 31 - Longview CBC
- Monday January 2 - Tenaha-Timpson (Lake Murval) CBC (no change to this date).

The Christmas Bird Counts are open to birders of all ages and experience levels. Please let Mark Edmund know if you want to participate in one or more of the counts. We will finalize our observer lists and area assignments at the December NETFO meeting on December 7.

Tyler Christmas Bird Count

Joe Marsey – Tyler Audubon

Tyler Christmas Bird Count is planned for January 2, 2023 so mark your calendars.

You need not be an expert. Great time for new members to help count and identify with more seasoned birders. Usually, 4-5 to a car. We walk and drive and count. If not owling, groups start about daybreak and finish about 5. Final counts from each team are totaled at a dinner about 6PM. During the day individuals can come early and leave anytime and vis versa, just coordinate with the team leader.

More info will be presented at our meeting December 13th. If you have not yet signed up, please contact Amy Martin by email (amy@kinseyspharmacy.com) or text me (903 714 7889) if you wish to participate. Amy is starting to put the teams together.

Turn Over a New Leaf

Ruth Adame

As I strolled through the mall last weekend, looking at holiday offerings, thinking about Christmas, I realized, I don't want anything this year. Somebody out there, however, will be buying me a gift. What do I say that person?

A plant. I would like a plant.

Plants don't meow bark squawk or squeak. They don't need to be fed, washed, dried, folded, or hung up. One doesn't finish a plant and throw it aside, like a book, nor does one finish a plant like a box of candy (and wonder why their pants are snug).

A plant provides beauty. A plant helps clean the air. A plant sits in one spot, making no noise, simply wilting away if one forgets to water it. There are even outside plants.

Let's go! Let's get everyone on our list a plant! Wait, wait, wait. There's more to it than that. Like any other present, you have to ask some questions about the person who will get the plant.

■ Do you want to give a gift-for-awhile (like cut flowers in a vase) or a gift-for-as-long-as-possible (a houseplant, bulbs, shrubs, or trees)?

■ Does the recipient like plants? If you've never seen a houseplant in that person's home and there is only grass in the yard, the recipient may not like plants, may not like taking care of plants, or may not have the time to take care of a plant.

- Is the recipient allergic to anything the plant might bring with it? Think about scents, pollen, fluids, and sap.
- Does the recipient have children and/or pets that might be tempted to touch, dig up, or eat the plant? Some plants are toxic, some are mildly irritating, and some have thorns or sharp edges.
- Also, children and pets consume a lot of time, which leads to a related question: Does the recipient have the time and/or energy to take care of a plant (even if the child, bird, cat, or dog doesn't touch it, dig it up, or eat it)?
- Is the recipient gone a lot, work long hours or travel frequently?
- Does the recipient have a location to place the plant where the plant will thrive? Consider the size and shape of the plant when it's full grown. How tall could it get? Is it a climbing plant? Will the plant need to be overwintered? Does the plant need a cool, dry climate or a hot, humid climate? Does the recipient keep the thermostat set at "arctic-freeze" year-round or at "tropical rain forest?"
- One other question that begs to be asked: What color does the recipient like? In case the recipient doesn't kill the flowering plant and it blooms.

Still set on giving a plant? Great! Here are a few suggestions, all Texas natives and all suitable for indoors. Please note that some of these need some space to grow and some may not be suitable for families with children/pets. A couple of them can be moved outside as well.

Shrubs: Yaupon Holly, Texas Mountain Laurel, *Leucophyllum frutescens*

Non-flowering: Ovate-leaf Cliffbrake, Southern Maidenhair Fern

Flowering/Wildflowers: Purple Coneflower, Blood Sage, *Phalaenopsis* (Moth Orchid)

BE A MENTOR FOR THE 2023 CLASS MEMBERS!

Denise Gary
Beverly Guthrie

Whatever you do in the new year, do make a New Year's resolution to be a part of the newly organized **Mentor Program!** The Training Class Chair will be pairing new class members with a



veteran member who can guide them through the sometimes-confusing period of training. Rules for volunteering and posting hours can be overwhelming at times and having a friend to ask questions of will make things easier and clearer.

Should you choose to help, time demands will be small. There will be a Zoom meeting or two before classes begin on January 17th, you will need to **put the evening of January 17th on your calendar for attending the orientation class with your mentee,** and you may want to plan a walk, coffee or some other opportunity to get together and become friends. Duties are flexible and you and your mentee can decide how much interaction needs to take place and how you want to make the new class member feel welcome.

If you have a small bit of time and want to make a big difference in welcoming in the new class, please contact the Training Class Chair to get further details. New class members are fun and interesting, and your involvement will make a big difference. Come help us make this first mentor effort a big success!

Thanks for your help!

Laura Bush Texas Native Park

Ann Reynolds

Part of a four-part native plant landscape design class I am taking included a garden tour at the Bush Library on the SMU campus located at 2943 SMU Boulevard, Dallas. Going to the SMU campus for football games has been part of my love of sports. Little did I know that the library grounds at SMU were landscaped with native Texas plants which are also my passion.

The Laura W. Bush Native Texas Park is open year-round, has self-guided tours during the year and during certain months there are guided tours led by Texas Master Naturalists. The fifteen-acre park reflects plants, grasses and trees found in the Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah and the Cross Timbers Forest ecoregions. It is the first presidential library grounds to be organically maintained too.

What was once highway, urban streets and buildings is now filled with native Blackland Prairie grasses, seasonal wildflowers, and clearings that provide native habitats for



Figure 1 Monarch

butterflies, birds and other species. There are tree-shaded lawns, an amphitheater and one mile of crushed granite walking paths showcasing indigenous limestone. The new hills and valleys create microclimates with distinct balances of sun, water, and wind to enable establishment of different ecological zones.

One goal of this park is help people understand how ecology and sustainability, particularly

plants and stormwater really work. All rainwater is managed and reused. Parking lots and planted areas flow to overland bioswales that slow and clean water. Forebays settle out

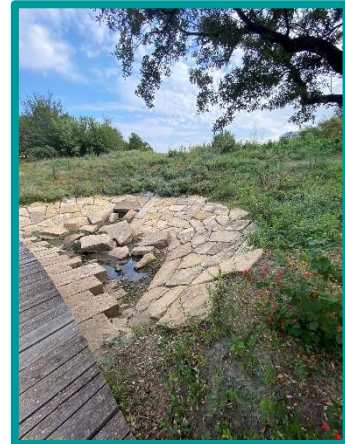


Figure 2 Seep

sediments, a seep delays stormwater release, and all site water drains toward the Wet Prairie, where it is cleansed and slowly infiltrated into an underground irrigation tank.

In the center of the trails, a native lawn provides open space. It's a blend of short-grass native grasses — buffalograss (*Buchloë dactyloides*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Texas grama, poverty dropseed (*Sporobolus*



Figure 3 Little Blue Stem

vaginiflorus), and curly mesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*) — which require minimal mowing, watering, and fertilizing. While not suitable for high-traffic areas or athletic fields, once it's established it can be mowed to a height of 3-4 inches for a more traditional look, according to a brochure.

Some of the late-blooming plants we saw were: Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Red Turks Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*), Pitcher Sage (*Salvia azurea*), Blue Mealy Sage (*Salvia Farinacea*), Western Ironweed (*Vernonia baldwinii*), Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), Fall Aster, Pam's Pink Turks Cap, Passion Vine



Figure 4 Dry Creek Bed

(*Passiflora incarnata*), Poverty weed (*Baccharis neglecta*), Prairie Verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*), Shrubby Boneset (*Ageratina havanensis*) and Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*).

There are 900 trees on the property with more than 400 of the project's trees supplied by the tree nursery established by President Bush at the Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford. New to me were: Morning Cloud Chitalpa, Texas Redbud. Lacy Oak (*Quercus lacyi*) and Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*). Old standbys include: Mexican plums (*Prunus mexicana*), Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), Eves Necklace (*Sophora affinis*), Escaprment Live Oak, (*Quercus fusiformis*), Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum rufidulum*) and Shumard (*Quercus shumardii*) and Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). Shrubs that we saw include: American Beautyberry (*Callicapra americana*) Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*), and Hummingbird Bush (Flame *Acanthus*) and vines of Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*),

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

Prairie restoration is important to the Bushes. They've worked over the years to restore the native prairie at their ranch in Crawford, about two hours south of Dallas. That might seem like a big undertaking but it is nothing new to the Bushes. They founded Texan by Nature, an Austin-based nonprofit that aims to conserve native habitats and resources in Texas through partnerships with businesses, schools, faith-based organizations and the scientific community. Its Monarch Wrangler program is a statewide initiative to create habitats that are essential to the butterfly, and Klyde Warren Park (above Woodall Rogers Expressway) in downtown Dallas was recently named the newest partner. The park has removed invasive species and planted a garden full of milkweed plants to attract the pollinators. They are also offering educational programming on the monarch migration, including seedball making and butterfly tagging.

The drive is 90 minutes and if you take Highway 80 not a huge amount of traffic. These gardens, and the library, are worth the drive. Go, visit, tell me what you think.

What Butterflies Flit About in December?

Wanda Rauscher

Many of the butterflies in our catchment overwinter as chrysalids including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, the Giant Swallowtail, the Spicebush Swallowtail, and the Black Swallowtail. Others overwinter as caterpillars such as the Red-spotted Purple, the Viceroy, and the Tawny Emperor. There are a small number of species that overwinter as adults. On a warm winter's day, you can find these butterflies flying about: the Question Mark, *Polygona interrogationis*; the Eastern Comma, *Polygona comma*; and the Goatweed Leafwing, *Anaea andria*. The Mourning Cloak, *Nymphalis antiopa*, also overwinters as an adult but has not been observed often in our

area. What do these butterflies have in common? They are more likely to take sustenance from tree sap, rotten fruit, and animal scat than from flowers. On cold days they seek protected areas- cracks and crevices in rocks and trees. They decrease the amount of water in their hemolymph and increase the sorbitol content to act as an antifreeze.

Watch for these beauties when a warm day sends you out for a walk in the woods!



Figure 5 (L) Question Mark (R) Eastern Comma



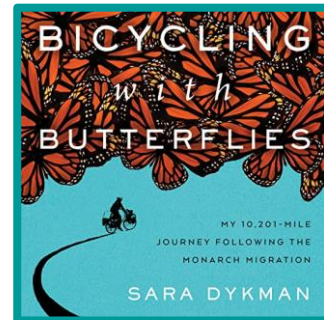
Figure 6 Goatweed Leaf Wing

Book Review for November Ann Reynolds (Not Lance)

[Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201-Mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration](#)
by Sara Dykman.

We all have our favorite butterfly and for most of us it is the monarch (*Danaus plexippus*). This beautiful butterfly floats on the breeze over our flowerbeds, occasionally resting on a black-eyed Susan to bat her orange and black wings. The regal insect is always on the hunt for a sip of nectar or a milkweed leaf where she can lay her eggs.

As many gardeners are wont to do, I not only study plants and entertain them in my gardens but I also go so far to study the creatures that visit my flower gardens. I take courses in integrated pest management, so I truly know the good and bad bugs. I seek out the plants



that are nectar and host plants. But have you ever thought of following the (wing) steps of your favorite butterfly, the monarch?

A few years ago, outdoor educator and field researcher Sara Dykman decided to do something no one had ever done before—pedal along with monarch butterflies over the entire length of their 10,201-mile migratory journey (Mexico to Canada). She did it alone, on a hand-built bicycle, through three countries.

In her book *Bicycling with Butterflies* (Winner of the 2021 National Outdoor Book Award), Dykman tells of her journey. She wrote about the dramatic ups and downs of the almost nine-month odyssey as she navigated unmapped roads in foreign countries, checked roadside milkweed for monarch eggs, and shared her passion with eager schoolchildren, skeptical bar patrons, and unimpressed border officials. She also met some of the most passionate monarch stewards who supported her efforts, from citizen scientists and researchers to farmers and high-rise city dwellers.

Here is an idea of the monarch migration/life cycle and Sara Dykman's journey. Like so many migrating animals, the monarch leaves Mexico each spring. But unlike the others, she requires two or three generations to complete the journey. Her butterfly grandparent may have

been born south of the border in March, to parents who overwintered there, her parents hatched in Texas in April to lay eggs in Iowa in May.

The return trip in the fall is a straight shot, though, with a longer-lived generation forgoing reproduction until they have made it to Mexico. On either end, none of the butterflies, their parents, or grandparents have been to their destination before. Yet their built-in compass gets them there. If you've ever driven on I-35 you have come pretty close to the migration route of the monarch. In fact, six states' departments of transportation have dubbed the I-35 corridor the Monarch Highway in honor of their joint commitment to butterfly conservation.

Monarchs winter in the Sierra Madre mountains of Michoacan, Mexico. You have probably seen the internet photos of tens of thousands of butterflies roosting on a tree waiting for spring conditions to signal the long-awaited reproduction cycle. They won't congregate in such density again until they return in September.

Dykman said she did not anticipate the emotional weight of seeing the world from a monarch's point of view. Where prairie once thrived, she pedaled past monoculture corn fields and manicured lawns. But school pollinator gardens, the hospitality of her hosts, and the receptiveness of communities to the monarch's story gave her hope. "If you tell someone that milkweed is important," she says, "they'll often stop mowing it down."

Statistics • 10,201 miles/16.471 km traveled • Four flat tires • Number of monarchs on the route: - 722 adults - 82 car-killed adults - 252 eggs - 245 caterpillars • Story told to 9,140 folks

With humor and humility, Dykman offers an educational and informational story that confirms the urgency of saving the threatened monarch migration. It is a great read where science, nature, and adventure come

together in this compelling account of a solo bike trip along the migratory path of the monarch butterfly.

A Full Day of Forestry Fun: Fairchild State Forest Tour and Volunteer Service

Denise Gary

We stood together on a beautiful fall morning, with the air comfortable and crisp, at the entrance of the fabled I. D. Fairchild State Forest. Here, in magnificent woodlands inhabited by endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, twenty-five East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists and one guest gathered to learn and to serve. All wore happy faces. Welcoming us were District Forester Jason Ellis, Biologist Donna Work, and Foresters Grant Thefford and Scott Taylor. It turned out to be an astonishingly informative day.

The group traveled to different sites within the forest, learning something different at each



Figure 7 Forestry Management

stop. Subjects included the history of Fairchild State Forest, forest and timber management, prescription burning, and wildlife habitat restoration for the red-cockaded woodpecker and other wildlife species. It was a fantastic presentation, rich with interesting and useful information! There was a tree coring demonstration, a woodpecker cavity "peeper scope" demonstration, and lots of great questions asked by our highly engaged naturalists.

Because Mr. Ellis is the District Forester, I expected him to be an expert in forest management, but as someone who is interested in history, I was grateful to discover

that he is also a keeper of the forest's history. He spoke of its beginnings as a sawmill operation operated by the state prison system, followed by improvements made by the Civilian Conservation Corps (there are still remnants of the camp and their work), to its current status as a working, demonstration forest by the Texas A&M Forest Service. Because the forest is managed primarily for the red-cockaded woodpeckers, he talked extensively about timber stand improvement and the importance of prescribed burns, particularly in relation to the health of the woodpeckers. But he also addressed thinning of forests for overall health, the improvement of timber growth, and higher returns on harvests. I was particularly interested to learn how the final use of the trees was determined, from lumber to pulp. Mr. Ellis wears his affinity for the forest on his sleeve, which was refreshing and resonated well with the group of naturalists.



Figure 8 Tree Coring

Ms. Work specializes in red-cockaded woodpecker management. We were taken to a woodpecker cluster to see the cavity trees, which are identified by green bands painted around their trunks. You can also identify cavity trees by the sap oozing down from the sap wells pecked by the woodpeckers around the cavity openings. The sap helps to deter predators from reaching the cavity entrance. The woodpeckers roost in the cavities from dusk till dawn year-round, each inside their own cavity. Though the woodpeckers were away foraging while we were there, participants were able to peer into a cavity on the peeper scope screen and see wood shavings lining the bottom. In the spring, eggs and chicks—which are reared in the male's cavity—are monitored via the peeper scope.



Figure 9 Peeper Scope

Ms. Work demonstrated the ingenious, homemade equipment and techniques she employs to retrieve chicks out of the cavities for banding, from covering the opening with her hand to fool the chicks into thinking she is a parent bringing food, to using a wire and rubber tube contraption to safely pluck them out. She showed us manufactured nest boxes that are installed inside some trees to encourage nesting, explained banding colors, discussed the unique forest ecology required by the birds, and so much more. Her knowledge was extensive and engrossing.

After the site tours, we broke for a picnic lunch and friendly banter beneath the trees. Mr. Ellis handed out Fairchild drink cozies to the attendees, perfect for us naturalists to take along on our cherished wilderness jaunts. The break was followed by a volunteer service project at two of the red-cockaded woodpecker cluster sites. Armed with rakes and loppers we brought from home, as well as various firefighting implements borrowed from the foresters' trucks, we set about clearing brush from around the woodpecker cavity trees in order to prepare them for an upcoming prescribed burn. This would help keep the fire from burning too hot around the cavity trees, while also keeping things cleaned up according to the woodpeckers' needs.

Mr. Thetford and Mr. Taylor jumped right in to



Figure 10 Brush Clearing

work beside us, which gave us a chance to witness a Pulaski fire tool in action. This wildland firefighting tool combines an axe and an adze in one head, giving a firefighter the ability to cut wood and dig soil utilizing one piece of equipment. Some of our naturalists were given McLeod tools to use, which is another firefighting tool that combines a coarse rake on one side with a sharp hoe on the other. This tool is also used in trail maintenance and restoration. While Mr. Ellis and Ms. Work conducted most of the day's programming, Mr. Thetford and Mr. Taylor assisted in the most cheerful and accommodating manner. Their contributions made the day all the better. I asked Mr. Thetford about how wildland firefighters work the fire line when they can't use a bulldozer and was absolutely enthralled by his demonstration. Moments like that, though unplanned, really added to the experience.

Needless to say, there were many objects of natural beauty to divert our attention from time to time, such as a stand of Giant Blue Sage (*salvia azurea*), new to those of us observing their lovely azure blossoms. Native to the region, this species grows approximately 6 feet tall and prefers part shade. Of course, the well-managed forest provided the perfect habitat! To top off the experience with an exclamation point, a gulf fritillary glided in to accent the deep blues with a pop of bright orange. It seemed a special parting gift.

With a terrific turnout, cheerful camaraderie, a wealth of new knowledge, a good deed done, and surroundings of significant natural beauty, the day was nothing short of exceptional. For

those of you who were able to make it, you were marvelous to spend time with and were instrumental in making this day so enjoyable. Whether members were able to attend the tour or not, everyone can expect to hear more in the future regarding further volunteer opportunities at the forest on behalf of the red-cockaded woodpeckers, as well as contributing toward the creation of a bird list for the forest. Mark Edmund will be heading up those activities, along with assistance from me (Denise Gary) and Gail Bean.

My heartfelt thanks go to Jason Ellis, Donna Work, Grant Thetford and Scott Taylor for hosting this fantastic tour for our chapter members. The amount of information shared was beyond my expectations, and every bit of it was appreciated. I know I speak for many when I say we are very much looking forward to contributing volunteer services at Fairchild State Forest on a regular basis in the future. What a wonderful day!

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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!



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**



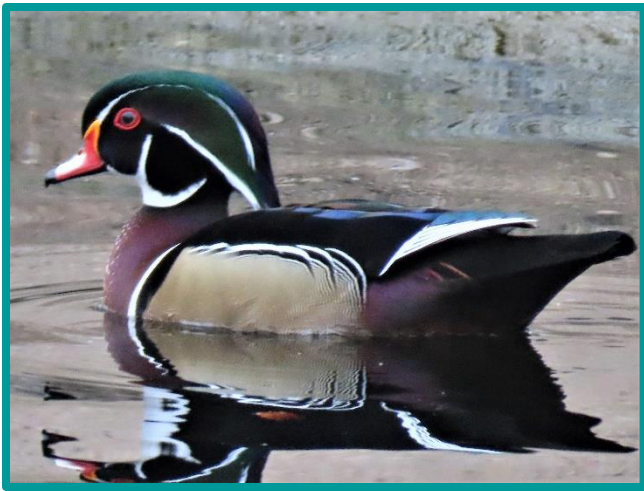


Photo courtesy Ann Reynolds

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.

Unless otherwise noted, all photos belong to the author of the article.

Upcoming Events

December 10 – Holiday Party, 11-2 pm, Tyler Nature Center

December 13 – TMN Tuesday noon – Kenneth Taylor – Leadership Transitions

December 20 articles for the chapter newsletter due to Ann Reynolds

Tentative January 14 Officers & Directors Retreat- Tyler Nature Center

IN THE COMMUNITY

December 7 – NETFO – 6:30 pm, Alethea SS Classroom at Greggton UMC (1101 Pine Tree Road) in Longview.

December 13 – Tyler Audubon Society, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Education Room, 3232 Jan Avenue, Tyler. Santa who will be giving CBC Tips

Christmas Bird Counts

December 17 – NETFO CBC Lake o' the Pines

December 31 – NETFO CBC Longview

January 2 – NETFO CBC Tenaha Timpson – Lake Murval

January 2 – Tyler Audubon CBC – Location TBD

NPSOT-Longview – 3rd Thursday, 2:30 pm, Longview Arboretum

NPSOT – Linden – 4th Tuesday 6:30 pm, Senior Citizen Center, 507 S. Kaufman St., Linden



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: Wanda Rauscher

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

Boyd Sanders – TPWD Advisor

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

All ETCMN members listed are voting Board members.

Revised 10/21/22