



## Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalists

# Prairie Partner Update

*March/April 2014*

Volume 1, Issue 7

## A Message From Clyde Camp, BPTMN President



2014 is shaping up to be a great year for the Blackland Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists (<http://bptmn.org>). As your new chapter president and assisted by vice president Cynthia

Powers, we are ready to continue the great leadership of the powerhouse Dave Powell and Ron Bamberg duo of previous years.

One of our largest training courses ever started in February with 35 students. Our monthly, open to the public, chapter meetings at the Heard Museum in McKinney regularly have more than 50 attendees and great speakers on a variety of topics.

We are one of seven chapters participating in the 2nd annual Prairie, Lakes and Timbers Regional Conference (<http://2014plt.bptmn.org>). We work with more than 40 partner organizations to provide more than 100 opportunities to participate in volunteer activities, both indoors and out, for almost 200 members.

Come join us for activities that are fun, educational and personally rewarding with a dedicated group of people.

### Upcoming Events

**March 22 & 23** - Garden Show by the Collin County Master Gardeners, March 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and March 23, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Myers Park, McKinney

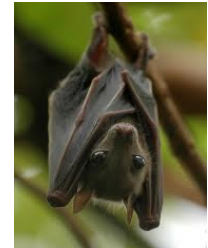
**April 11-13** - Native Plant Sale at the Heard, April 11, 4-7 p.m.; April 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and April 13, 1-5 p.m.



## Meet the Board of Directors



Louise Frost,  
secretary



Cynthia Powers,  
vice president  
(*photo furnished  
by Cynthia!*)



Dave Powell,  
past president

Debbie Daniel,  
treasurer (photo  
unavailable)

## Sign Up for the BPMN Yahoo Group

If you are not yet on the BPTMN Yahoo groups list, email Debbie Daniel at [treasurer@bptmn.org](mailto:treasurer@bptmn.org). She will send you an invitation via email and you *must* reply to her in order to have access.

You will periodically receive emails about advanced training, volunteer opportunities, environmental issues and occasional questions from fellow master naturalists asking about identifying plants, insects or other wildlife.

## Volunteer Hours

**[Blackland Prairie Raptor Center](http://www.bpraptorcenter.org)** (www.bpraptorcenter.org ) Most projects are ongoing.  
Brockdale Park, Lucas, TX

**Contact Erich Neupert** erich.neupert@bpraptorcenter.org, 469-964-9696, for current projects and dates.

**Animal care** - assist in cage cleaning and feeding of birds of prey

**Construction** - assist in construction of rehab flight cages and hospital as well as maintaining facilities

**Public interaction** - engage public in activities to introduce them to raptors on the first Saturday

**Prairie rehab** - assist in planting and continuing care of the prairie, contact Dick Zartler ([zartler@verizon.net](mailto:zartler@verizon.net)) - mostly Saturday work of inspection and selected removal of invasives."

**Gardening** - prepare and maintain garden area

**Trail Guiding** - contact Dick Zartler at [zartler@verizon.net](mailto:zartler@verizon.net). Dick needs 1 to 2 people to help with trail guiding during the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center's First Saturday program on **March 1 and April 5**. Thirty minute walk through the meadows following each of the two the bird presentations (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.). Will train if necessary. You can expect 60/40 percent children/adults, and groups can run from five to 25 people. We walk a 1/2 mile gravel trail — gently sloped — and talk about native trees, grasses, plants and flowers.

**[Collin County Adventure Camp](http://www.collincountyadventurecamp.org)** (www.collincountyadventurecamp.org)

1180 W. Houston, Anna, TX

**Contact Ron Bamberg**, rbamberg@gmail.com, 972-832-4791.

The camp has an ongoing need for trail guides to lead nature walks for children and adults. The YMCA requires a background check.

**[Connemara Meadow](http://Connemaraconservancy.org)** (Connemaraconservancy.org)

300 Tatum (Alma & Bethany), Allen, TX

**Contact Bob Mione**, 214-534-1900, [meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org](mailto:meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org)

**Invasive removal** - Requires minimum training on the day of scheduled activity and prior scheduling with Bob. Can be scheduled based on volunteer's availability. Must bring work/garden gloves, insect repellent and appropriate sun protection. Liability waiver signature required.

**Meadow Open House** - check the Connemara web site (Connemaraconservancy.org) for information.

**[Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary](http://www.Heardmuseum.org)** (www.Heardmuseum.org)

1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX

**Contact Wes Morrow**, Wesmorrow39@yahoo.com, 832-332-9099

*The Heard requires a [volunteer application](#) and a background check to be on file with volunteer coordinator Beverly Halperin. We ask that you attend a volunteer orientation when available. Be sure to check in with the appropriate personnel before any work is performed.*

The following are ongoing projects at the Heard:

**Native Reptile Care** - assisting and spotting for feeding, cage cleaning, etc., twice weekly, Tuesday and Saturday. Includes contact with museum guests and learning about native Texas snakes, including pit vipers.

**Native Mammal Care** - assisting and spotting for feeding, cage cleaning, etc.

**Sanctuary** - invasive plant elimination, trail maintenance & construction

**Bird Banding** - prior birding experience preferred, training required

**Outreach**

**Contact Dave Powell**, Powell1217@yahoo.com, to find out more about these two:

**Maintain gardens twice monthly** - 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. & 1<sup>st</sup> Sat., working with Native Plant Society and master gardeners

**Trail Guides** - days vary, training required

## Volunteer Hours (contd.)

### Junior Master Naturalists

Contact: Gwen Thomas [gmthomas29@fastmail.gm](mailto:gmthomas29@fastmail.gm)

The group meets every Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-5 p.m. at Wilson Middle School on Custer Road in Plano. The class is for 6th-8th graders. We welcome any folks who are interested in educating the next generation of Texas Naturalists. You can commit as much time as you can from leading a program to being an extra set of hands at sessions. Upcoming topics for the spring include: Migratory ducks; bats; monarch butterflies; planting native seedlings at Heritage Farmstead; hummingbirds; stream/ water quality testing (2 separate weeks) at Heritage Farmstead; and making flower presses.

### [Plano Environmental Education Center and Gardens](https://www.plano.gov/index.aspx?NID=982) (<https://www.plano.gov/index.aspx?NID=982>)

4116 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX

Volunteers must submit a waiver three days prior to volunteering. Register at [eeoc@plano.gov](mailto:eeoc@plano.gov), or contact Nancy Casillas [nancyca@plano.gov](mailto:nancyca@plano.gov)

**Sunday, March 2**, 2-5 p.m., at Environmental Education Center (EEC)

#### **1st Sunday of the month - Nature Explore Family Club**

Help facilitate family activities.

**Monday, March 3**, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at EEC

#### **2nd part of Nature Explore Family Club**

Help facilitate family activities.

**Thursday, March 20**, and **Thursday, March 27**, 8:30-11 a.m., at EEC

#### **Eco Tots Discovery Hour**

Help facilitate activities for children ages 3-5 and their parents.

**Thursday, April 3**, 8:30-11 a.m., at EEC

#### **Eco Tots Discovery Hour**

Help facilitate activities for children ages 3-5 and their parents.

**Sunday, April 6**, 2-5 p.m., at EEC

#### **1st Sunday of the month - Nature Explore Family Club**

Help facilitate family activities.

**Monday, April 7**, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at EEC

#### **2nd part of Nature Explore Family Club**

Help facilitate family activities.

**Thursday, April 10**, **Thursday, April 17** and **Thursday April 24**, 8:30-11 a.m., at EEC

#### **Eco Tots Discovery Hour**

Help facilitate activities for children ages 3-5 and their parents.

**Saturday, April 12**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at North Dallas Tollway at Legacy Drive

**Learn 2 Live Green** workshops – variety of speakers, demonstrations and workshops, and hands on activities. Help facilitate these activities.

### Send Us Your Volunteer News and Photos

We would like to feature master naturalist volunteer activities in future newsletters. Send a photo with an explanation of your activity to [eastbluff@verizon.net](mailto:eastbluff@verizon.net).

## Advanced Training

[Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist Monthly Meeting](#), 7 p.m., Heard Museum Science Resource Center

**March 11**, Mike Merchant, *Neonicotinoid Insecticides and the Environment: What You Need to Know*

**April 8**, Becky Bender and Michael Parkey: *Beescapes*

[Connemara Meadow](#) (Connemaraconservancy.org)

300 Tatum (Alma & Bethany), Allen, TX

Contact Bob Mione, 214-534-1900, [meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org](mailto:meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org)

**March 1**, 8 a.m., bird walk with Gailon and Rodney

**April 6**, 8 a.m., bird walk with Gailon and Rodney

[Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area](#)

201 E. Jones, Street, Lewisville, TX

LLELA is a busy place during March and April. There are many outdoor activities and opportunities for both advanced training and volunteer hours for Master Naturalists. To find out what we have to offer, click on the link above or contact Education Director Lisa Cole at [lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu) or 972-219-3930.

[Native Plant Society of Collin County](#)

Meets the first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Laughlin Hall at the Heard Museum

**March 4**, Presented by Dan Northcut - Mr. Northcut teaches Science and Ecology at St. Mark's School in Dallas.

**April 1**, Jason Nay, speaker

[Plano Environmental Education Center and Gardens](#)

4116 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX

For information, to register for classes, and/or volunteer, go to: <http://livegreeninplan.obsres.com>

IMPORTANT: if you want to volunteer, go online and create a volunteer profile. You can sign up for volunteer activities or contact Nancy Casillas at [nancyca@plano.gov](mailto:nancyca@plano.gov) or 972-769-4313 for more information.

**Thursday, March 20**, 7-8 p.m., at Harrington Library, 1501 18<sup>th</sup> St.

Square Foot Gardening, (FREE workshop - advanced registration on line)

[Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society](#),

Meets the 4th Tuesday, at 7 p.m. Heard Museum

**Tuesday, March 25**, "LLELA Quail Restoration Project" by Dr. Ken Seigman, Director, LLELA

**Tuesday, April 22**, "Birding in China" by Dr. Doug Wood, Associate Professor of Biology at Southeastern State University

*More approved activities for volunteering and education, listed by both type and by partner, can be found at <http://bptmn.org/info/project-opportunities/>.*

## Advanced Training (contd.)

[Texas A&M AGRILIFE Research Extension](http://dallas.tamu.edu), <http://dallas.tamu.edu>,  
Texas A&M Agrilife  
17360 Coit Road, Dallas  
Phone: (972) 231-5362

Agrilife [offers several classes](#) in March and April. For times and information about the classes below, click on the link above.

105 Drip Irrigation DIY	Mar 13, 2014
Master Gardener Irrigation Efficiency Specialist Training	Mar 17-19, 2014
WaterSense Labeled Home and Multi-Family Apts. Open House	Mar 22, 2014
DFW Builders Symposium	Mar 26, 2014
112 Native and Adaptive Plants for North Texas	Apr 1, 2014
110 Smart Watering During Restrictions	Apr 10, 2014
102 Lawn Care Maintenance	Apr 22, 2014
105 Drip Irrigation DIY	Apr 22, 2014
106 Saving from a Rainy Day, Making a Rain Barrel	Apr 22, 2014
117 Landscape Care for New Homeowners	Apr 24, 2014
101 Landscape Basics	Apr 29, 2014

You can find [past issues of \*Prairie Partner Update\*](#) on the BPMN web site at: <http://bptmn.org/info/newsletters/>