



Prairie Partner Update

A publication for and about Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalists

Editors Note: *This spring issue is chock full of activities that will earn volunteer hours and advanced training for you during 2015. We encourage you to send photos and information about your volunteer activities for the summer issue which is due out in late April. Send to eastbluff@verizon.net.*

Hello everyone – Welcome to 2015!

by Clyde Camp, 2014-2015 BPTMN President



2014 was a year of transition for the chapter as membership on your Board of Directors turned almost completely over. Board members who have served since the beginning of the chapter and shortly thereafter have now passed the torch of leadership to the 2015 Board.

The names of the new people involved are listed at the bottom left of each web page, and they will welcome your interest, suggestions and appreciation. I would urge all of you, if you are writing to them about chapter business, to send your mail to their *functional* email address – that is – president@bptmn.org, treasurer@bptmn.org, vhat@bptmn.org, etc. That is where the links beside their names go, and the functional email addresses will *always* go to the current person fulfilling that function, and it will make the next transition easier.

In addition to the board changing in 2014, future board member term limits were instituted in the bylaws so that no individual could serve more than four consecutive years on the board in any position or combination of positions. This change was approved by you, the members, in July. We hope that this will facilitate and encourage additional member participation on the board in the future.

Yes, this is work that is not everyone's cup of tea, but it is necessary so that the other chapter members can continue doing what you do best – tramping through the woods, teaching, building trails, restoring prairie and a myriad of other volunteer activities. If you have any interest at all in how the chapter is managed, the board meetings are open, and I encourage any of you who wish to do so to attend one to see what all goes on. We meet from 6-8 p.m. on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting. The location of that meeting may vary throughout the year, but the secretary (secretary@bptmn.org) will always know the location.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the previous board for their years of dedicated service to the chapter. While we may have not always been in agreement on some issues, there is no question that everyone had the best interests of the entire chapter at heart. The same is true of the new board members who bring new thoughts, ideas and energy to the chapter's leadership team.

I'm looking forward to working for and with all of you in 2015.

Regards,

Clyde

BPTMN Volunteers Work with Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation

by Candace Fountoulakis

Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists partnered with The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, Inc. (the “Conservancy”) to prepare and seed a section of historic Bethany Cemetery in November 2014. On a cloudy, cool morning, Beverly Carpenter, Linda and Jim McBee, Al Baume, Shelly Stevens, Sara and Glen Shafer, and Mary Gazioglu joined Candace Fountoulakis from the Conservancy to cut down the native ground cover of various grasses and other plants in the southern section of the cemetery property, once home to the Bethany Church and School. Scouts were also on hand to prepare for various projects coming in 2015, including the installation of a Wayside Sign explaining the connection with Add-Ran College which became TCU.

After continuous effort to chop the growth down to the surface of the soil using string trimmers, the ground was raked and then a *Bee Friendly* seed mix was scattered over the surface. The seed was purchased from Native American Seed in Junction, Texas, to assist native pollinators as



well as provide beautiful annual and perennial flowers. Seed was mixed with a sandy soil to weight it down and help with germination. Some of the volunteers, imitating the buffalo walking in the seed, were overheard singing off-key an old Nancy Sinatra tune about ‘these boots are made for walkin’, that’s just what they’ll do’. Keep your day job was the consensus.



Candace Fountoulakis of the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, is joined by Beverly Carpenter, Linda and Jim McBee, Al Baume, Shelly Stevens, Glen and Sara Shafer, at Bethany Cemetery in Plano.

Future projects for the Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalist chapter might include native tree planting, more seeding and bird houses to join the one already installed for screech owls donated by Sara Schaffer through the Plano Garden Club. The Conservancy is hoping this will be the beginning of a small native prairie restoration movement in Plano which could expand to include other sites as well.

Websites of Interest...

Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalist calendar (and past issues of *Prairie Partner Update*) [Click to view](#)

Texas Aggi Horticulture Website
Learn everything about Texas Horticulture
[Click to view](#)

Texas Smartscape
A great source of xeriscape principles and design [Click to view](#)

When you think of the bobcat, you think of the majestic beautiful feline. You also think of a fierce predator. But there is another side to these adorable cats, and on closer inspection you will find that this little kitty is an astonishing animal.

The bobcat, or *Lynx Rufus*, is a small-sized wildcat. They weigh 11 to 30 pounds and are around 20 inches tall. Even though this fella is only a little guy/girl, they can hunt like nobody's business.

Bobcats eat all sorts of yummy things like rodents, birds and sometimes even bats! During the chilly winter months, bobcats have even been known to take down deer. The cries for help from that poor deer could probably be heard everywhere.

Speaking of animal noises, bobcats make a wild range of sounds. From purrs to hisses this cat has a huge vocal range.



Some say that during the mating season, the bobcat's mating call sounds like a woman screaming.

Mating season is in late winter, and the gestation period is 50-70 days. The kittens are born in the spring and the mother can have up to six fuzz balls. These little guys grow up at an alarming

rate. Kittens learn how to eat solid food at two months, they learn how to hunt at five months, and as soon as they are 8 to 11 months-old, they get kicked out of the house! At 12-13 years of age, the bobcat hits its peak of life span. Hey - I should be dead by now! I'm not ready to say goodbye to nature!

And hopefully we never have to. By conserving our resources, recycling and not using harmful materials, we can ensure that the earth we love can continue supporting organic lifeforms, like our friend the bobcat.

Junior Naturalist's Wish List

The Junior Naturalists will be doing a donation drive for the [Blackland Prairie Raptor Center](#), so the kids can get an educational visit from the birds.

The following is a partial list of needs, and you can see the complete list by [clicking here](#). If you have any of these items, you can bring them to the February and March BPTMN chapter meetings at the Heard, or contact Gwen Thomas, gonthomas29@fastmail.fm.

Pet kennels

Sharpies

Vacuum cleaner

Raptor books

Digital camera

Washing machine

Towels (all sizes)

Ziploc bags

Toenail clippers (for dogs)

Tools

Shade cloth, black or dark green

5-gallon buckets

Heavy duty hoses

Leather gloves

Household cleaning supplies

On December 3, 2014, the Junior Naturalist Program held its mid-year certification ceremony and end-of-the-year party. Four Wilson Middle School Students – Maritza Hunter, Amri Carrasco, Aleaha Peterson and Hava Carrasco – completed all the requirements to become certified Junior Naturalists and were officially recognized at the ceremony for their participation and hard work. Each of these students enthusiastically attended spring and



fall classes studying a variety of topics including: the regions of Texas, wildflower/wildflower planting, pollinators and pollination, planning for wildlife landscapes and stream quality testing, to name just a few. They also participated in ongoing community service projects at the Heritage Farmstead and Wilson Middle School. Chapter President Clyde Camp, Secretary Louise Frost, Past President David Powell and Chapter Advisor and Texas Game Warden LeRoy Thompson were on hand to represent the chapter and present the certificates.



On December 4, the junior naturalist fall class of 25 students attended a special Texas Arbor Day celebration held on the Wilson Middle School Campus. Speakers from the Plano Parks and Recreation Department, the Plano City Council and the Texas Forest Service shared remarks about this special celebration at which a “rescue tree,” a Texas Red Bud, destined to be cut down for utility construction, was saved and transplanted on the school campus. Three students from the junior naturalist program shared their love of nature by reading poems they had written about trees. In addition, the Wilson Middle School Band, Orchestra and Choir all performed, making it a celebratory day and a wonderful end of the year.

We are revving up for our spring program and would like to invite any chapter members

interested in volunteering to join us. We have a wonderful spring program taking shape and can always use extra energy and enthusiasm. For more information, dash an e-mail to Gwen Thomas at gmthoas29@fastmail.fm.

There are so many great outings and opportunities for master naturalists this spring. Get out there and enjoy all that the Blackland Prairie has to offer! Remember to always call ahead to confirm details, and take the appropriate gear for the activity.

Trinity River Audubon Center

"Amazing things happen when you get kids outside." Isn't that the truth?! If you would like to volunteer with youth at the Trinity River Audubon Center, become an Eco-Educator! Days are flexible, but the time is 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Casey Cutler ccutler@audobon.org 214-309-5832

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

903-786-2826

The Visitor's Center is located at 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092.

Enjoy guided tram tours, February thru April, weather permitting. View migratory birds and other wildlife. Free, though donations are accepted. Saturdays and Sundays, 2 pm. Visit friendsofhagerman.com/Activities for tour details and schedules.

Meet at the Visitor Center 8 a.m. on February 14 for a special Great Backyard Bird Count walk, or April 11 for a standard bird walk.

Take your favorite nature loving kids (4-12 year olds) to the free Youth FIRST kids programs, 10-11:30 a.m.

February 7 "Fun with Fossils"

March 7 "The Miracle of Seeds"

April 4 "S-S-S-Snakes"

Or to spring break at HNWR March 9-13. Spring Break activities include hikes, nature crafts, and games. Check out friendsofhagerman.com/Youth for more kid-friendly events.

Mark your calendar for the Hagerman's Second Saturday lecture series, 10-11:30 a.m., in the Visitor Center. Free, no reservations needed.

February 14 – Don't miss Tim Patton, professor, Dept. Biological Sciences, Southeastern Oklahoma State University and his presentation on The Fish and Ecosystems of Lake Texoma.

March 14– Fly on in for Dr. Wayne Meyer, associate professor of Biology at Austin College, who will present a program about owls.

April 11– Dr. Jessica Healy, assistant professor of Biology at Austin College, will present a program on "The Coyote."

Volunteers are needed for the visitor center, butterfly garden, and to be nature walk leaders, youth program assistants, and nest box monitors. Additional volunteers are needed for tram services, including maintenance, drivers and tour guides. Applicants should email friendsofthehagerman@gmail.com

Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve

5901 Los Rios Blvd. Plano, TX 75074

Contact Leanna Jennings: 972-941-5403

leannaj@plano.gov

The Buzz Buddies class will include an informative presentation, a guided walk to view non-aggressive bees, and you even get to build a bee house for your yard! Taught by Carol Clark, April 4 10-11:30am. \$25 (Register by April 1.)

The Texas Astronomical Society will be bringing telescopes for a Star Party, the evening of April 18, 8:30-10 p.m. Free.

The Outdoor Women's Leadership Society will be holding a workshop series. Cost is \$150 and includes 6 outdoor skill workshops at Oak Point Park, plus a camping trip to Cedar Hill State Park - all transportation, camping equipment, and food are included. Workshops are from 6-8 p.m., March 25, April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20, and June 3. The Cedar Hill camp out is June 5-7, (register by March 22).

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Spring Outings and Opportunities *(continued)*

Environmental Education Center

4116 W. Plano Pkwy. Plano, TX

Registration website: <https://livegreeninplano.obsres.com/Info.aspx?EventID=3>

Rain Barrels 101 - Three chances to take this free class!

Tuesday February 3, 10-11 a.m. or 7-8 p.m.
Thursday March 12, 7-8 p.m. (Reserve your spot by following the reservation link above).

Landscape for Life - This free five-class series covers the role of successful soil practices, water capture and conservation, as well as plant material selection in a sustainable, eco-friendly garden design. Classes meet Wednesdays 7-9 p.m., February 4-March 4, (be sure to register).

Compost Fair - Learn to compost yard trimmings and food waste into garden gold!
Saturday March 7, 9am-Noon (Register by March 5).

Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary

One Nature Place, McKinney, TX

Heardmuseum.org

The Animal Care department is collecting phone books to be used for animal enrichment. Donations can be brought to the front desk.

Second Saturday Bird Walks are included with general admission. These walks are a joint endeavor of the Heard Museum and the Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society. Walks begin at 8 a.m. and last 1 to 1/2 hours. February 14, March 14, April 11.

Trail Guide Trainings will be held February 19 and 26, 9 a.m.-noon. Advanced registration is required. For all volunteer opportunities at the Heard, contact Darlene Sumerfelt at dsumerfelt@heardmuseum.org

Third Saturday Nature Talks - Visit the Heard website to register.

February 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Rocks and Minerals, \$30. (Includes a rock kit, a mineral kit, a mineral test kit, and DVD of all presentations, plus rock and mineral raffles and prizes.)

March 21 9:30 a.m.: Invasive Plant Species, free with general admission. (Learn what they are, how to identify them, and discuss possible removal strategies).

April 18 9:30 a.m.: Aquatic Plants, free with general admission. (Learn identification and possibly take a little trip outside to find aquatic plants).

The next Owl Prowl Night Hike is March 14, 6:30-8 p.m. Register on the Heard website.

The annual Heard Plant Sale will be held in mid April. Heard members only pre-sale is April 17. Open to the general public April 18 and 19. All sales are tax-free and support the Heard's mission to bring nature and people together. Volunteers are needed for both the sale and in advance of the sale. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Darlene Sumerfelt dsumerfelt@heardmuseum.org.

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

(LLELA) 972-219-3930

1801 North Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 75057

Join Keith Lockhart and/or Sue Yost for Second Saturday Bird Walks February 14, March 14 and April 11, 7:30 a.m., \$7. Reservations are not required.

Explore the wonders of the night sky on LLELA's wide-open prairie restoration during Stars on the Prairie, February 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m. If the sky is cloudy, they will meet for a night hike, \$10. Call or email to register (required).

There is not a date set yet for spring Trail Guide Training, but this half-day workshop is for volunteers who are interested in leading Nature Walks and Night Hikes. Call or email for details.

The One Ale of a Trail Run will be April 25, 7 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are needed to support LLELA's second annual trail run: water stations, start/finish area, parking, setup. Call or email for details.

March 28, 8 a.m.-noon brings "The Big Event," and some 200 student volunteers from the University of North Texas will work at LLELA in the native plant nursery, transplanting vegetation into the prairie restoration area. Master Naturalists will be needed to work with students. If interested, please contact Richard Freiheit atfreiheit@unt.edu.

This and That



Annual Meeting Hosts Area Partners

Along with a large group of master naturalists attending the 2015 Annual Meeting, in January, several partners attended to talk about their organizations. They are: Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, Connemara Conservancy, Hagerman Wildlife Sanctuary, Heard Museum, Heritage Farmstead, Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area, Holifield Science Learning Area, Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Wylie Prairie Restoration, TX A&M AgriLife Ext., Junior Naturalists, City of Plano - Parks and Rec (Oak Point Park and Arbor Hills), and the Texas Bluebird Society.

If you were unable to attend or want to get more information about one of these partners, please contact **Melanie Schuchart** VTAT@bptmn.org.



Ed Ellerbe shows a Screech Owl to annual meeting attendees.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS...

To Cathy Westmoreland and her committee for planning and organizing the incredible buffet dinner at the December meeting.

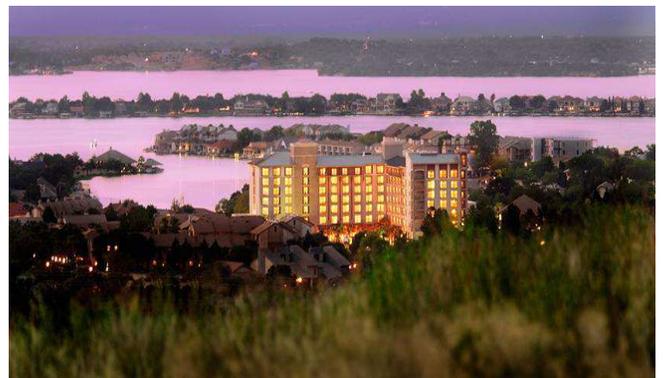
Members Asked to Pay 2015 Club Dues and Background Checks

All chapter members will need to pay 2015 dues of \$20 in January 2015. If you were certified in 2012 or earlier, you will have to have another background check which is an additional \$10. Payment can be made by check or cash.

Treasurer Karen Mitchell is at the 2nd Tuesday meetings and can give you a receipt, if you would like one. You can also mail your \$20 dues and \$10 background check to Karen at:

BPTMN TREASURER
P.O. BOX 863175
Plano, Texas 75086

If you have any questions, email them to treasurer@bptmn.org.



Monthly Heard Bird Walk

by Gailon Brehm with photos by Mike Cameron

Seven of us enjoyed the monthly bird walk and survey, co-hosted by Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society (PTAS) and the Heard Wildlife Sanctuary and led by Rodney Thomas, Mike Cameron, and Gailon Brehm. Clouds were heavy with a cool north wind. After moving through the butterfly garden and on up to the hill south of the SRC Building, we paused for a good survey of birds moving around. There we saw the first of our four recently arriving species, a pair of Lincoln's Sparrows. As we moved on we saw Northern Flickers, a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and a Sharp-Shinned Hawk.



Moving through the wetlands, we saw a dove-size bird land at the top of a snag and perch long enough for us to identify it as the Sharp-Shinned hawk. The photo to the left shows that it was a juvenile, based on the vertical brown breast stripes and a Sharp-Shinned rather than Coopers Hawk by the fact that the stripes are broad rather than narrow and crisp. Size alone, however, would exclude Coopers and indicates that this is a male. Later the bird took off and powered away, with a look that, to me, looked menacing and dangerous to potential avian prey!

Just west of the SRC we made note of the restored prairie field that PTAS had sponsored a few years ago. After three or more years with virtually no native tall grass seed production being evident, this year the Little Bluestem is beautiful! My photo to the right shows the stems, loaded with seeds, bent against the wind. The warm season rains in 2014 must have triggered good growth; it's very pleasing to see that this native grass has survived the drought without supplemental irrigation.



As usual, most of our year-round resident birds were seen. Typical of these was a flock of Black Vultures perched in dead trees in the wetlands. The bird shown to the left finally raised its wings to fly, providing Mike a dramatic look after his long wait with the camera poised.

Third Saturday Classes for Advanced Training

The following classes are sponsored by the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists and count for advanced training hours. All classes will be held at the Heard Museum unless otherwise noted.

February 21, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9 – 4 p.m.
Rock and Mineral Identification/Mineral Uses Past, Present and Future—Diane Brownlee

\$30.00 fee includes a rock kit, a mineral kit, a mineral test kit, DVD of all presentations, plus rock and mineral raffles and prizes).

TEACHER WORKSHOP

Content enrichment suitable for all grades; Suitable for docents, master naturalists and other informal education providers

This class will provide you with hands-on, in-depth experience in identifying rocks and minerals. Using the exceptional mineral kit (yours to keep), you will learn how to investigate the properties of any mineral including luster, hardness, cleavage, fracture, crystal form and other diagnostics. Your supervised practice will equip you to use these skills confidently.

You will then explore the origins and classifications of the Earth's rocks. Using your rock kit (yours to keep), the science of petrology will clarify, explain and demonstrate techniques used to identify each of the three rock types. For igneous rocks, you will investigate origin, temperature and setting by understanding texture, mineralogy and structure. Sedimentary rocks will tell you if they are clastic, chemical or biologic, and how to spot characteristic weathering patterns. Defining and understanding the composition and structure of metamorphic rocks will tell you the temperature, pressure and illustrate radical changes in rock chemistry which often occur on a regional scale. Some different ways to illustrate the rock cycle will be offered.

We will finish up by investigating how minerals (including metals, crystals, ores and oil) are used every day by everyone! Elements and the periodic table will make an appearance as we discuss important mineral-fueled changes affecting man now and in the past. We will take a quick look at

mining, particularly in Texas, and discuss Texas' role in industrial mineral production.

March 21, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Invasive Plant Species - Dana Wilson – North Texas master naturalist

9:30 – We will learn what invasive species are and why they've become an ecosystem-wide threat, as well as common invaders of the metroplex.

10:30 – We'll look at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's "Invaders of Texas" database, practice entering findings and look at specimens in the field, along with various means of eradication.

April 18, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Aquatic Plants - Rick Maxwell – AgriLife of Collin County

We will learn what the aquatic plants are in this area, their benefits and non-benefits, how to identify them. This may involve a trip to Bull Frog Pond and/or the wetlands. This session will compliment the aquatic systems class given by the master naturalists for their new members.

May 16, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Collin County Plants and the CC Herbarium -

Dr. Nelson Rich of Collin College

Dr. Rich is collecting the variety of plants from this county and creating a research site for them in a Herbarium at Collin College. He is also engaged in other types of research which he will share with us.

This class may include a demo for collecting, processing and documentation of voucher specimens.

June 20, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Our Butterflies! - Melanie Schuchart – Heard Museum volunteer & master naturalist

We will learn about the butterflies of our area, identifying them, learning their niche in nature, and visiting the butterfly garden to see them in various stages of their cycles.

(continued on next page)

Third Saturday Classes *(continued)*

July 18, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9:30 a.m.

America's Lion – The Mountain Lion in Texas

Monica Morrison, North Texas master naturalist

Regardless of what you call it – mountain lion, cougar, panther or puma – this cat is a Texas native and the largest feline in the state. Come find out about the history of this elusive animal, its importance to the environment, current status and its future. Ms. Morrison is a volunteer at a big-cat sanctuary that has numerous mountain lions. She has studied mountain lions and other big cats both in captivity and in the wild for 15 years.

August 15, 2015 – Laughlin Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Extending the Season – Organic Vegetables all winter - Tony Manasseri, master naturalist, native plant specialist and local farmer

Longtime veggie gardener, Tony will show us how he is able to grow vegetables through the long winter months here in North Texas. He will cover varieties, starting seeds, soil prep, fertilization and harvest, all without the use of toxic chemicals.

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers Needed at Monarch Way Station *by Nancy Furth*



With the help of volunteers like us, there will be a small but significant landscape restoration project at the Heritage Farmstead Museum

this spring. The prairie/pollinator garden has enhanced the grounds and is attracting many forms of wildlife to the property. We now want to focus on helping the Monarchs by supplying a habitat of both nectar and hosts plant (milkweeds) that will help increase their numbers.

Help us "Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas." We have applied for a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas to create a Monarch way station which will help us purchase plants in April. In preparation, we will be planning and preparing the sight and removing lots of turf during February and March.

To do the best job possible, we need to establish a core team of master naturalists who can plan, organize and execute the project. We will establish work days, or half-days, and create a task schedule for implementation. If you have time to help with any of these tasks, please contact me, Nancy Furth, at: n.furth@verizon.net.



Ways You Can Help Monarch Butterflies

Two organizations that have action plans to save the monarch butterfly are: the [Center for Biological Diversity](#), where you can sign a petition to save monarchs, and [Save Our Monarchs](#), a grass-roots movement partnership with the Garden Clubs of Illinois, whose action plan is to encourage people to plant milkweed.



Editor's Note: [Melanie Schuchart](#), is the chapter's new Volunteer Service Projects Chair.

Here we are beginning a new year, and there is no better time to review the chapter's guidelines for volunteering to fulfill the 40-plus hours required each year as master naturalists. You can visit the [list of opportunities](#) page for a complete list of [opportunities by partner](#) and [opportunities by activity type](#). And, don't forget to record all of your volunteer service hours on the [hours database](#).

Volunteer Project Guidelines

- TMN State Guidelines: *In order to attain certification, a Texas Master Naturalist trainee must complete a minimum of 40 volunteer service hours (and 8 hours of advanced training) within one year of the initial training series. In order to retain the title of Texas Master Naturalist, a volunteer must complete another 40 volunteer service hours (and 8 hours of advanced training) in every subsequent year.*
- Volunteer work must be of a type that furthers the TMN mission statement: *To provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities.* This mission includes educating the public on natural resources, but it also includes managing, maintaining and improving the environment for the benefit of wildlife and the public.



- Volunteer work must be performed as a Texas master naturalist rather than as a member of another organization.
 - Volunteers who belong to two organizations that both require volunteer service as part of membership (e.g., TMN and master gardeners) may not count the same work hours twice, getting credit from both organizations.
 - Volunteer work that results in a profit to another organization cannot be approved.
 - Volunteers may not count volunteer work for a for-profit organization.
 - Volunteers may not count work for a nonprofit organization that results in the organization earning money for its own programs.
 - Volunteer work in approved chapter fund-raising efforts can be counted.
 - Paid work of any kind cannot be counted for volunteer credit.
 - Volunteer hours credit is earned for time spent preparing a volunteer presentation as well as for making the actual presentation. Travel time to and from any volunteer project activity earns volunteer credit (does not apply to attending advanced training activities).
- All chapter board members, committee chairmen and committee members will receive hour-for-hour credit for volunteer hours spent fulfilling those duties (including travel time).

Volunteer Opportunity Contacts

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center

Brockdale Park, Lucas, TX
(www.bpraptorcenter.org)

Contact Erich Neupert

erich.neupert@bpraptorcenter.org,
469-964-9696 or

Dick Zartler, zartler@verizon.net

Collin County Adventure Camp

1180 W. Houston, Anna, TX
(www.collincountyadventurecamp.org)

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

Connemara Meadow

300 Tatum (Alma & Bethany), Allen, TX
(Connemaraconservancy.org)

Contact **Bob Mione**, 214-534-1900, meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org

Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary

1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX
(www.Heardmuseum.org)

Contact **Wes Morrow**, Wesmorrow39@yahoo.com,
832-332-9099, and **Dave Powell**,
powell1217@yahoo.com.

Junior Master Naturalists

Contact: Gwen Thomas

gmthomas29@fastmail.gm

During the school year, the group meets every Wednesday from 3:30-5 p.m. at Wilson Middle School on Custer Road, Plano. The class is for 6th -8th graders.

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

201 E. Jones, Street, Lewisville, TX
www.ias.unt.edu/llela

Contact Education Coordinator **Lisa Cole** at lisacole@unt.edu or **Mike Petrick** at mike.petrick@verizon.net

Plano Environmental Education Center

4116 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX

Contact **Nancy Casillas** at nancyca@plano.gov or
972-769-4313

To volunteer, go online and create a volunteer profile then sign up at eeoc@plano.gov for volunteer activities. Volunteers must submit a waiver three days prior to volunteering.

The BPTMN [CALENDAR](#) now has activities labeled with AT (Advanced Training) and VH (Volunteer Hours)

Calendar

See usage notes below calendar

Blackland Prairie Event Calendar

January 2015

Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1pm Open House			New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		(VH) Blackland Prairie Bird Walk
4		(AT) - NPSOT-Collin		6pm BPTMN Board Meeting		(AT) - PTAS - 2nd Session
11	6pm Meadow Steering	6:30pm BPTMN Monthly Meeting		(VH) Wylie Prairie Meeting		(AT) Heard 3rd Saturday
18	Martin Luther King Day	(VH) Wylie Prairie Meeting		(VH) Wylie Prairie Meeting		(VH) Heard Garden
25	1pm Open House	(AT) PTAS monthly (VH) Wylie Prairie Meeting		(VH) Wylie Prairie Meeting		(VH) Wylie Prairie Meeting

Advanced Training and Meetings

[Connemara Meadow](#)

(Connemaraconservancy.org)

300 Tatum (Alma & Bethany), Allen, TX

Contact Bob Mione, 214-534-1900, meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org

[Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area](#)

201 E. Jones, Street, Lewisville, TX

Contact **Lisa Cole** at 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

[Plano Environmental Education Center and Gardens](#)

4116 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX

For information and to register for classes, click the link above.

[Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society](#)

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

[Texas A&M AGRILIFE Research Extension](#)

<http://dallas.tamu.edu>,

Texas A&M Agrilife

17360 Coit Road, Dallas

Phone: (972) 231-5362

Agrilife [offers a variety of classes](#), some which qualify for advanced training. For times and information about the classes, click on the link above.

Upcoming BPTMN Meetings 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Heard Museum Science Resource Center
(each count as one-hour of advanced training)

- February 10 - Barney Lipscomb, BRIT - Subject TBA
- March 10 - Matthew Tolnay - "What's Normal Animal Behavior?"
- April 14 - Randy Johnson - Subject TBA

City of Plano Parks and Recreation Outdoor Adventures Program Features Carol Clark of Native Plant Society

There are several classes that Carol will lead (\$5 cost) at Oak Point Park Pavilion on the following dates:

March 17, 10-11:30 a.m. - Nature's Promenade

April 4, 10-11:30 a.m. - Buzz Buddies, discover the importance of native bees

April 8, 10-11:30 - Wild About Plants

April 14, 10-11:30 - Nature's Promenade

Additional classes will be held in May and early June. For more information, contact Leanna Jennings at 972-941-5403 or leannaj@plano.gov.