



Prairie Partner Update

A publication for and about Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalists

Editors Note: *This issue features wildflower and perennial gardening ideas from master naturalists Lorelei Stierlen and Gary Howerton. Lorelei's garden is one of five featured in the April 25 & 26 Plano Garden Club garden tour (ticket information on p. 2.) Gary shares how he has planted wildflowers in his yard and provides a quiz on several of his favorites. See if you can identify them (page 3). Happy gardening!*

Master Naturalist Creates Waterwise Yard Featured on Garden Tour

by Lorelei Stierlen



In 2010, I started redoing my yard in earnest with the goal to have a wildlife friendly, organic, native habitat which doesn't need water. It has been an amazing journey.

I bought my house in April 1999, and had no idea what I wanted to do with the gardens. I did know that the three Bradford Pear trees and planned sea of Bermuda grass weren't really to my liking. I kept two large beds along the front of the house for planting, so that was the start of the grass elimination.

I didn't know anything about Texas plants let alone the Blackland Prairie ecosystem back then. I started off with things like rose bushes and azaleas that the local nursery was selling. It's not their fault - I didn't know what I was doing! The azaleas died in about three years.

The first few years were what I'd call false starts, as I didn't have a lot of time to put into it and relied on the nursery to guide me to good plant choices. They didn't survive, as you can imagine. My yard may not have been to my liking, but I was feeding it with dry molasses, composted manure and compost, so it was at least organic and healthy.

Nine years ago, I finally decided I'd better figure out what was supposed to grow here. It began with the [TAMU website](#), and I slowly started to carve out grass areas in the back around the patio. Day Lilies, more roses and some iris moved into the space which I expanded again when the two Bradford Pear trees in the back died and were removed.

Then in 2010, the Myers Park perennial garden opened, and that was the start of my bigger picture effort. I was inspired by that, and found Shades of Green Nursery through them. I started visiting the [Ladybird Johnson Wildflower site](#), and researching Texas plants more seriously.

The major transformation started in 2011 with the back garden, then the west side and alleyway area in 2012, the front easement in 2013 and finally the front in 2014. The masonry work was done by a landscaper who also removed 2/3 of the Bermuda grass and I removed the rest. I selected and planted the plants, grasses and shrubs and planted all the trees except for three Desert Willow trees. I started with Texas natives, then discovered what the Blackland Prairie ecosystem really was.

(Continued on page 2)

You can see the shift on the west side of my house where I started bringing in Coneflowers, Salvia farinacea, Bee Balm and Penstemon. The front garden took a year of planning and research to select the grasses and forbs which were true Blackland Prairie natives. And I'm not finished there, as many of the forbs I am growing from seed. There are still a few non-natives like the rose bushes surviving, but each year it's less.



I think the Texas grasses and wildflowers are the main feature of my garden. Typically I'm a perennial gardener, although there are a few annuals. I do companion planting so I have Marigolds and Borage, and always have Pentas and Snapdragons (my Mum likes them).

When I first moved here, I'd have a few squirrels and the occasional crow. Now, these gardens are full of life – and I really consider this my opus. It's been a labor of love, and it will continue to change and grow however nature wants.

Upcoming Garden Tours & Plant Sale

Heard Museum Plant Sale - April 17, 4-7p.m. for members only; open to public Saturday, April 18, 9-5p.m. and Sunday, April 19, 1-5p.m.

Plano Garden Club Tour - April 25, 11a.m.-5p.m., & April 26, 1-5p.m. For tickets, see www.planogardenclub.org until April 20 or buy at 2820 Redfield, Plano, on the two days of the tour.

City of Plano Waterwise Landscape Tour - May 16, www.learn2livegreen.com

Lorelei's Plant Sources:

Shades of Green and Native Plant Society native plant sales;
 Prairie Nursery (excellent source for forbs) - <http://www.prairienursery.com/>
 Prairie Moon Nursery (great for seeds and grasses) - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
 Native American Seed (many of the hard to find seeds) - <http://www.seedsource.com/>





Can You Identify These Flowers? Answers Are at the Bottom of the Page.

Once I became involved in the Master Naturalist Program my interests in nature became very diversified. Early on, I became interested in wildflowers because of the plant tours led by Jim Varnum.

As an educator at heart, I wanted to establish a simple, repeatable model to learn the life cycle of wildflowers. Additionally, I wanted to foster a soil environment that harbored a diverse, invertebrate biosphere. A future goal, not reached yet, is to be able to tie various species of invertebrates to each wildflower species.

I picked out three non-continuous areas in my yard to test the hypothesis that more knowledge about wildflowers can be obtained in a controlled area that has a high density and large variety of flowers than is usually found in nature. The one major benefit to planting wildflowers in your backyard is that you can follow their growth and development from a seed to a flowering plant with greater ease. And then once the plants pass the flowering phase of their development you can follow their later stages of development. When the plants die I simply pull them up, collect the soil in petri dishes, where the roots were located, and label the dishes with the plant's name.

The soil selection and preparation is pretty simple. Select areas where the soil has supported other plant life, is well drained and gets at least eight hours of direct sunlight a day. The soil preparation is equally simple. I dig up the soil, remove non-flowering plants, turn and break up the soil. Rake the site flat and sprinkle the area with water, if it hasn't rained in the last 48 hours. After planting the flower seeds, I seldom water the sites with sprinklers but depend upon rainwater.

The seed selection and planting was the most fun. Before I started this project, I went and spent a few days in Fredericksburg, Texas, and the surrounding area during the flowering part of the season.

I visited several of the seed farms and stores and visited with their employees. From this outing I selected a seed store from which to purchase my seeds. The flowering results have remained consistently good. I have used the same store four years in a row.

Planting consist of scooping up soil from each site, mixing in seeds of choice and broadcasting them over the site. Then, I raked the site, sprinkled water and then wait for the sprouts. I use a regional wildflower seed blend. But, if you desire a specific species or type of wildflower for your garden, then there are many popular species' seeds that can be purchased individually.

See Gary's Wildflowers on YouTube

Gary has four YouTube videos of the flowers he has grown that demonstrate the beauty and variation that wildflowers afford the gardener, two of which are training videos on recognizing the blossoms of wildflowers.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ire-J0WzyOY&feature=youtube

http://youtu.be/E7HVD_UmjjI

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0-HxQSmzXI/>

The Test: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWJv6M13rjY&feature=channel&list=UL>

The Heard Museum, being a small non-profit, only has seven full-time employees and 20 to 30 part timers. Volunteers are extremely valued. No matter what your field of interest, you have an opportunity to shine as a volunteer there.

Volunteers get involved in docent exhibits, educating guests, maintaining trails and gardens, caring for animals, housekeeping, administrative duties, contributing to scientific studies and building so many of the things that come out of our workshop. They are truly the life-line of the Heard.

Mandy Carrasco, who is a “part timer” at the Heard, said that the Heard shows gratitude by giving awards to the volunteers that have the highest number of volunteered hours. This year’s award winners were Texas Master Naturalists Mike Roome and Melanie Schuchart.

Melanie said, “Don’t be afraid to invent your own job around your passions once you have volunteered for an organization and can see where you can be helpful to them and their mission. Many of our partners do not have a lot of staff and will be appreciative of your help without having to provide a lot of direction once they build trust in you. I find my volunteer work very rewarding and educational. I like to do my own thing on my own time. Through my volunteer learning at the Heard, I’ve now developed butterfly education that I provide for the Heard as well.”

She also gave us a web page to search about the butterflies at the Heard:

<http://www.heardmuseum.org/butterflies>.

You can find out when her educational talks occur



and the events scheduled with the butterflies at the butterfly house. In the photo at left, she is at the Butterfly House and is holding a pipevine which serves as a host

plant for the Swallowtail.



Pictured at left is Mike Roome, receiving his award from Michele Duda.

Mike related the following:

“I always thought that when I

finally retired, I would want to do some volunteer work somewhere, but assumed it would primarily be serving people. Just about all of my volunteer work happens at two places — Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary and the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center. I try to put in a few hours also at our Wylie Prairie Restoration Project.

The Heard was the first place I started to volunteer after completing our master naturalist training. I love what I do for them and don't consider my activities as anything special. I know that there are many other volunteers who are equally deserving of this award. I was honored to be recognized as their Volunteer of the Year for 2014. I was very pleased to stand with other of our chapter members whose volunteer service for the museum was also recognized.



Melanie Schuchart receives her award from Angela Baron.

Nature Lovers

Hummingbirds Arrive Soon

by Tony Manasseri

With the arrival of warmer weather right around the corner, we should be thinking about having a hummingbird feeder "at the ready. My birds return to the exact same window where the feeder hung last year looking for a quick fuel up. The mixture is 4 to 1, water to sugar. Warm water will easily dissolve the sugar. No need to boil or add coloring. A saucer type feeder works best for us. Store extra in a glass jar and keep in fridge for quick change outs every few days.



The two species most common species in North Texas are the Black Chinned and the Ruby Throated. The gorget (throat) on the male black chinned is purple or amethyst and the ruby is red. Both gorgets look like a dark patch until the sun hits it just right and then the color turns iridescent. My easy observation method to distinguish between the two is tail movement. BC's will "pump" their tails when feeding while the RT's will remain calm.

The timing of the arrival seems to coincide with the blooming of Coral Honeysuckle, Crossvine, Texas Buckeye and Scarlet Buckeye. We have purposely planted more of these in our landscape. Almost all garden centers have annual and perennial flowers that attract hummers.

As summer progresses, we have as many as five feeders going, and they stay busy through the fall migration when it gets extremely busy. During the peak in August, we may be refilling feeders every day, as there are often 8-10 birds protecting their feeders or trying to drink.

I hope this friendly reminder will encourage you to put out the welcome sign, in the form of a feeder, to our colorful friends. If you have further questions, contact me at tony.manasseri2@gmail.com.

Bunnies!

by Amri Carrasco
(junior naturalist)



Summer is great for long walks on the nature trails, and when you stroll down these paths you probably see a large amount of rabbits. Did you know a rabbit is a lagomorph? A lagomorph is confused with a rodent most of the time, but there is actually a big difference. When you saw me say "lagomorph" you probably replied with a simple "Gezundheit." But a lagomorph really is a section of animals! These animals have special structural adaptations to help them survive. They have four incisors, unlike rodents which only have two. They are almost strictly herbivorous, and rodents will eat meat and plant matter.

Did you know that rabbits make nests? I sure didn't! The nest is a slanting hole dug in soft soil and lined with vegetation and fur. The nest is where the cute baby bunnies (or kits) sleep. The average period of gestation of the cottontail is 28 days. Cottontail young are born with a very fine coat of hair and are blind. Females do not stay in the nest with the young but return to the opening of the nest to nurse, usually twice a day. The reason the mommy doesn't stay at the nest is because she will attract predators towards her babies. While she is away, she munches on some food. I wonder what she likes to eat...?

Cottontail rabbits like to eat bark, twigs, leaves, fruit, buds, flowers, grass seeds, sedge fruits and rush seeds. From personal experience, I've seen bunnies eat clovers, but this may not be scientifically correct.

The babies will be ready to go out on their own at seven weeks, but are sometimes discovered by a chopping lawnmower or a curious dog.

If you happen to find a rabbit in need of rehab, please contact the DFW Wildlife Coalition 972-234-9453, Wild Rescue (in Denton) 972-891-9286, or local BPTMN Sarah Deerman 214-864-3495.



The Blackland Prairie Junior Naturalists would like to say thank you to those that contributed to their donation drive for the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the raptor presentation. Without your generosity it would not have been possible. Thank you!

Take a Journey North *by Lisa Runyon*

As a teacher, I love sharing engaging resources with my students. It seems a waste to keep these sources to myself when I am surrounded by fellow naturalists, teachers, parents, and grandparents who long to connect others to nature. So, for my inaugural column, I would like to present my favorite resource, Journey North, found at <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>



Be on the lookout for these species who are migrating; report your observations to Journey North: Monarch butterfly, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and American Robin .

Created by Annenberg Learner, Journey North is a FREE collection of projects and resources for citizen scientists of all ages. Participants report field observations to discover how sunlight drives changes in nature, such as seasonal migrations. A sampling of projects for Spring 2015 include reports of American robins, hummingbirds, bald eagles, whooping cranes, Monarch butterflies and even gray whales! Citizen scientists can even become involved in a project that tracks the effect of weather on songbird migration, led by ornithologist Dr. David Aborn. How do birds know the best time to migrate? Find out here!

Hands down, one of the most challenging, engaging projects from Journey North is the annual Mystery Class hunt. By tracking the changing amount of daylight and solving some cultural clues, participants attempt to pinpoint the hidden location of 10 Mystery Classes located throughout the world. No other project helps children and adults learn as much about the connection between sunlight and the seasons as Mystery Class. It is my favorite!

If you are wondering how you can take on a Journey North project, have no fear. Journey North provides plenty of support materials including slideshows, animations, maps, booklets, "how to" packets and suggestions from experts. Journey North Kids includes reading materials for all ages and abilities. There are even Live Cams which observe how animals respond to seasonal change. Perfect for small bits of time.

I've only scratched the surface of all the possibilities on this web site. It is huge! I hope you will take time to explore Journey North and report back about what you enjoy. Contact me at lisa@runandson.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

Websites of Interest...

Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalist calendar [Click to view](#)

Past issues of *Prairie Partner Update* [Click to view](#)

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

Texas Parks & Wildlife Updates - Get the scoop on the Texas outdoors [Click to view](#)

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

Best Hikes in Dallas - Feel like taking a hike? [Click to view](#)

Summer Outings and Opportunities *by Mandy Carrasco*

The glorious Texas heat will be back in full force before you know it, so get out there and enjoy everything North Texas has to offer nature-lovers. Many of these activities are led by our very own BPTMNs. Remember to call ahead to confirm event details, dress appropriately for the activity, and drink plenty of water!

May 2, 10a.m.-3p.m., the North Texas TMNs are hosting **Native Plants and Prairies Day** at the Bath House Cultural Center on White Rock Lake. Come out to this free family event and visit with creatures, enjoy a nature walk, and listen to guest speakers. Visit www.ntmn.org for details.



Hava Carrasco & Gwen Thomas stream testing.

May 30, 10a.m.-3p.m., the **Heard Museum** will be having its spring fundraiser. This year it's the Texas Heritage Festival (<http://www.heardmuseum.org/TXheritage>). There will be historical demonstrations, kids' activities, BBQ, and live music. See website for ticket information. There are two ways for BPTMNs to volunteer the day of the event- at the BPTMN booth (Cathy Westmoreland, <mailto:cathywestmoreland@gmail.com>) or as a Heard volunteer (contact Heard Volunteer Coordinator, Darlene Sumerfelt at dsumerfelt@heardmuseum.org). Visit the Heard website to find out about these other fun activities: Night Hike May 9, Third Saturday Nature Talks May 16 (Collin County Plants) and June 20 (Butterflies). The Native Butterfly Garden will be open June 2-September 30. For questions about the butterfly garden, contact Melanie Schuchart.

The **Collin County Farm Museum** has some interesting classes coming up. May 19 brings Micro Fish Farming, and kid-friendly classes include Seed Ball Bombs July 18, and Peanut Butter Bird Feeders July 25. Visit http://www.co.collin.tx.us/myers/pages/farm_museum.aspx for additional class options and registration information.

Plano Parks and Rec has many great nature

programs. May 11 brings a family night hike and stargazing event. May 9 and May 23 you can take a Map, Compass, and Navigation class. Those with kids will enjoy Fishing 101 May 13, Fireflies May 29, Monarchs and Milkweeds May 16, or Working Birds June 6. And you won't want to miss the camping trip to Dinosaur Valley State Park May 23- transportation, camping equipment, and food are all included. Visit <http://www.plano.gov/204/Parks-Recreation> for registration information. Additionally, the Plano Parks and Recreation Department is always seeking new class instructors. If you have a talent or skill you would like to teach others, contact any Plano Parks and Rec staff member.

Did you know the **City of Plano** offers Electronics Recycling most Saturday mornings? When left in landfills, electronics can leak toxic chemicals into local soil and water. Call 972-769-4150 to find out the right location for the day you want to go.

May 14 and July 15, the **City of McKinney** is offering Rain Barrel building classes. To register, visit <https://www.mckinneytexas.org/Calendar.aspx>

There's always a lot going on over at **Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Association**. Birders will enjoy 10a.m. second Saturday bird walks, as well as The Big Sit birding event May 16. There's also a Night Hike Saturday May 9. If you are interested in any of the above events, or would like to volunteer, speak with Lisa Cole 972-219-3930 or lisacole@unt.edu. Those interested in bird banding, should contact Dr. Ken Steigman at steigman@unt.edu. For LLELA Photo Safaris, contact Erin.Taylor@UNT.edu 9a.m.-2p.m. May 16, June 20, or July 18 you can enjoy the Kayak Power River Trip at LLELA, open to all levels. Contact Info@kayakpower.com or 214-669-1663 for info. Reservation required through Kayak Power.

May 16, 10a.m.-2p.m., the **Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas** is offering an amazing guided river trip! Learn the history of the Trinity River as you wind through the Great Trinity Forest, and glide by herons, river otters, and turtles. Or, take the family out for the Owl Prowl May 22, 6:30-8:30p.m. For fees and questions, contact Gilbert Martinez 214-309-5812. To help with habitat restoration, invasive grass removal, volunteer with administrative duties, or become an Eco-Educator, speak with Casey Cutler ccutler@audubon.org or 214-309-5832.

(Continued on pg. 9)

Working and Learning about our Blackland Prairie: Meet the Class of 2015

by Gwen A. Baumann



Karleen had called it. Among the members of the class are couples – some just starting out and some married almost 40 years – and singles, family and friends. There are brothers and sisters, fathers and their children. BPMN students range in age from 20-year-old Devin Hallman to 71-year-old Linda Langlois, and in formal education from high school diploma to doctoral degree. They have lived in more than 15 states and two foreign countries (New Zealand for Amethyst Roney and Norway for Gwen Baumann) and are incredibly active in work, volunteering and learning. But of course they all have one thing in common. They want to learn more about – and then support – our Texas Blackland Prairie, be it through working to preserve it or educating others about its grandness.

We stood in the mist outside the Heard building in which 30 something of us had moments before been mesmerized by Austin College physics professor David Baker. We were “sensing” the weather conditions around us.

“Don’t you really think it’s true for all of us?” Karleen Hoffman asked me. “Don’t you think we all really feel the same way? Otherwise, why would we be doing this?” she continued.

“Wind’s coming from the south to southeast. I’d say 20 to 25 mph,” the gentleman standing to our right observed.

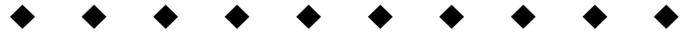
“I’m going with 100 percent humidity,” someone behind us announced as the precip alternated between a light sprinkle and a fine mist and the wind whipped around the parking lot.

“Well, still,” I told Karleen. “I really like what you wrote. It was touching.”

Karleen was the first of 15 members of the 40-member 2015 Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist (BPMN) class who responded to my emails soliciting information about the new members, their personal histories and their interest in the chapter.

“This unique Blackland Prairie,” Karleen had written, “that is my home, needs to be loved and cared for. It makes me happy to see the size of our class and to know there are many people who are taking the time in their busy lives to care for the few treasures remaining in our area.”

As Allison Adams (who is taking the class with her father, Ned) put it, “I love our Blackland Prairie for its diversity, vastness (as it used to be), and fierceness. I love the way it opens to the sky, I love the animals that are native here, I love gilgai, and I love grasses and the way they move and sound in the wind. The prairies speak to me of freedom.”



Meet Daisy Davis, Class of 2015

by Gwen A. Baumann

Daisy Davis’ hero is her grandmother. You don’t even have to ask her to figure this out.



“My grandmother was a farmer and taught me the importance of making your own food, so three years ago I started working as a volunteer for the community garden in honor of her,” Daisy said.

Working in Frisco’s community garden is “my favorite thing to do,” Daisy said. “All the food we grow goes to the Frisco Family

Services food pantry.

(Continued on Page 9)

People who need help can go to Frisco Family Services and shop at our food pantry for free until they get on their feet. The program teaches people money management skills, how to get a job, and helps them out with bills until they are ready to be independent again. We are a nonprofit and exist off of donations.”

Due to her volunteer work, Daisy is interested in native vegetables and fruits, as well as others that grow well in our soil. “I planted on March 28, and I have tomatoes, jalapenos, chili peppers, bell peppers, eggplants, watermelons, squash and broccoli.” Daisy said. “My job as a gardener is to plant and maintain my garden by watering it and picking weeds. We are all organic and use no pesticides. There are other volunteers that harvest the food and bring it to the food pantry.”

So why the desire to become a Texas Master Naturalist? “I grew up in a very rural area [in East Texas] where we didn’t really get any TV channels, and this was way before the internet, so I spent my entire childhood playing in the forest and loving nature. My days were filled with exploring nature.

I’ve basically been obsessed with it ever since, and I find that my gardening and photography hobbies coincide really well with becoming a master naturalist,” she said.

While Daisy works in the mortgage industry, she moonlights as a photographer, shooting weddings, engagements and graduations and dreams of opening her own meditation and yoga studio. She also volunteers for March of Dimes, MADD and the Boot Campaign. She loves owls and plans to volunteer at the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center.

For fun she likes to give her friends spirit animals based on their personalities or physical appearances and can sometimes be found randomly sticking googly eyes on things “so people will find [them] and laugh,” she said. Occasionally, though, she will settle in behind the wheel of her brand new 2015 Mustang, lower the windows, and speed off down the highway thinking about that hero of hers. “I’ve been driving only Mustangs since 1999 because my grandmother left me hers when she passed away,” Daisy said, “and having the car makes me think of her.”

Summer Outings and Opportunities (contd.)

Connemara Conservancy will offer bird walks 8-11a.m.- Sat. May 2, Sun. June 7, and Sat. July 4. Meet in the meadow preserve parking lot. Bring binoculars and field guides, wear long pants and comfortable shoes. Volunteers are needed for restoration, education, outreach, and stewardship. Visit <http://connemaraconservancy.org/wordpress/volunteer-opportunities/> for more information.

Visit **The Dallas Arboretum’s** website to learn more about these great opportunities: May 9 Custom Natural Perfume Workshop, May 9 Texas Natives gardening class, May 10 Mother’s Day Brunch, May 16 Drought Tolerant Plants class, May 30 Rainwater Harvesting, June 13 Mini Field Trial Day. Summer at the Arboretum features “Fairy Tales with a Texas Twist,” and runs May 16- August 30. The Arboretum also offers photography programs. Those wishing to volunteer should reach out to 214-515-6561 or volunteers@dallasarboretum.org.

You won’t want to miss Photo Day at the **Blackland Prairie Raptor Center**, coming up on May 23. Additionally, the BPRC is open to the public on the first Saturday of each month, for a day of fun and education. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is located on Lake Lavon. 469-964-9696

Volunteer Projects



Helping install a prairie garden at Children's Medical Center, Plano, are: Mary Gazioglu, Patti Tuck, Rita Murph, Mittie McDonald, Al Baume, Gail Alldredge and Beverly Carpenter.



Readying the Hollifield Learning Center Butterfly House are: Al Baume, Mittie McDonald, Linda McBee, Francis Wolf and Beverly Carpenter.



Tony Mannesseri and Melanie Schuchart staffed a booth at the Allen Earthfest.

Send volunteering questions to Melanie Schuchart at VHAT@bptmn.org. If you need to request a project, you can fill out the form [here](#).

These are just a few groups where you can earn volunteer hours. More approved activities for volunteering and advanced training can be found at <http://bptmn.org/info/project-opportunities/>.

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center

Brockdale Park, Lucas, 469-964-9696
(www.bpraptorcenter.org)

Contact **Erich Neupert**

erich.neupert@bpraptorcenter.org, or **Dick Zartler**, zartler@verizon.net

Collin County Adventure Camp

1180 W. Houston, Anna, 972-832-4791
(www.collincountyadventurecamp.org)

Contact **Ron Bamberg**, rbamberg@gmail.com,

Connemara Meadow

300 Tatum (near Alma & Bethany), Allen, 214-534-1900, (Connemaraconservancy.org)

Contact **Bob Mione**, meadowmanager@connemaraconservancy.org

Heard Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary

1 Nature Place, McKinney, 832-332-9099,
(www.Heardmuseum.org)

Contact **Wes Morrow**, Wesmorrow39@yahoo.com,
and **Dave Powell**, powell1217@yahoo.com.

Junior Master Naturalists

Contact: **Gwen Thomas**

gmthomas29@fastmail.gm

Meets every Wednesday during the school year, from 3:30-5 p.m. at Wilson Middle School, 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 **Heather Harrington**, heather-ha@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.

Advanced Training and Meetings

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.

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.

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.

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

Heard Museum Science Resource Center
Each meeting counts as one hour of
advanced training

May 12 - Dick Zartler, "North TX Geology"

June 9 - Chris Jackson, "Urban Wildlife"

July 14 - LeRoy Thompson, "Where's Your License? Tales from a Game Warden"

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, 5901 Los Rios Blvd, Plano, on the following dates:

May 5, Wild About Plants, 10-11:30a.m.

May 16, Monarchs & Milkweeds, 10-11:30a.m.

June 6, Working Birds, 10-11:30a.m.

To register, contact Leanna Jennings at
972-941-5403 or leannaj@plano.gov.