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## Editor's Note

by Greg Tonian - Class of 2017

### In this Edition:

**Spring 2019** will be remembered for the bounteous floral display in North Texas and the deluges that made it possible. Many a Saturday activity was impacted by the rains, but for those that were willing to get outside and explore the pockets of prairie in our area, they were rewarded. We have included an article about the flora seen during our **Bio Blitz at Erwin Park** by one of our experts, **Carol Clark**.

**Spring nesting activity was also observed by many of our members and Clyde Camp** has provided a detailed report of Screech Owls that took residence in his owl box. As always, there are many noteworthy accomplishments to recognize from outreach to volunteer milestones to the amazing accomplishments of a new graduating class of Texas Master Naturalists. Congratulations Class of 2019!

In this issue, you will also find contributions from our **Collin County Ag/Natural Resources Extension agent, Chase Brooke** and , **Alex Dubovsky, an advocate for a Trinity River Paddling**

Trail that I think will excite you.

I have been doing a lot of reading of late, one of the benefits of having to spend an hour and a half every day on the Green Line commuting to work. **Two books that captivated me and gave me a glimpse into the lives of pioneering zoologists researching animals in Africa are reflected upon in this issue.**

Finally, a key inspirational theme that has resonated with me since Sam K spoke at our May Chapter meeting in some ways permeates the writings in this issue. Sam, using a simple diagram of two circles overlapping a small part of themselves, encouraged all of us to **remember that there are things that we can control and there are things that we care about. That small intersection of these two powerful human forces is where we must focus!** I know it is easier said than done, but when you feel overwhelmed and helpless, it may get you back on track!

Looking ahead to the Fall Newsletter, I expect some great reports about what you experienced, read and did on your "summer vacation" as a Texas Master Naturalist, driven and focused by your passion!

## Erwin BioBlitz Exciting Event

By Carol Clark— Class of 2010

Someone ordered near-perfect weather for the 2019 Erwin Park Blackland Prairie Chapter Bioblitz! On the appointed day, 35 Master naturalists showed up ready for a quick iNaturalist lesson and our instructions for the day. A Bewick's Wren near the pavilion provided entertainment for the early arrivals.

First stop after the brief training was a biodiversity lesson near the hilltop picnic pavilion. Each small group dropped a hula hoop onto the grassy site that Dave Powell and others from our chapter have been working so hard to restore to a functioning prairie. My group had about sixteen

different plant species within our hula hoop space. It's always eye-opening to change your focus a bit a look hard at a smaller scale. There is usually more going on in a place than you'd expect. In general, there was more going on at Erwin Park than I expected. That was pretty much the theme for the day.

We split up into several teams—one to head out along a woodland loop first, one to survey the grassy area that Master Naturalists have been working to restore, another to visit some other open areas of the park. One team was dedicated to sampling the lifeforms in a watery area of the park. Birds, invertebrates like spiders and insects, plants, fungi, and lower lifeforms were fair game for all teams. Before we

even got going on the team outings, someone had spotted a beautiful and large Tarantula on "Dave's Prairie". It was a great way to start the hunt.

I was dismayed by the quantity of invasive species that call the park home—including

**See BioBlitz, Page 3**



## Around The Chapter



Clockwise from top left:

★ Jessica Waldrop received her certification at the June meeting. Also receiving certification were Michelle Connally, and Kristin Tadyshack.



★ Rick Travis surveys trees in Frisco's Stewart Creek conservation area.

★ Melanie Schuchart sprouts her wings as the butterfly garden opens at The Heard.



★ Carol Clark gives us a deep dive into bees.

★ Greg Hayden is lost in the beauty of Clymer.

★ Milestones were reached by Linda Nixon, Deborah Doyle, Al Baume and Terry Comingore.



### ***From a Squirrel's Perspective***

***By : Christina Hill—Class of 2019***

If I ever become forgetful or just forget where I buried something for later, just think!

The worst thing that could happen is a beautiful, wonderful tree will grow from it. It will feed future generations of my ancestors and prodigies, maybe even me if I stay quick and spry into old age.

And those trees, well, we all know about the wonder and beauty of those majestic, old Oak and Pecan trees with their usefulness to the greater world at large, as well as little bitty squirrels like me that would just as soon sit on top of the Buddha statue that glimpses the mermaid on the birdbath from the corner of his eye.

There are no boundaries, only trees.



## BioBlitz at Erwin

doing its job at Erwin Park

with the very aggressive *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, several imported *Medicago* species, and several imported members of the Parsley family--but there were also some amazing prairie plants hidden among the grasses.

Green Milkweed was abundant, and there were some Monarch Butterfly caterpillars making use of the plants. The woodland loop had some a good selection of local trees and some interesting larger plants like a good sized Toothache Tree (*Xanthoxylum clava-hercules*-- a host plant for the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly), Rattan Vine (*Berchemia scandens*), and some giant Chinkapin Oaks (*Quercus muhlenbergii*). We noted Yellow Passionvine (*Passiflora lutea*), Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum rufidulum*), Drummond's Aster (*Symphyothrichum drummondii*) American Germander, Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), White Avens (*Geum canadense*), Canada Sanicle (*Sanicula canadensis*) and other shade tolerant blooming plants along the woods trail.

In grassy openings beside the trail, Annual Fleabane (*Erigeron* sp.) and Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium* spp) dotted the grasses. In one area, we found the leaves of several *Spiranthes* Orchids. Unfortunately, they must be in bloom to tell the species apart. Other excellent prairie plants included Trailing Rattany (*Krameria lanceolata*), Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*) blooming in the cemetery area), Prairie Foxglove (*Penstemon cobaea*), Drummond's Onion (*Allium drummondii*), and Indian Plantain (*Arnoglossum plantaginoides*).

Fleabane

Amazingly, tucked behind the picnic pavilion at the far end of the driving loop is a small area with prairie plants that appear not to have been disturbed for many years, unlike most of the park. The diversity and quality of the plants skyrockets in that section of the park, and I regretted being under time constraints once we had found it. Prairie Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Antelope Horns Milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*), Wand Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*), Prairie Foxglove (*Penstemon cobaea*), Old Plainsman (*Hymenopappus* sp.), Sensitive Briar (*Mimosa* sp.), Milkvetch (*Astragalus lotiflorus*), Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), Englemann's Daisy (*Engelmannia peristenia*), Narrow-leaved Coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*), Ground Plum (*Astagalus crassicaarpus*), Prairie Groundsel (*Packera plattensis*), Sundrops (*Calylophus* sp), Standing Winecups (*Callirhoe pedata*), and Prairie Phlox (*Phlox* sp.) mingled in a riot of color behind the picnic pavilion. It was good to see a ready seed source on site in the park that could provide local genetic material for the restoration of the grassy hill to continue--with perfect plants for the site.

In another area, a chalky washout, my group looked skeptical about finding anything new or different there in the obvious hostile soil conditions. It wasn't long before we found the tiny Nodding Violet plants though, with their attendant Variegated Fritillary caterpillars.

Notably in short supply for the day, were insects of all kinds. We did see a few, but insects have been fairly scarce at many sites this season, and Erwin Park was no exception that day.

There are always some surprising things that seem to be missing at a good prairie site, and this site was no exception. I

didn't find Queen's Delight or New Jersey Tea, or Rattlesnake Master, but what I found was good enough to excite my curiosity enough to want to go back and look for other things in different seasons. Who knows what's lurking in some little nook or cranny inside the park boundaries? Let's go find out.



**From top: Ground Plum, Wild Hyacinth, Phlox.**

## **Plano Students Soar at Blackland Prairie Raptor Center**

by Dick Zartler—Class of 2007



Fifth Grade Students from Barron Elementary School in Plano pose for a picture at the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center on May 22, 2019. The Students spent a day at the Raptor Center learning about native raptors, making and planting seed balls and planting native grasses. The native grass plantings were part of the Raptor Center's on-going Prairie restoration program.



The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is one of the Blackland Prairie Master Naturalist's partners and has many of our members serving as volunteers helping with raptor education programs, raptor rehabilitation, prairie restoration and facility upgrading and maintenance.



## **Screech Owls In Suburbia**

By Clyde Camp—Class of 2011



In the late summer of 2018, I looked out the kitchen window and saw a young owl sitting on one of the fence rails outside our kitchen window in Allen. It was peering at me through the wooden lattice. Over the next few weeks it would reappear in the early afternoon and perch somewhere on the fence rail or the fountain where it could observe us in the kitchen. And then one day [we noticed that there were actually two](#). The second one was up much higher on the fence and had probably been there all

along. It was noticeably larger and surer of itself and we now believe that it was probably the female parent teaching junior how to hunt. They hung around a few months and then disappeared in late October.

We don't know exactly when it arrived, but in mid-November, 2018 we noticed that our new kitchen window nest box had an [occupant](#). From then through mid-March, 2019 Mr. or Mrs. Owl would sit in the opening starting about 5pm and doze while watching us in the kitchen, his head following us back and forth as we walked around and then go out hunting right after dusk. In mid-March, 2019 we realized we hadn't seen him for a few days. We never saw him come back again.



On March 21, for no particular reason, I decided to do another inspection and clean out both the kitchen and front nest boxes. I was totally flabbergasted to discover five eggs on the wooden floor of the front nest box. I looked around and spotted the mother (probably) sitting on the next tree over watching me. I had scratched on the side of the box to alert anyone inside, but wasn't really looking for anything to happen because I thought it was empty. So I didn't see or hear

**See Screech, Page 6**

## ***Stream Team Partners***

**by Joyce Wilson— Class of 2016**

Kathy Opheim and I have been doing water testing for the BPTMN Stream Team group as partners for three years now. I first heard about water testing when I visited John Bunker Sands with my husband about 5 years ago. We went on a walk, which was led by a Master Naturalist from the North Texas Chapter. Kathy and I were in the Class of 2016, and Lu Anne Ray was the Director, and she asked who would be interested in water testing. Kathy had always been interested in Water Conservation so we both signed up.

We met at one of our classes. I had been sitting at the same table for several weeks, and one week, someone else had switched tables. This kicked me out of my comfort zone, and I decided it might be good to move around too. So, I sat at a few different tables, which worked out great for me, because now I got to meet a bunch of others in our class. When Kathy and I started talking about the stream team, we thought it might be a good idea to try testing together. We both live in McKinney and our sites weren't that far apart.

We have continued testing together, or if one of us can't be there one month, we can cover for each other. We also picked up a couple of sites in Plano. Plano has a high school pro-

gram, where the students test every other month during the school year. Kathy and I test on the odd months during the school year, and all summer months when school is out.

Since our group was starting up in 2016, Lu Anne (Ray) arranged to have a trainer come to the Heard for us, and help us with site assignments. Besides our training class on Riparian areas, she organized a separate class for the Texas Water Specialist designation. This reinforced our understanding of Texas waterways. Additionally, they hold online webinars each month about various topics, including state legislation to help protect our water.

We are also fortunate to have Tom Heath in BPTMN, who meets with our group, to do quality reviews, and help with changes in the data viewer online system. There are training opportunities available, but you have to make contacts individually. There is a Basic Monitor class taught each quarter at the Trinity River Audubon Center (TRAC). There is no charge for the training, and it is open to the public. To sign up for a TST Basic monitor class, you can email Chris Morris at email listed at bottom right.

I really look forward to our testing together. We are part of a team that makes a difference by monitoring the quality of water in our state and looking for disruptions in the patterns of our measurements. Plus, it's nice to

hang out with friends who care about conservation and our local environment.



***Joyce Wilson doing  
Dissolved Oxygen test***



***Kathy Opheim testing  
Conductivity.***

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## Screech Owls

her fly out but she must have. I took pictures and closed things back up.

The next day, I signed up for *Nest-Watch.org*, read the Cornell documentation, took the test and got an official Nest-watch Certificate. Per Cornell's recommendation, I waited for a couple of days before taking another look.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the eggs were still there, laying directly on the wood of the nest box floor but rearranged from what they were the first time I saw them. Screech owls don't build nests, so when I put up the box, I had put a couple of handfuls of cypress mulch in the bottom of the boxes to sort of mimic the clutter found in a natural cavity.

The next time I checked, mom burst out of the nest box and flew over to one of the front trees, where she stood up tall (very camouflaged) and watched me. As time went on, she'd leave the nest as soon as she heard the ladder itself clack as I moved it to the tree.

I continued recording what was in the nest every 2-3 days and on the 31<sup>st</sup> noted that



there was a neat stack of two still-feathered bird headless Cedar Waxwing torsos.

She was building a larder so she didn't have to leave the nest for the first week or so after the chicks hatched. After that dad would hunt and bring food for her to tear up and distribute.

I first saw chicks (3 of them) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and based on their dry fuzziness, they were probably 24-36 hours old the first time I saw them. The next day there was a 4<sup>th</sup> chick, looking like a drowned baby rat. The 5<sup>th</sup> egg never hatched and mom or dad removed it from the nest a few days later. By this time the larder was up to at least 9 headless Waxwing torsos.

I didn't check the nest again until three days later. The chicks were growing fast and the larder was down to 1.5 torsos.

A few days after that, at the next check and two weeks after hatching, the pre-hatch larder was completely gone, and the chicks were bigger yet. Their snow white down was starting to get dark and emerg-



ing pin feathers that would grow into their eventual plumage could be seen.

At three weeks after hatching, the pantry had been restocked with Cedar Waxwings and (new delicacy) a couple of furry mousy thingies. And the four chicks look like real birds – evidently the Cedar Waxwing diet works fine.

Three days after this picture, at the next check, there was a lot of beak clacking, flapping and jumping around. Two of them escaped out the door while I was trying not to fall off the ladder. They fluttered to the ground (couldn't fly yet) but calmly let me pick them up and put them back in the box. Even after they fledge, they can't really fly or take care of themselves. Instead, the parents help



them in 'branching' – enticing them out of the nest with food onto nearby branches where they are fed and over the next 8-10 weeks gradually wean them and teach them the basic hunting skills they will need.

Four days later was the last picture I took inside (to the left, of somebody's back) but there was often a head that watched us from the entry hole as we walked out

to get mail or take stuff out to the car.

Two days after last picture was taken, the nest was empty and cleaned out – no feathers, owl pellets, bones, fur. Nothing but the urine and feces soaked cypress mulch. For the next time, I'm putting in an infra-red nest-cam to have a real-time record of what's going on. This brood was a couple of weeks early from the 'average' for the area, so there may be a 2<sup>nd</sup> brood fledge in late July.

As others have found monitoring bluebird nests, owl nests and other whatever nests, a once every two or three days quick check (I tried to keep mine under 60 seconds) doesn't appear to stress either the parents or the chicks.

Screech owls readily adopt to living next to humanity and once a nest box is discovered, it will most likely be utilized as long as it's up by December or January. The general annual cycle (with a lot of variation) is:

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January to mid-February - Males return to previous year's breeding site from wherever they over-wintered

Early-March to Early May – Females join males, mate and lay 3-6 eggs in the chosen nest

26-30 days later – Eggs hatch

28-30 days later – Young are feathered and ready to leave the nest

7-10 weeks later – Young are fully ready to strike out on their own after hunting and flying lessons

October-December – Young disperse and adults take up Winter lodging somewhere

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A much more complete version of this article with many more linked pictures, movies, nest box plans, nest-watch data, FAQ, etc. can be found at <https://crcamp.com/owls>.

***A Reflection on  
"Cry of the Kalahari"***

***by Mark and Delia Owens***

**By Greg Tonian—Class of 2017**

Mark and Delia, were soulmates, newly-weds, zoologists,  
drawn to Africa like moths to moonlight.

They headed East toward a Star that would illuminate and penetrate the depth of their souls.

Arriving in Africa with rudimentary gear and minimal resources, they loaded up a third hand Land Rover for a trip into a vast Kalahari wilderness that would be bigger than life and last for 6 years.

They would live along side the animals in an isolated place they called Deception Valley,

an ancient riverbed that had long ago ceased to flow,

yet brimming with wildlife, with stories to be told.

On this dusty pan, surrounded by ridges of dunes, splotched with patches of thorny shrubs and forlorn tree sentinels, they made their camp on the crossroads of a ceaseless bestial passion play.

Water was scarce here and when the brief rainy season passed, survival was an epic challenge.

The scientists survived on the most basic staples and shelter and immersed themselves in a pulsing ebb and flow of life.

They shared their camp, equipment and food with the living creatures around them,

Insect and rodents,

Jackals, leopards, hyenas and even lions entered their living space.

Soaking rains, violent winds, dust and sweltering heat were constant companions as well.

A variety of birds befriended them and took up residence in their enclave.

Water and gasoline were their life blood, without either, they would likely perish and perhaps not be seen alive again.

Meanwhile animals sought water from scant vegetation, roots and melons when water had evaporated and predators would only drink water locked up in the flesh of their prey.

It was just after Christmas when she first appeared, a hyena with a white mark on her head slowly approached them in the dim evening light.

She was a Brown Hyena with long skinny front legs and coarse fur with sloping back and teeth that could crunch the femur of a Gemsbok like a dry twig.

Yet she was on a trajectory that would bring her face to face with Mark and Delia who stood still as lamp posts, entranced by her presence.

Creeping closer, head high and at throat level, she brushed up to them and sniffed their hair before turning and retracing her steps back into the bush.

Just before vanishing, she danced on her hind legs like a faun and shook her head as if delighted by her new discovery.

They had met their first hyena, they called her,

STAR.

"For 6 years, we watched the epic story of your life unfold.

We learned about the love, hate relationship between you and your kind and lions, who too had become our friends.

You fed on their leftover kills, your teeth giving you dominion over the bony remains of their prey and this also made you second in the animal hierarchy of Deception Valley.

Leopards could not afford to risk your crippling jaws and dragged their kills into trees (sometimes the ones in our camp!) before you could steal them.

The jackals nipped at your rump like remoras, seeking your leftovers and a break from their diet of mice and insects.

You amazed and captivated us with your heroic journeys to find sustenance through months of drought when the



only moisture to be found was blood, flesh and bone.

You would wander kilometers nightly to feed yourself and pups in your communal den, whether yours or not.

In 13 years of roaming the Kalahari plain you defied death and lived an epic life.

One day, you sought rest from your toils and found a ridge to lay down.

Perhaps you knew it was your time to depart?

You did not wake in time nor did you detect the scent of the approaching male lions.

Even in death, you gave life.

Little would you know that one of your killers would end up wandering off the reserve and die from a bullet fired by a man, a predator you had somehow avoided.

Now, when we look out into the night sky, we think of you and the vastness of the Kalahari and the time we shared there together so long ago.

Long may you shine!"

# National Recreation Trail (Trinity River Paddling Trail)

By Alex Dubovsky - Current Class

The Trinity Nature Conservancy (TNC) led by Steve Smith is dedicated to improve the Trinity River in the DFW area for the enjoyment of the families in this area. The goal is to obtain designation for the Trinity River from the National Park Service as a National Recreation Area/Trail

The Idea for the Trinity River Paddling Trail (TRPT) was originally conceived by Dale Harris a member of the Dallas Down River Club (DDRC) over 5 years ago. The TRPT finally received momentum when Steve Smith from TNC became an active member of the project in 2018. In addition, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) recognized the importance of the TRPT and stepped in to provide support.

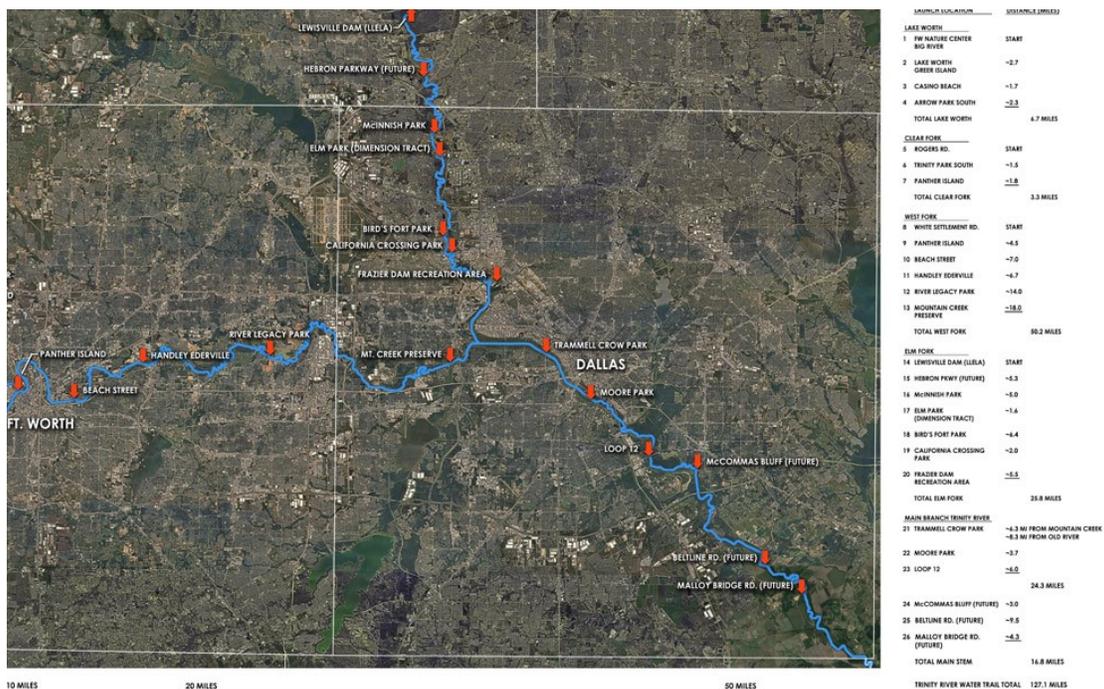
To make this happen we needed support from all cities and associated river management organization involved with the Trinity. The outcomes from our effort was overwhelming support for a paddling trail. To date we have received 27 letters of support from the cities along the Trinity River and its branches. Included in these are TPWD, Trinity River Authority (TRA), one of the Dallas County Commissioners and several of the employees of the Dallas County Commissioners office

At present there are 21 Kayak/Canoe launches on the Trinity, with plans for 6-7 future ramps. We are working to have a 6-8 miles distance between launches, so anyone could have a short fun day of paddling. There will be a total of 127 miles of paddling trails. This will include the West Fork, Clear Fork, Elm Fork and Main Trinity thru Dallas and Dallas County.

On Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 we submitted a formal request to the National Park Service for the 127 miles of the Trinity River in the DFW area to become a National Recreation Area. That request has been reviewed by the NPS. They have requested some additional long-term commitments from the individual cities along the river and to make sure each launch site is properly marked with an information Kiosk.

In addition. The TRPT has been selected as a Conservation Wrangler which part of Texan By Nature (TxN) organization

There are over 10,000 Kayak/Canoe members of clubs in the DFW area. Most of these are kayak fisherman. A big part of this becoming a NRA will include clean-up events as well as influence a higher regard for the Trinity. The more people use it the more influence we will have on the municipalities along the river to improve the Trinity for recreation.



## Reflection on the Year of the Gorilla by George Schaller

I could hear them, but I could not see them.

Wet leaves brushed against my face and soaked my clothing,

Nettles stung exposed flesh.

I could smell spoor,

gorilla sweat,

rotting wood mingled with nectar and my own fear and excitement.

Yet, they were still hidden in the fog plumes rolling down the verdant slopes of the Virunga mountains.

It was well past dawn, yet the sun's incandescent rays could not penetrate the gloom.

I heard sounds of gorillas stirring from their slumbers, twigs rustled and snapped like a dying campfire as the apes climbed down from their nests.

My eyes acclimated to the monochromatic jungle hues.

Dark wooly heads and bodies became visible in the clearing below.

Leathery hands plucked leaves and stems and stuffed them into mouths full of yellow teeth and black gums.

27 species of plants were on the menu.

A female fed herself while her baby suckled at her drooping breast.

A blackback male ate with purpose as his body showed signs of impending adulthood and leadership responsibility, he was perhaps 7 or 8 years of age.

Young ones scampered and played, keeping a cautious eye out for mom.



The lone silverback male, a mountain of muscle and thick fur with Popeye arms and legs and buddha belly, peered stoically over his domain.

He nibbled a tender shoot from time to time with disinterest.

He eyed the perimeter of the feeding area, alert and perhaps sensing an intruder,

an elephant, a buffalo or even the deadly leopard.

By now, he was used to my voyeuristic pursuits, for I had been shadowing his clan and others for these many weeks.

I had observed his many moods, but never did he threaten me, though he could easily snap me like a bamboo stalk, one of his favorite foods.

Once, when another clan encroached into his feeding zone, he raised his fist and let out a shriek that cut to the bone.

Then he hooted repeatedly and to a crescendo before he began galloping toward the fellow silverback, slamming his fist loudly on the ground before bringing his face to an inch of his rival.

Neither ape flinched during this dramatic face off, which lasted for what seemed like an eternity.

It ended without any further confrontation. Each silverback returning their attentions to their companions.

Eventually they rose up and signaled to their charges with grunts and body language that it was time to move on, taking separate ways.

Forage, move onward, nap, forage, move onward, sleep. The beat of the gorillas goes on in these misty primeval mountains. - Greg Tonian

### Father's Day Morn

Canine Kids in tow, on a gloomy, damp stroll,

I plodded through puddled neighborhood.

Nearing the Lake,

Looking up,

there on a roof,

a tall, skinny, stork like silhouette.

An adult yellow-crowned night heron,

a living weathervane, pointing south.

Dressed in a refined grey coat,

Crowned with black chapeau, with a slender white plume.

Only its legs were yellow!

Ahead, alongside a swollen drainage creek, another heron.

This "heiron" apparent, cloaked in humble browns and tans, white streaked breast, ruby eyed,

not yet a prince or princess,

at least in appearance.

It was alone, peering into the creek half-heartedly, perhaps unsure of its place and life quest just yet?

I nonchalantly proceeded across the soggy park lawn, pleased with my sightings on this

quiet Father's Day morning.

I stepped onto the Shoreline Trail, now almost level with the rain swollen Lake.

Circling around I continued my walk on the wet, sand-gravel path, disheveled and weeping from the night's deluge and begging for the sun.

Then, once again, my silent heron companions came into view.

This time, faced off in the backyard of a lakeside home.

Pangs of parenthood were felt.

Was this Dad or Mom?

With Son or daughter?

They stepped hesitantly toward one another, like in a movie.

Was this a training session,

a final parting??

Ah, there is too little time to teach,

We are helpless to protect.

Our hatchlings fly away too soon!

-Greg Tonian

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[http://bptmn.org/\\_BOARD\\_FTP/newsletter/](http://bptmn.org/_BOARD_FTP/newsletter/)

Other BPTMN communications are at:

Chapter Photos: click on double dots in Social  
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The Mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program 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.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a partnership between the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife and other local partners.



**Postal Mailing Address**  
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### Upcoming BPTMN Meetings

July 9: "Prairies and Milkweeds" – Matt White

August 13: "Deep Dive Class – How to Identify Commonly Confusing Trees" – Lisa Travis

August 13: "Texas Nature Trackers: Discovering Populations & Documenting Change for Conservation" – Dr. Tania Homayoun

September 10: "The Importance of Fungi in Ecosystems and Some Common Mushrooms in North Central Texas" – Denis Benjamin

### Websites of Interest...

#### All About Birds:

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/features/birdanatomy/>

**Blackland Prairie Texas Master Naturalist Calendar** <http://bptmn.org/calendar/>

#### Cornell Lab of Ornithology –

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

#### Earthkind Landscaping

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>

#### Green Source DFW

<http://www.greensourcedfw.org/>

#### Ladybird Johnson Wildlife Center

<https://www.wildflower.org/>

#### Texas Aggi Horticulture

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

#### Texas Parks & Wildlife Updates

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

**Texas Smartscape** <http://www.txsmartscape.com/>

**Texas Superstar Plants** <http://www.texasuperstar.com/plants/>