

# The EFCTMN Newsletter

November, 2007

Vol 8, No.11

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(interns) or any board member for assistance with this important task.

## November Meeting at the Extension office. Social time 9:00 Am, Meeting 9:30 PM, 11/15/07:

**Speaker:** Theresa Page, Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

**Title:** *Harvesting Rainwater*

**Speaker:** Kay Crowe, Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

**Title:** *Benthic Monitoring*

Kay Crowe and Theresa Page are presenting information from the City of Denton Benthic Monitoring project. Benthic Monitoring consists of collecting, identifying and statistical reporting of macroinvertebrates. Samples are collected from the Hickory Creek, Pecan Creek and Cooper Creek watersheds. They are also reporting on the rainwater harvesting conference they attended on September 19, 2007. Hope to see you there.

## December Meeting is the Christmas Party and it will be held at the Extension office (12/6/07) 9:30 AM.

**EFCMN December Board meeting:** The board meeting for December is Thursday, December 13. The board meetings are open and are held in the EFCMN meeting room at the Government Center.

**Hospitality Committee:** Donations of food items are always welcome for our *regular* monthly EFCMN meetings. Contact Theresa Page at: [theresapage3@mac.com](mailto:theresapage3@mac.com) if you would like to join our group of food contributors and help set up before meetings.

**Report Your 2007 Volunteer Hours:** Our chapter is funded by the State based on the number of service hours and advanced training hours reported by our members, and it's important to report those accurately and in a timely manner. You may contact your mentor

## Master Naturalists and Interns

# EFCMN

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

### DECEMBER 6, 2007

9:30 AM till . . .

*The usual place!*

SANTA and her famous master naturalist reindeer will be present to entertain you and deliver those long awaited surprises!

Fun to know tidbits for attendees—

**Chinese gift exchange**—bring NATURE-related gag gifts, cherished gifts, gifts to drool over, or whatever grabs your fancy to exchange. Gifts should be gender neutral. We set a limit of \$10, but master naturalists tend to be independent types.

**Food and drink**--(non-alcoholic type) donations are needed so we can party in style! For details on what to bring, contact: Jan Thompson at [FRICKTHOMPSON@aol.com](mailto:FRICKTHOMPSON@aol.com)

**Help needed**--set up, clean up, and decorating for the party.

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**EFCMN Nature Photo Gallery:** Exhibit will be moved to the Cupboard Natural Market in Denton for December. Please contact Cheryl Kesterson at [greengardengal@yahoo.com](mailto:greengardengal@yahoo.com) for more info.

**State Newsletter:** If interested in subscribing to the State's Master Naturalist email newsletter, please sign up at:  
<http://taex001.tamu.edu/mailman/listinfo/tmn>

## Service Hour Opportunities (SH)

**Ray Roberts Lake Interpretative Center Grand Opening:** Thank you so much for all your time and effort for the Ray Roberts Interpretive Center grand opening on Oct. 20. Your coordination of volunteers and 'nature stations' really made it an event worthy of attending. The Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists did a superb job! Please pass on our sincere "Thanks" to all the volunteers, including Cheryl Kesterson, Neva and Robert Gates, Theresa Page, Linda Cox, Todd Spigener, Sherrill Campbell, Susan Kilpatrick, Susan Pohlen, Barbara Cramer, Ken Hodson, Ellen and Chuck Fuller, Joe Simmons, Robert Ramsey, Paul Sleeper, Maxine Lindauer, Alex Lieban, and Dave Rowley for all their support and hard work. Let us not forget George Kragle, Don Morrison, and Bill Hughen as well for their skills and expertise. Words just can't express our appreciation for all you and the EFCMN do for Ray Roberts Lake State Park and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

*Y'all are GREAT!*  
Don Whited, Park Naturalist  
Ray Roberts Lake State Park  
940-686-2080

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I would like to add my Thank You to Don's; there is no way that we could have done this without all the members help. Even members that couldn't be there on Oct 20th, helped by donating materials to the resource room, or serving on the resource committee. The materials we used for the information tables have been gathered over the last year. We had direct contact with about 300 people. This was a SUPER FANTASTIC chapter event!

*Thank you all so much!*  
Jan Hodson, EFCMN Resource Committee Chair

**What's Happening at LLELA?**  
*By Diane Wetherbee, Master Naturalist Project Manager*

Master Naturalists have been busy this fall at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). One of our newest Master Naturalist interns is involved with bird banding at LLELA, and this is an ongoing opportunity for service hours.

Seed collecting is an ongoing job, even in the winter, when we collect grass seeds. Don't worry about whether or not you can identify the plants and the seeds to be collected. You'll receive training, and then you'll be set loose to collect whenever your schedule allows.

Master Naturalists have been involved in prairie restoration efforts, as well, rescuing prairie grasses from sites that are about to be bulldozed and planting them in the prairie areas at LLELA. If you are interested in helping preserve and restore the prairie, we'll add your name to the list to call when an opportunity arises.

There is also an ongoing need for trail hike guides. We had several MN volunteers leading seventh graders on trail hikes in November. For many of these students, it's their only experience being outside. Some of them were lucky enough to see a couple of snakes, a snakeskin, animal tracks, and the ever-present vultures riding the thermals overhead.

This fall, we have also had MNs talking to fourth graders about our cultural and natural history at the log house. Why should MNs be involved with the log house and the cultural history of Denton County? The log house provides an added draw to LLELA, which gives us an opportunity to bring these kids outside into the natural world. We take them on a trail walk to get to the house, which gives us time to introduce them to the world outside of Nintendo and TV. We can talk about the changes in the land brought about by settlement, how the land used to look, the great variety of wildlife that used to be here, and our efforts to protect, preserve, and

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restore at least this little piece of our natural history. So far this fall, Master Naturalists have talked to over 3,000 fourth through seventh graders about our natural world at LLELA. A large number of these students have been lower-income urban children who have never been in the "wild," and, in fact, are often scared to even walk down the trail in the shade of the trees.

As you can see, there are many different volunteer opportunities available at LLELA. If you would like to be added to our volunteer list, please contact: Diane Wetherbee, [wetherb@tx.rr.com](mailto:wetherb@tx.rr.com)

LLELA provides a wonderful opportunity for volunteering at a very active and beautifully wild location close to home for those who live south of the lake, and it's convenient for those living in Denton and other areas off I-35, as well. Come get wild with us!

**Newsletter Articles (SH):** You can receive service hour credit for the time it takes you to research and write articles for the EFCMN newsletter. Articles must pertain to Chapter interests and cannot be political in nature. Furthermore, copyrighted materials cannot be used without the original author's written permission. Send submissions to Theresa Kavi @ [tlkavi@earthlink.net](mailto:tlkavi@earthlink.net)

**EFCMN PUBLICITY:** Lin Weinberg is our new contact for Denton Connection magazine. If you have master naturalist-related activities or projects that are OPEN to the public, please help publicize EFCMN by writing an article for publication in the magazine. Send copy-ready articles to Lin at: [lcweinberg@verizon.net](mailto:lcweinberg@verizon.net)

**Project List (SH):** There is a project list online at our webpage [www.efcmn.org](http://www.efcmn.org). Just about any of these projects can probably use your help. Please get in touch with the contact person listed on the list if you would like to help out.

**Note:** Standard service hours are available at any time at the Fort Worth Nature Center, BRIT, LLELA and at LISDOLA. It is highly recommended that you contact these sites and let them know you want to help out before you go there. Please see the Fort Worth Nature Center's

calendar at [www.fwnaturecenter.org](http://www.fwnaturecenter.org), and BRIT's website at [www.BRIT.org](http://www.BRIT.org) for details about their service opportunities. You can also contact Rica Potenz at 972-874-7514 about service opportunities available on an ongoing basis at Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA).

## Advanced Training Opportunities (AT)

**Birds at LBJ Grasslands:** Ongoing bird talks at the LBJ grasslands count as AT. The upcoming dates are: Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007 and Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008. Please contact Mary Curry at [mary@lookingout.net](mailto:mary@lookingout.net) for more information.

## Field Sketching with International botanical artist/naturalist illustrator Cynthia Padilla at LLELA:

**Fri./Sat., Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2007. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Field sketches--simple drawings done while on location--increase one's understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Welcome educators, nature lovers, artists, gardeners, journalers, and the curious as we ramble 2,000 acres of prairies, wetlands, and forest at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area. We'll capture both still subjects (seed pods, leaves, tree shapes, etc.) and moving subjects (birds, bison, insects, etc.) in our sketchbook journals. We work indoors and out as conditions dictate. Designed for the complete beginner without previous art training, all levels welcomed. A guided tour by a knowledgeable guide gets us underway. **\$170.00.**

**MEET THE INSTRUCTOR:** Cynthia Padilla, BA California State University, Los Angeles. Sought internationally to curate exhibitions, conduct research, reviews, lectures, and workshops and lead travelers on sketching tours worldwide. Email: [botanicalart@peoplepc.com](mailto:botanicalart@peoplepc.com)  
**Website:** <http://artinstructor.blogspot.com/>  
**Tips & Tutorials:** <http://www.gardenandhearth.com/SketchingandDrawing.htm>

**To register,** contact Lisa Cole at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area:

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1801 N. Mill St., Suite A, Lewisville, TX 75057,  
972-219-3930, [lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu)

## **Watch the Wild Turkeys (more fun than eating them) at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA):**

Over 260 species of birds have been recorded in the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area's forests, prairies, and marshes...among them Wild Turkeys, which wildlife biologists reintroduced to the property in early 2006. These impressive birds are a native species which had long been absent from LLELA due to past habitat loss. They have reproduced and look to be a successful part of efforts to restore LLELA's damaged forests. LLELA is one of the only areas in the DFW metroplex where wild turkeys are commonly observed.

### **Guided Bird Watching Tours:**

7:30 a.m. November 10 (Keith Lockhart)

7:30 a.m. November 17 (Ron Chenault)

Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome to join master birders Ron Chenault and Keith Lockhart in November as they guide visitors to birding locations at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area. Some of the best spots are not normally available to the public, outside of a scheduled tour. Ages 10 and up. There is a \$2 program fee for the bird walk, in addition to the regular gate fee (\$3/person). Reservations are required; call 972-219-7980.

**Log House-Open House:** The Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area is also home to several historic structures, most notably the Porter-Feagins Log House, which dates to about 1865. Completely restored and furnished with all the trappings of everyday frontier life, the log house gives LLELA visitors a window on early Denton County history. Interested visitors of all ages are invited to our Log House Open House at LLELA on Saturday, November 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to guide visitors through the structures and answer questions in this informal tour. Visitors are welcome to arrive at any time during the open hours and tour at their own pace. There is no additional fee for this activity beyond regular admission to LLELA (\$3/person; children age 5 years and under free).

The Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning

Area is 2,000-acres of prairies, forests, and wetlands managed as a wildlife preserve by a group of agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the University of North Texas, the City of Lewisville, Lewisville ISD, and Texas A & M University. Our mission is to preserve and restore our native ecosystems and to provide and promote environmental education and scientific research. LLELA is open to the public every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for fishing, hiking, camping, bird watching, kayaking/canoeing, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. Learn more at [www.ias.unt.edu/llela](http://www.ias.unt.edu/llela) or contact:

Lisa Cole

Education Coordinator

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

1801 N. Mill St., Suite A

Lewisville, TX 75057

972-219-3930

[lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu)

**Earthkind Online Modules (AT):** If you are short on advanced training hours, we now have a way for you to earn 4 hours of AT from the comfort of your own home. Go to <http://earthkind.tamu.edu/EKOnlineModules.html>, complete all three Earthkind modules online ("Roses" is not available) and pass the quiz at the end of each of the 3 available sections. Once the 3 quizzes are passed, please print out the certificates of completion to attach to your service record when you go to record your 4 hours. If you are already getting credit for these modules as a Master Gardener, you may not also get credit for the same modules as a Master Naturalist.

### **Ray Roberts Lake State Park Fall 2007:**

**Stargazing Parties:** Isle du Bois Unit; dusk - 11pm; Saturday, Dec. 8

### **Campfire Programs:**

Isle du Bois Unit: 7-8 p.m.

Lost Pines Trail Interpretive Area: Sat., Nov. 17 "We Are Mammals".

Call Don Whited for questions: 940-686-2080

## **The Armchair Master Naturalist**

**Would you like to be a docent or trail guide but aren't sure you know enough**

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## about Nature?

**Submitted by:** Theresa Page, Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

Texas Parks and Wildlife has a series of young naturalist books that can be printed from their web site, just click on the button at the top of the page. The link is:

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/young\\_naturalist/index.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/young_naturalist/index.phtml)

The three books available on the website are: *Young Naturalist*, *Introducing Mammals to Young Naturalists*, and *Introducing Birds to Young Naturalists*. I have *Introducing Mammals to Young Naturalists*, and I'm enjoying learning how mammals behave in the wild. Did you know that red foxes were brought to Texas by pioneers who wanted to use them to train their hounds?

The opening paragraph on the website beautifully states the concept of volunteer master naturalists: *"You are never too young or too old to explore the world of nature. Anyone can be a young naturalist, regardless of age. All you need is a large helping of curiosity; the desire to know more about your surroundings and the creatures that share them; and perhaps, in the case of a very young naturalist, the help of someone older who cares."* Llo Hiller

I highly recommend these books to anyone who is interested in becoming a docent at Ray Roberts Lake State Park, LLELA, LISDOLA, Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, or elsewhere. The books provide fun to know information on earth science, plants, and animals that can be shared with children or adults on the trails. They will be so impressed that you know these facts!

*If you know of any good books, movies, web pages or art exhibits that feature nature, email me at [tlkavi@earthlink.net](mailto:tlkavi@earthlink.net) and I will try to pass on your suggestions to our members.*

## Information of Interest to Master Naturalists

**ATRIUM: THE BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS** of the Andes to Amazon Biodiversity

## Program

**Copied from:** Jim's This and That for November 1, 2007; *Jim's This and That* is a personal communication to individuals interested in the natural world -- primarily in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area.

Last time I presented a thumbnail overview of BRIT's Andes to Amazon Biodiversity Project (AABP) in Peru. This time I do the same with Atrium, the Biodiversity Information Systems for AABP. From Atrium web site, <http://atrium.andesamazon.org/> Atrium facilitates the collection, organization and sharing of botanical and ecological information generated by AABP at BRIT. Features of Atrium include

**Virtual Herbarium** - The Virtual Herbarium portion of Atrium provides many tools for entry, organization and analysis of collection data. Collaborators can view complete collection data and high resolution images, print labels, and annotate collections remotely.

**Geospatial Data Repository** - Atrium hosts geospatial data pertaining to the research activities of the Andes to Amazon Biodiversity program and makes these data available to collaborators and other researchers.

**Bibliographic References** - Atrium hosts extensive bibliographic records, compiled by the Amazon Conservation Association, pertaining to the biodiversity and conservation of southeastern Peru.

**Weather Data** - Atrium hosts weather station data from multiple sites and allows multiple sensor datasets to be graphed and downloaded.

**Final Notes:** Submit photos or newsletter articles to Theresa Kavi, Newsletter Editor at [News@EFCMN.org](mailto:News@EFCMN.org).

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