

# The EFCTMN Newsletter

September , 2007

Vol 8, No.9

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## September Meeting at the Extension office. Social time 9:00 Am, Meeting 9:30 PM, 9/20/07:

Ken Ford will be speaking on digital photography. This is Ken's bio:

**Married:** Still with the original and she almost has me house broken.

**Children:** Three. All gainfully employed and none live at home.

**Work:** Pathology but only as required to support my hobbies.

**Hobbies:** Travel, computers, necessary software and photography.

### Brief history of photography experience:

A Kodak brownie was my first camera. In 1948, I move up to a Kodak folding camera and 120 film. In 1954, I acquired an Argus C3 at the PX and moved to color film. In 1960, I bought a Nikon F1. I discovered under water photography when I attempted to use a facemask and plastic bag for an underwater housing for the Argus C3. I moved to digital photography in 1999 with a Nikon D1. In 2004, I switched to a Canon EOS 1Ds. The rest is current practice.

## October Meeting at the Extension office (10/18/07). Social Time 9:00 Am. Meeting 9:30 AM. Dr. Camelia Maier, a TWU botanist, will be our speaker.

**Magic Acorn Hat:** As seen at our August Roundup meeting, can be purchased from:  
MIKE BISHOP PRODUCTIONS  
PO BOX 958  
HARRISON AR 72602  
PHONE 870-741-5250  
FAX 870-741-0006  
E MAIL [BESTSHOWBAND@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BESTSHOWBAND@YAHOO.COM)  
WEB SITE [www.mikebishopproductions.com](http://www.mikebishopproductions.com)  
Thank You,  
Fritz Poppe

**Nominations Committee:** Five members have agreed to serve on the nominations committee: Joe Bain, Shirley Holland, George Kragle, Rob Roy, and Donna Wolfe. Please thank them for their time and service.

## Election of 2008 Chapter Officers:

The nominations committee will come up with a list of new candidates for chapter President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The list will be announced during the October general meeting. Then nominations will be taken from the floor from members with the vote to be held in the November General Meeting.

**August Roundup:** Round Up this past August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 was a resounding success with 17 guests, and 37 members participating.

This annual event showcases the enthusiasm, work projects and nature loving activities of the Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists™. However, the primary purpose of Round Up is to encourage others to enroll for the fall classes to train and certify as Texas Master Naturalists. This year classes start on September 4<sup>th</sup>, and run every Tuesday for 11 weeks, until November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

President Dave Rowley kicked off a full and exciting program of speakers and power point presentations which filled the morning from 10:00 AM to midday. This was followed by a delicious [free!] buffet lunch, donated by members. Lunch time also provided a great opportunity for "would be" Master Naturalists to visit with mentors and other chapter members who were on hand to answer questions.

As the closing date for applications are August 23rd, 2007, application forms were made available at Round Up. By the end of the event, several of those application forms had been completed.  
Lynne List

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**Our New Training Class:** We have 23 applicants that have been accepted for training this fall. Please join the board in welcoming them into the fold.

**Report Your Hours:** This is a good time for everyone to make sure they have reported all their service and advanced training hours so far this year, using the proper form. Our chapter is funded by the State based on the number of service hours and advanced training hours, so it's important to report accurately and timely. For questions please contact any board member.

**Channel 25, Charter station in Denton,** has a segment about MN's. Show times will run through Sept. To catch this program entitled "Adventures in Nature" narrated by our own member Dale Brannum, turn to Ch. 25 on Mon., Thursday, and Saturdays at 6:30 and 9:30am on Tuesdays. I believe that the Verizon station also carries it on Ch. 39 or 36.  
Thanks. Cheryl Kesterson

**Halloween Party:** Our spirit committee will be holding a Halloween party on October 25 at 7PM at Clear Creek. Costumes expected. Please contact Jan Thompson if you want to help out.

**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 go to <http://taex001.tamu.edu/mailman/listinfo/tmn> and sign up.

## Service Hour Opportunities (SH)

**Ray Roberts Lake Grand Opening and Guided Nature Hikes:** We have decided to have a 'soft opening' for the Ray Roberts

Interpretive Center beginning Friday, August 31 with a Grand opening on Saturday, Oct. 20, in the early afternoon. We also need help for RR grand opening on Oct 20. We need people to staff information tables. Help with walks on Lost Pines in the morning and at Bluestem in the afternoon. We will need help for the cookout at noon. We also need some help with crowd control for Dotty's campfire program at 7pm.

So, I will be looking for volunteers to talk with folks. Please mark your calendar!

### **Guided Nature Hikes:**

Isle du Bois Unit: Every Saturday in September, 4pm  
Oct. 13 & 27 at 3pm (meet at Bluestem pavilion)

Contact Jan Hodson [janhodson@ntin.net](mailto:janhodson@ntin.net) with your questions.

### **Clear Creek Work Days :**

October 3, 13, and 24, 2007.

Yes, it's that time of the year again, time... to work in the wild. We will be working on the Fisherman's Trail area, putting the bridge back together, removing logs and other debris.

**Clear Creek Seniors Lunch in the Park:** Also, volunteers needed to help with this event.

Please let Jan Thompson 972-757-5715c email [frickthompson@aol.com](mailto:frickthompson@aol.com) if you are coming to either of these events.

**LLELA Opportunity:** We are busily preparing for our 4th and 5th grade field trip groups from Irving this semester, and have a need for some volunteer help. The 4th-graders are participating in a science lab, Homestead tour, and a heritage activity during their visits. I have hired part-time instructors to cover the science labs and heritage activity, but still need volunteers to lead the tours of the Homestead. I hope some of you will be willing to help with this. Here's the job: for

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each date below, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I need someone to lead 4 thirty-minute tours of the log house and outbuildings for about 30 4th-grade students. I have a script to guide your discussion, and will call a meeting of those leading the tours beforehand to make sure everyone is comfortable and on the same page. Please let me know if you can help and which dates you can cover; I'll get everyone in a schedule and organized. Here are the dates for this fall: Sept. 14, Sept. 18, Sept. 19, Oct. 2, Oct. 3, Oct. 9, Oct. 10, Oct. 16, Oct. 22, Oct. 23, and Oct. 24, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each date.

Thanks,  
Lisa Cole  
Education Coordinator  
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area  
1801 N. Mill St., Suite A  
Lewisville, TX 75057  
972-219-3930  
lisacole@unt.edu  
www.ias.unt.edu/llela

**Sharkarosa Wildlife ranch** : We will be having a booth and are looking for help setting up and manning the booth, as well as for speakers. Volunteers needed on Oct 9 and 10. Jan Hodson janhodson@ntin.net

**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 at [TLKavi@earthlink.net](mailto:TLKavi@earthlink.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) ,& 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):

Please join the members of Trinity Forks chapter of NPSOT as we welcome Paul W. Cox, our featured speaker at the **September 27<sup>th</sup>** chapter meeting in Denton. Paul W. Cox will discuss the *History of the San Antonio Botanical Garden* at the September meeting of Trinity Forks chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. **Time:** 6:30 pm for socializing and viewing of educational displays in the Second Floor Lobby; 7:00 pm for start of meeting in Room 301.

**Place:** The Administration and Clock Tower (ACT) building at the Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, at **304 Administration Drive, between Bell and Oakland Streets**. A map of Denton and the TWU campus is on our chapter website: [www.npsot.org/TrinityForks](http://www.npsot.org/TrinityForks) (then click on **Meetings**).

**Trinity Forks Chapter Meets on the fourth Thursday of January through May and August through October**

*Cynthia Maguire*

Past President, Trinity Forks Chapter of NPSOT

[cynthia.maguire@verizon.net](mailto:cynthia.maguire@verizon.net)  
940-594-6555

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## InfoFest Hosted by Denton County Master Gardener Association

Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Upper Trinity Regional Water  
District, 900 N. Kealy Ave,  
Lewisville, TX

Free. Gardening seminars, educational  
demonstrations, plant sale,  
garden shopping, tour of gardens, children's  
activities.

For more info, call 940-349-2883, or go to  
<http://www.dcmga.com>  
<<http://www.dcmga.com/>>

### Seminar Agenda

9:30-10:15 Dr. Bill Adams: A Kitchen  
Garden (vegetables and herbs)

10:30-11:15 Dr. Kevin Ong, Texas A&M

Plant Pathologist: Plant Doctor-  
Diagnosis Free - Prescription Extra

11:30-12:15 John Cooper, Denton County  
Cooperative Extension

Horticulture Agent: Tree Talk-- proper  
care and feeding of favorite  
North Texas trees.

12:30-1:15 Rodney Sowalskie, Denton  
County Master Gardener: ABC's of  
Landscaping

1:30-2:15 Dr. Dotty Woodson: Water-Wise  
Gardening

Mark you Calendar - Oct 6, 2007 - Don't  
miss this FREE event.

**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/EKOnLineModul  
es.html](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.

Ongoing bird talks at the LBJ grasslands  
count as AT. Please contact Mary Curry at  
[mary@lookingout.net](mailto:mary@lookingout.net) for more info.

### Activities of Interest: May qualify for AT

#### Ray Roberts Lake State Park Fall 2007

Stargazing Parties: Isle du Bois Unit; dusk -  
11pm; Saturdays,  
Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 & Dec. 8

Campfire Programs: Isle du Bois Unit: 7-  
8pm Lost Pines Trail Interpretive Area:  
Sat., Oct. 6 "Snakes Alive: Myths &  
Misunderstandings"  
Sat., Oct. 20 "Bats Alive: The Real Story"  
Sat., Nov. 3 "Birds of North Texas"  
Sat., Nov. 17 "We Are Mammals"  
Call Don Whited for questions: 940-686-  
2080

### Did You Know? Statewide Annual Meeting & Bannister Energy House

#### Annual Texas Wide Meeting: Master Naturalists and affiliates:

On-line registration for the 2007 (8th  
Annual) Texas Master Naturalist Meeting &  
Advanced Training has recently become  
available! To register on-line visit:  
<http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/find.htm>

Please distribute to your fellow Master  
Naturalists and your chapter via you email  
groups, website, newsletters, training  
classes and upcoming monthly meetings.  
See you in San Antonio!

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Master Naturalist Program Coordinator  
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Kerrville, TX 78028  
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<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>

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## The Bannister High-Performance

**House** is a demonstration project for the US Department of Energy's "Building America" program to encourage homeowners and builders to live and build in a more fiscally and environmentally sensible manner. The Building Science Consortium has included this home as one of their national projects for 2007.

Dallas HBA Green Built North Texas Bannister House is scheduled to open Friday, September 14th, 2007 and will be open to the public each weekend through Sunday, October 14th, 2007.

Opening days for the show house are Fridays - Sundays The times are Fri, Sat 11am - 4pm and Sunday 1pm - 5pm

Specific tours will be announced later.

If you have a group that would like to schedule an event at the Bannister House, please contact Kate Shackelford at 214-236-7400.

[www.BannisterHouseTexas.com](http://www.BannisterHouseTexas.com)

## The Armchair Master Naturalist by Theresa Kavi:

For good information on digital photography checkout this URL:  
<http://h167.amli-denton.com/photography/index.html>  
Thanks, Alex

If you know of any good books, movies, webpages 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 fellow members.

## Spotlight on: NICE! Gayfeather

**NICE! Plant of the Season- Fall 2007**  
**Perennial: Gayfeather (*Liatris mucronata*)**

**Description:** *Liatris* is a large eastern and midwestern North American genus that includes 43 species, collectively called Gayfeather, Blazing Star, or Button-Snakeroot. Narrow-Leaf Gayfeather, *L. mucronata*, is native to eastern and northern Texas, south to the Edwards Plateau and west to the rolling plains. This prairie perennial has multiple stalks that give the plant its 1 to 1.5 feet width. It grows 1 to 3 feet tall and has an erect growth pattern, growing from corm-like structures in the soil. True to its name, Narrow Leaf Gayfeather has narrow leaves that are approximately 2 inches long.

**Blooms:** Gayfeather blooms from August through the beginning of October and occasionally up to November with lavender to purple flower spikes. Each flower spike, with many ½ inch corollas, starts to bloom at the top and slowly descends toward the base. The flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Planting sites:** Gayfeather should be planted in full sun to light shade in well-drained soil. It tolerates a range of soil pH, from weakly acidic to moderately alkaline. It will grow well in sandy loam, loam, or even clay-based soil if it is well-drained. Plants should be spaced 1-2 feet apart. Do not plant Gayfeather where it might experience "wet feet" or it may rot. Gayfeather seeds can be planted in the early spring or in the fall.

**Watering Instructions:** Gayfeather should be watered well immediately after planting and then every 2-3 weeks during the first growing season if there is no rain. Like most native plants, Gayfeather should not be over-watered.

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After the first growing season, Gayfeather should survive with existing rainfall because it is very drought tolerant.

**Comments:** *L. mucronata* is similar to the widely cultivated Gayfeather species *L. spicata* in the appearance of its bloom and foliage, but unlike *L. spicata*, *L. mucronata* is much longer lived and better adapted to North Texas.

Gayfeather needs no soil amendments, although it is not recommended for poorly draining hard clay soil. When *L. mucronata* is grown in fertilized garden soils, its flower stalks may grow long and leggy and fall over. After several years, Gayfeather may be propagated by digging up and dividing its underground corm-like or bulb-like structures.

Gayfeather makes a nice cut flower for fall bouquets.

Look for the NICE! Plant of the Season signs and information sheets on your next visit to a participating North Texas nursery. Thank you for using native plants in your landscapes.

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep & Oct, TWU's ACT building 6:30 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**Final Notes:** Submit photos or newsletter articles to Theresa Kavi, Newsletter Editor at [News@EFCMN.org](mailto:News@EFCMN.org). Our webpage address is [www.EFCMN.org](http://www.EFCMN.org).

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