

NEWSLETTER—Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

Our vision. . .in our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future.



Special points of interest:

- > Tribute to Randy Kimball
- > Stay aware—announcements/reminders
- > Name the newsletter
- > Take a field trip
- > What's in store for Lake Lewisville adventurers?

On The Trail by Lake Lewisville

By Joanne Fellows

Once again Joan Stanley and I ventured out to see what was on the trails by Lake Lewisville. Since we found American Alligator tracks in the mud at the edge, we have regularly struck off with high hopes. Of course now it is a bit too cold for alligators.



This trip we ran across the beginning of butterfly season. Red Admirals, Common Buckeyes, Eastern Black Swallowtails, Sulphurs, Goatweed Leafwings and Falcate Orangetips. None landed except briefly, so no photos to share.

Towards the end of our hike, two Nine-banded Armadillos, *Dasypus novemcinctus*, were far more cooperative. They were happily digging a hole and stopped to pose for our cameras. In fact they began to push and shove to see who could get out of the hole first to investigate those two hikers.



YouTube Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssR3r3BJkyQ>

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SUSAN'S SPIN

*From President
Susan Pohlen*

In January of this year we learned that Roanoke Elementary was looking for someone who could speak to their third grade classes about the effect of construction and development on ecosystems. Three chapter members put together a program on short notice. The program was very well received and word got around to other interested teachers. At the end of March we were asked to give the same program at Justin Elementary. Once again the students and teachers responded with enthusiasm, and as we were departing they were already talking about ways to get Master Naturalist volunteers back to the school.

This is especially exciting to me because it means we are embracing our new vision which in part says, "...be recognized as a primary source of information, education, and service..." - in other words, to have our expertise valued and actively sought out. I know that the chapter has done school presentations in the past as well, and I'm hoping we will see more demand for our unique style in the future.

... our new vision which in part says, "...be recognized as a primary source of information, education, and service..."

One of our long term goals is to increase membership involvement for educating public groups. As you can see it is also tied directly to our vision. This goal is an extension of our school outreach mentioned above. It means getting involved with speaking at Home Owner Association meetings, Rotary Club meetings, and other community gatherings where we have the potential to make a significant impact over time.

We recognize that not all of our members have an interest in providing public outreach. However, many of you have the interest and simply need to increase your comfort level. One of the things we plan to do as a chapter is to provide workshops to train our members in public speaking. We need to know if you are currently interested in assisting with public outreach opportunities, which of you are interested in attending a workshop first, and which of you would like to assist with a public speaking workshop.



President Susan Pohlen

Photo-D. Thetford



In Tribute

Randy Kimball had so many traits that I find admirable in a person: genuine, friendly, hard-working, honest, dependable, and, of course, a lover of nature. Some of you probably know that Randy recently asked us to move him into an inactive status. He did not take this decision lightly as you can see in part of a message he shared. In this message he refers to having too many irons in the fire at this time:

“As a reality of this decision I had to accept the fact not having enough time to share among my too many activities meant I may be prone to not perform my Master Naturalist projects to the full extent they each deserved. This is absolutely not acceptable to me. So, sadly I decided to step aside. Being this was such a heart wrenching decision, I have been placing my messages from the organization in a special folder to not read until later. This was the best way, emotionally, I knew to tear myself away from something I love so much.”



What most of you do not know is that Randy Kimball was at my house the Friday before his passing. He had come to do what he loves best, rescue wildlife. In this case it was a raccoon in our attic, and the process would take two stages. During Randy's visit we chatted about nature in general and about being a Master Naturalist. Randy told me that he was hoping to go back to working part time so that he could once again become an active part of the chapter. It was

clear to me that he felt very strongly about it, and his face lit up just talking about the opportunity to reengage with all of us.

I'm sharing this with you because while Randy touched the lives of many of us, he would want you to know that his life was also touched by many of us.

With much sorrow, Susan Pohlen



By Randy Kimball

Photos—Owen Richards



Van Elliott recognized once again



Susan Pohlen, president, starts things off



Susan presents token of appreciation to Dr. Dick



Hilton Dickerson receives certificate from Susan



Carolyn Norgaard with Susan



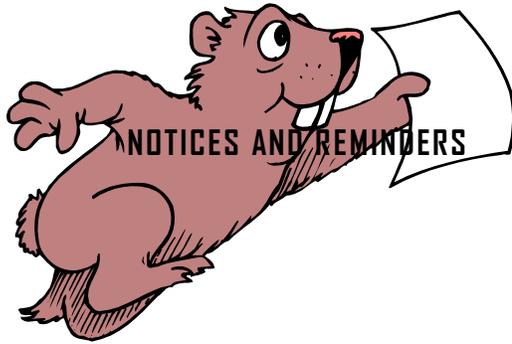
Jan Hodson introducing Jim Shoemaker, Denton Parks & Recreation



Dr. Gary Dick with Peg La Point after the program on Trinity River Lower Chain of Wetlands



Larry Brenman visits with Shelby Kilpatrick



A notice of correction of any **factual errors** in current newsletter will be published next month.

wodum10043@reagan.com — or contact the author of the article.



Amphibian & Mussel Watch Workshop

May 17-18, 2013
Texas Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops

Fort Worth Nature Center
 9601 Fossil Ridge Road
 Fort Worth, TX

Free: Registration Required. Fee \$10 for materials per workshop. Learn how to identify amphibian and freshwater mussel species and participate in scientific research as members of an important Texas Nature Tracker Partnership. Sponsored by the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist Chapter. Texas Amphibian Watch will be held May 17, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. and Texas Mussel Watch on May 18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Texas Master Naturalist Approved Advanced Training.** CPE and TEEAC credit available for educators. Contact Fort Worth Nature Center at 817.392.7410 or anne.hamman@fortworthtexas.gov. After-hours contact: Hester Schwarzer, President, Cross Timbers Master Naturalist at 817.507.6340 or hesterschwarzer@att.net for information and registration.

Any additional questions should be addressed to **Jeanne Erickson** at her chapter contact addresses.

Bumblebee programs

May 20, 2013

Native Bees in Texas: Needs and Management

Michael Warriner (TPWD)
 Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
 REI Outdoor Equipment Store
 4515 LBJ Freeway 75244
 Dallas, Texas

Where

The Dallas Chapter holds its regular meetings in the upstairs meeting room of the REI Outdoor Equipment Store at 4515 LBJ Freeway 75244, located on the north side of I-635 between Welch and Midway.

Take the stairs to the second floor and turn left to find the meeting rooms.

When

The Chapter meets on the third Monday of the month:

- 6:45 pm - Social time with refreshments
- 7:00 pm - Announcements and general meeting items
- 7:15 pm - Speaker

Contact President Randy Johnson organicrandy@gmail.com

May 25, 2013

Bumblebees of Texas

Michael Warriner (TPWD)
 River Legacy Living Science Center
 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd.
 Arlington, Texas



Texas Bumblebee Watch

Most people are aware of the decline of the non-native European honeybee, but few are aware of the decline of native Texas bumblebees. During this adult workshop at River Legacy Living Science Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife invertebrate biologist Michael D. Warriner will teach participants the importance of these native insects and how to identify them and report their locations. Best suited for ages 10 and up. Space is limited, **please RSVP to 817.860.6752. 10 AM** Free, donations accepted



On **May 20, 2013**, at 7 pm: **Michael D. Warriner from TPWD on “Native Bees of Texas”**

Michael Warriner is the invertebrate biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Prior to coming to Texas, he worked as the invertebrate zoologist for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and as a research associate working on forest entomology at Mississippi State University.

Native bees provide agricultural and ecological services that are valued in the billions of dollars. Despite their profound roles in human food production and ecosystem maintenance they are all but forgotten as targets for management on most public and private lands. This session will discuss the needs of native bees and practices that can be implemented to protect and augment resources these insects require.

Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting, 7 pm on Monday, May 20, at the upstairs Guadalupe Peak meeting room of the Dallas REI store at 4515 LBJ Fwy, Farmers Branch (635 and Welch Rd).

AN INVITATION TO BE A MENTOR FOR THE 2013 TRAINING CLASS OF THE ELM FORK CHAPTER TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The **2013 Training Program** for our chapter is being organized and implemented by the Training Committee as a whole.

The role of the **Training Program Mentors** will be crucial to making sure that each and every training class student has a single point of contact so that each is well-informed and feels welcome in the class.

We need twelve certified chapter members to step up and agree to support the Training Committee by being responsible for one or two students.

If you think that you would like to contribute by being a **Mentor** for the **2013 Training Class** or would like more information, you may contact one of the following members of the Training Committee:

- **Ruth Ann Morrison** at 972-317-9954; or ramorrison@juno.com; or Ruthann.morrison@gmail.com
- **Carol Fegan** at 817-360-6708; or Fegfamily@aol.com
- **Louise Wyss** at 940-391-4495; or alouwyss@earthlink.net

Why be a Mentor?

- It is a way to meet other members of the chapter that you might not otherwise get to know.
- It is a way to meet the new training class members.
- It is a way to recruit new training class members to join your project.
- It is a way to attend lectures and field trips that you would otherwise miss.
- It is a way to contribute to our chapter in a critical way by paying it forward to the new class.

Make plans to tour THOMSEN NATURE PRESERVE

April 24, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The **Thomsen Nature Preserve** was established in 1982 by Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Thomsen of Dallas, Texas. Their passion for wildflowers, native plants, and the preservation of natural habitat led the Thomsens to the picturesque terrain of the Cross Timbers Region of Texas. They purchased 600 acres of property near Forestburg, in Montague County, and dedicated the land to research and education of native flora and fauna of the region.

Our guide will be **Dr. Lisa Bellows**, Director of Thomsen Nature Preserve. Like the plants that she researches, Dr. Bellows is a native to North Texas. Her passion for environmental and land stewardship was deeply rooted as she grew up on a farm near Saint Jo, Texas, just a few miles from the Thomsen Nature Preserve’s outdoor learning center.

For more information and to view the photo gallery go to:

<http://teachnature.org/Site/About.html>



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The street address is 1859 Parker Dairy Road, Forestburg, TX. Drive west from Denton on Hwy 380 (University). In Decatur, drive north on FM 730 (Trinity Street). Turn left onto County Road 2650 (Cates). Turn left onto County Road 2650 (Freeman). Turn left onto Wise Road. Turn left onto Parker Dairy Road.

CARPOOLING

Members are encouraged to car pool. We will meet at the Albertsons located at West University and Bonnie Brae. **Please be there by 8:30.** We will meet at the far northwest corner of the parking lot.



Peg La Point



Photos with the article by Susan Tartaglino in March newsletter should have been credited to Mary Curry.

Send contact information changes to: **1) Monica Chaffin chaffincasa@gmail.com; 2) Susan Pohlen pohlen-susan@gmail.com; 3) Rob Roy robt_t_roy@msn.com; and 4) Donna Wolfe donna.wolfe@dentoncounty.com**

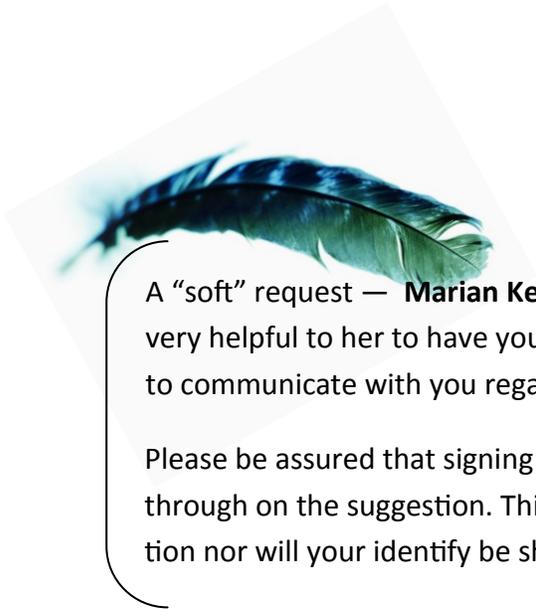


I need help in making the choice for a newsletter name. Wanda Odum at: wodum10043@reagan.com or wodum10043@aol.com A number of proposed names have been submitted, but we will hold it open for at least another month to make sure everyone who wants to respond has had a chance to do so. Remember that the person who submits the name chosen will be rewarded with something fun!

Congratulations!

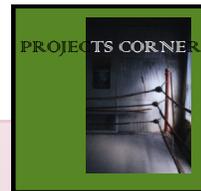


Happy **Birth Day** to future Master Naturalist, **J. Weston Lauderdale**, who was successfully delivered to proud parents, Kelly and Jim Lauderdale, on March 24, 2013, and weighing in at 7.2 pounds. Kelly is our TPWD advisor.



A “soft” request — **Marian Kester**, member-at-large, monitors the Suggestion Box; and it would be very helpful to her to have your name in case there are questions, required clarifications, or the need to communicate with you regarding what action will be or has been taken.

Please be assured that signing the suggestion slip is purely voluntary but very often needed to follow through on the suggestion. This request for signature is not to pass judgment on you or the suggestion nor will your identify be shared indiscriminately.



Project Manager Update!!!

Karen Mangum has graciously accepted the role of Project Manager for the Cornell Ornithology Lab Project Feeder Watch Project. Please feel free to contact Karen for more information on the Project. Thank you, Karen!!

Chuck Thetford has agreed to become Project Manager at the Lake Ray Roberts Interpretative Center. Thank you, Chuck!!

Dale Meyer
Project Coordinator
Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

From Joanne
Fellows



Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*

Adults are colorful hawks with dark-and-white checkered wings and warm reddish barring on the breast. The tail is black with narrow white bands.

This was a regular visitor to my yard this past fall. Usually I have a Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*, but this one seemed to have claimed the territory. It was snacking steadily on grasshoppers, while waiting for a better meal opportunity. When I hear the Crows and Blue-jays start to fuss, I grab my camera and go looking.

"Red-shouldered Hawks are medium-sized, with broad, rounded wings and medium-length tails that they fan out when soaring. In flight, they often glide or soar with their wingtips pushed slightly forward, imparting a distinctive, "reaching" posture. Adults are colorful hawks with dark-and-white checkered wings and warm reddish barring on the breast. The tail is black with narrow white bands. Immatures are brown above and white below streaked with brown. All ages show narrow, pale crescents near the wingtips in flight. Red-shouldered Hawks soar over forests or perch on tree branches or utility wires. Its rising, whistled kee-rah is a distinctive sound of the forest. They hunt small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles either from perches or while flying." Attribution: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-shouldered_Hawk/id

Tales from the Wildlife Hotline by Karen Schoeve

One “Dumb” Bunny . . . NOT!

Who said dogs and dolphins were the most intelligent animals we knew?

I had stopped in Argyle Feed Store to check out a saddle on consignment when I overheard a 30-something woman asking for details on how to use the KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement) she was buying. She had her cute little granddaughter, dressed in full princess bling, sporting glittery pink tennis shoes, a tutu and sparkly headband, clutching and whining at her side. I knew from the conversation that she had a bunny! I deftly slid in next to her and struck up a conversation about what had happened and how they got the bunny. She gave a typical story of her husband mowing the yard and unearthing a rabbit’s nest. I shared with her that I was a wildlife rehabilitator and could take the bunny! She was delighted, but Princess was aghast! “But Meme, we can’t let the bunny go! I WANT HIM!!!!” {tears streaming, followed by a long “waaaahhhhhh”!} I gently explained to her that wildlife cannot be a pet and that she could come over to my house and play with my teacup yorkies and sit on a horse! That placated her and Meme said she would be right over with the bunny!

One hour later she arrived with bunny in an open basket, a towel draped over the top. Once I saw the bunny, I knew it was old enough to be on its own. As a rehabber, we like to further assess and give them a couple days of meals before releasing. I took the basket and put it in my laundry room, as I was very crunched for time . . . hmmm, that premonition was haunting me . . . lid? . . . Gosh, I didn’t have time to do a cage transfer and I figured I would just have to catch it in the laundry room – definitely not the first time I’d had to catch an escaped animal! We left bunny and headed out for the horses, with bunny thankfully becoming a distant memory in Princess’s mind.



I finished my errands of the day and upon checking the basket, yep, bunny had hopped out of the basket. No bother, I’ll find him. I started crawling around on the floor, through the plethora of dust, wondering where it all came from . . . lo and behold, the dryer vent duct had come off and was lying on the floor, which lead to where . . . THE GREAT OUTDOORS! Our “dumb bunny” wasn’t so dumb after all! The bunny had crawled through the vent duct and escaped through the outside dryer vent right into my backyard! Heck, no rehab required, just a lotta bunny brainpower as he engineered his escape!



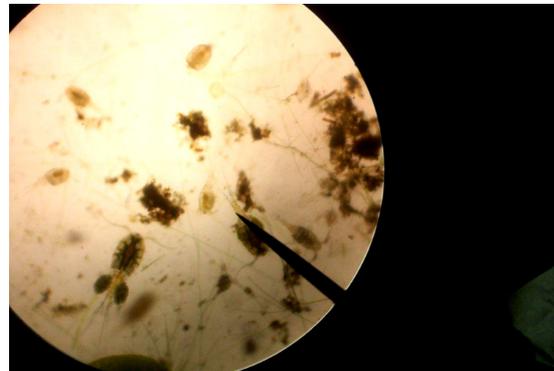
This and That

These interesting photos from **Karen Schoeve** are in need of an ID. Maybe one of our "benthic" people can help us out. Any feedback would be appreciated.
wodum10043@reagan.com



1)

3)



2)



"Never, never, never give up" — **Alex Lieban** says that the squirrels in his yard have been working overtime to figure out their new bird feeders. One "has to get up pretty early in the morning to fool these guys"; but "where there's a will, there's a way". It is no cliché, however, that although squirrels are pesky, they are resourceful and fun to watch.



© Alex Lieban

“FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS”



Texas Spiny lizard — estimated 10 plus inches — from the gallery of **Dorothy Thetford**

We're on the web

www.txmn.org/elmfork

OUR MISSION . . .

"to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community"



*Hawk dance
by Al Key via
Susan Pohlen*

Volume 14, Issue 4

Texas Master Naturalist
Elm Fork Chapter
Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension
Joseph A. Carroll Building
401 W. Hickory Street
Denton, TX 76201-9026

940-349-2883

*Education, Conservation,
Preservation, Restoration*

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Monthly Chapter Meetings

9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Chapter meetings are open to the public.

Next meeting April 18, 2013—Tanya Homayoun, Senior Manager at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, Bird-Friendly Communities for Texas Migrants

Meeting May 16, 2013—Dr. Thomas La Point, Professor of Biology at UNT, Climate Disruption

Location: Joseph A. Carroll Bldg., 401 W. Hickory Street, Denton, TX 76201-9026

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met April 11, 2013. Next meeting May 9, 2013.

Board meetings are open to members.