

NATURALIST NEWS



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*Two birds fly past.
They are needed somewhere.
-Robert Bly*

NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2013

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 11

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.



Walt and Isabel Davis to Present Program— Exploring the Edges of Texas

From Peg La Point

Isabel grew up in the Flint community in East Texas and graduated from Tyler Jr. College. She received her BA in sociology from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Masters in Library Science at Texas Woman's University.

Walt is a native of Dallas, Texas and a graduate of Tyler Jr. College. He received his BA in Zoology from the University of Texas and his Masters in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University. His thesis described the food habits of the Great-tailed grackle and was published in AUK.

Walt and Isabel met in biology lab at TJC and married three years later. Walt spent the next 28 years at the Dallas Museum of Natural History (now the Museum of Nature and Science). He did field work, collected specimens for the collection, designed and built exhibits, and planned and led field trips to many locations in Texas. He was Assistant Director for Long-Range Planning and was instrumental in getting the Ramses the Great exhibit to come to Dallas in 1989. He served as Project Director for the exhibit. In 1992 he became the Director of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. He retired in 2004.

Isabel spent time in School libraries in Dallas, was Director of the Rockwall County Public Library and a Reference and Public Service Librarian at the Richardson Public Library. She retired in 2003 as Reference Librarian from the Cornette Library at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

(cont'd on p. 5)



Photograph by Randy Mallory

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Meet the Davis's
- ◆ Summary of conference
- ◆ NOAH project update
- ◆ Monarchs
- ◆ Are snakes wildlife, too?

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From President, Susan Pohlen



Once again **Elm Fork Chapter** shined at the annual conference. Overall conference attendance was up again this year, with about 450 master naturalists. Elm Fork was still in the top three chapters with a presence of 25 members. **Van Elliott, Judi Elliott, and Betsy Schenck** went the extra mile to make the chapter shine by providing programs that were interesting and useful for members of any chapter in the state, thank you!



*Photo—
Owen
Richards*

**AMAZING,
IMPRESSIVE,
TALENTED!**

Congratulations to **Rosemary Carrizales** for taking second place in the project competition, bringing \$500 into the chapter treasury! Many thanks to **Jan Deatherage** for creating a beautiful display, and for coordinating the production of an amazing video to showcase the LLELA pocket pollinator garden. Thank you also to **Diane Wetherbee** for representing Elm Fork Chapter, LLELA, and the pollinator garden during much of the viewing time, but primarily during project judging.

While not placing this year, I would like to express my appreciation also to **Sherrill Campbell** for her creativity in producing a wonderful scrapbook. Sherrill put many hours into the layout and design of our scrapbook, so please take time to view it and let Sherrill know that she did a great job of portraying a snapshot in time of Elm Fork Chapter.

And last, but certainly not least, my hat is off to all members that supported the silent auction either with contributions or by assisting at the conference. **Marian Kester** did an amazing job of promoting the silent auction, coordinating details with Michelle Haggerty, and ensuring the silent auction ran smoothly – thank you Marian. Elm Fork Chapter will receive 20% of the proceeds. This year’s silent auction was the largest, with nearly 300 donations, bringing in \$5,280 for the Texas Master Naturalist program. Many of the donations came from our own members, so thank you.

Elm Fork Chapter consists of many talented and dedicated individuals that know how to work together as a team. The annual conference was an opportunity to share some of our talent and enthusiasm, and I believe the chapter did just that. I love being a Texas Master Naturalist, and I’m proud to be a member of Elm Fork Chapter.

Susan



Things accomplished...

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Meeting October 17, 2013

After leaving the attendees awed with his presentation on milkweeds, Randy Johnson is recognized with a beautiful framed photo—courtesy Larry Brennan—presented by President Susan Pohlen.

S

pecial recognition for members reaching milestones:



Photo by Larry Brennan



Jan Hodson—4,000 hours



Van Elliott—3,500 hours



Judi Elliott—3,000 hours



Sharon Barr—500 hours



Recertifications: Shirley Holland, Dianne Blais, Diana Hatch, Dave Rowley

Awards photos courtesy
Gregory Anderson—class
of 2013

Things to come... (cont'd from p. 2)

Exploring the Edges of Texas, Walt and Isabel Davis —
November 21, 2013 program

After retirement they began a project to explore the entire 4000 mile boundary of the state of Texas. They followed in the footsteps of early explorers, botanists, ornithologists, cartographers, paleontologists, archeologists, and naturalists and recorded their experience. The result is a book by Texas A&M University Press entitled *Exploring the Edges of Texas*.

Walt and Isabel are certified Texas Master Naturalists and belong to the Red River Chapter. Their current home near Commerce, Texas is nestled on four acres of post oak woodland approximately one mile from the South Sulphur River.

Walt currently teaches classes and workshops in watercolor and Sketching for Travelers at art centers around the state and at his home studio.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Send contact information changes to: **1) Susan Pohlen pohlensusan@gmail.com; 2) Rob Roy robt_t_roy@msn.com; and 3) Donna Wolfe donna.wolfe@dentoncounty.com**

Want to stay in the loop?

Email message to chapter: **Donna Wolfe donna.wolfe@dentoncounty.com**

Items to website: **Martha Peet marthawpeet@gmail.com**

Items for newsletter: **Wanda Odum wodum10043@reagan.com**

Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2014

In accordance with Article V, item D.2.a., of the Bylaws of the Elm Fork Chapter, the nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for the officer positions on the 2014 Board of Directors.

President – Van Elliott
Vice President – Jan Deatherage
Secretary – Judi Elliott
Treasurer – Jeri Marold

Each of the above members agreed to serve in the designated position if elected by the membership during the **November 21, 2013 general meeting**. Nominations for all positions will be accepted from the floor prior to the election at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Crowe
Shirley Holland
Carl Patrick
Rob Roy – Chairperson, Nominating Committee