

NATURALIST NEWS

LATE-WINTER



*Hope "springs" eternal...
d. smith (w. odum)*

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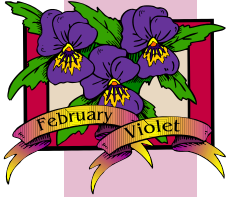
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NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 2014

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

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.



Alex Liebman

Class of 2004

REMEMBERING KATY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Visions of North Texas-next meeting
- ◆ Prairie ablaze-Little bluestem
- ◆ What's lurking in the bush?
- ◆ A keen eye

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Things to come</i>	4
<i>Things accomplished</i>	5
<i>Keeping up</i>	7
<i>Projects on the move —</i>	
<i>Clear Creek</i>	10
<i>Trophy club</i>	11
<i>LBJ grasslands</i>	12
<i>Features —</i>	
<i>Where's the party</i>	14
<i>Night in the woods</i>	15
<i>Funnel web weaver</i>	16
<i>Field notes in focus</i>	17
<i>Last word</i>	18
<i>Who we are</i>	19

KATY JO HAMMON

A valued Elm Fork Chapter member, **Katy Jo Hammon**, passed on January 23, 2014. She leaves behind a dedicated husband and friend, Bill. Her legacy is large and spans many areas. Together they set good examples in the volunteer world and as a married couple involved in life together. Everything from square and round dancing to bog restoration.

Katy was a graduate of North Texas State University and retired from U T Southwestern Medical School after 31 years as a research scientist. Her career included several years as part of the team which won the 1985 Nobel Prize for medicine. She was an active member and officer of the Texas Society of Electron Microscopy.

She spent more than 30 years volunteering and working for the Girl Scouts. Her efforts included working as camp director at Camp Whispering Cedars and leading the restoration of a natural bog habitat at Camp Bette Perot. The Girl Scout Leader at Whispering Cedars announced the bog will be renamed “Katy’s Bog” as a tribute to her contributions there.

She assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife by teaching camping and fishing skills. Her involvement with the Girl Scouts included program development and leadership training. As a biologist, her love of nature extended into involvement with our chapter. She completed a course in Citizen Forestry in Denton and accepted her graduation pin on the morning of January 23.

Our chapter was fortunate she chose to join us in 2004 as she generously shared her talents and skills plus recruiting Bill into joining in 2005. In 2009 she brought in one of her best friends, Beverly Lyttaker.

Katy had accumulated 2,476 service and 299 advanced training hours and was given a certificate of appreciation for her work. Katy and Bill were truly a ‘Dynamic Duo’. They were involved in water monitoring, fire ant studies, bog restoration and angler education. They served as project managers for several projects and in years past received recognition for Project of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and, most recently, a Certificate of Appreciation:

“Bill and Katy have not one, but two projects where they have worked continually for more than seven years: Beaver Creek Ranch and Angler Education Instructor Training. Because they are located a distance from the Denton area it is harder to get supporting help from other Elm Fork Chapter members. This has not stopped them from being dedicated volunteers. They are well known for their work and expertise and are great examples of respected Master Naturalists. They give of their time and labor and never expect a thank you.”

If anyone wishes to make a donation in memory of Katy, the family has designated these two agencies:

- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas
- East Texas Square and Round Dance Association-Teen Scholarship fund

February 20, 2014



photo used by permission

Steve Houser

Regular Meeting—Steve Houser

Visions of North Texas—Steve Houser is Owner/President of a DFW Tree-Care Expert firm; a Certified Texas Master Gardener; a Certified Texas Master Naturalist; a Certified Arborist; Chair Emeritus, City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee; Past President of Dallas Historic Tree Coalition; and Advisor to Vision North Texas. He was among the first arborists to become certified in Texas.

See January 2014 Newsletter for complete information.

March 20, 2014

Regular Meeting: Saving Northern Bobwhite Quail—Kelly Reyna

Dr. Kelly Reyna is Assistant Professor of Biology at UNT and Executive Director of *UNT Quail*. He earned his Master's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M and his Ph.D. in Biology and Developmental Physiology from UNT.

Dr. Reyna's research interests are in the broad areas of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, with much of his work dedicated to the ecology, genetics, physiology, and population dynamics of northern bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, and other game birds. He is presently working on quail and prairie chicken population dynamics and game bird re-introduction techniques.

UNT Quail is an innovative game bird laboratory focused on America's greatest game bird, the Northern Bobwhite. *UNT Quail* fosters sustainable quail populations through innovative research, conservation and education. The organization works with partners to create large corridors of habitat with sustainable populations of quail and other wildlife. The North Texas Quail Corridor is one of the largest quail conservation efforts in the state of Texas.

The mission of *UNT Quail* is to implement adaptive solutions to identify and eliminate quail threats; create wildlife corridors that expand and conserve usable quail habitat; re-introduce wild quail in decimated populations; influence policy decisions that put more quail on the ground; and teach younger generations to be stewards of the land, wildlife, and environment.



Things accomplished...



THOSE RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL MEETING January 16, 2014

