

## *Certificates of Appreciation*

### **Monica Chaffin**

Monica continued to support the chapter communications, assisting in getting emails and announcements out to the members and serving as back up for Donna Wolfe. Her willingness to maintain the communications has strengthened the chapter.

### **Cheryl Ellis**

Cheryl showed endless support and dedication to the chapter training efforts. She served as class moderator and organizer for the 2013 class. Her constant enthusiasm and promotion of the chapter helped generate energy necessary for chapter growth.

### **Katy and Bill Hammon**

Bill and Katy continued to faithfully support the Elm Fork Chapter in 2013, even though residing several counties away from Denton. They both volunteered over 100 hours each while managing their two main projects for which they have worked for over seven years: Beaver Creek Ranch and Angler Education Instructor Training. Katy and Bill demonstrated what it means to be dedicated volunteers, giving of their time and labor and never expecting a thank you.

### **Susan Tartaglino**

Susan assumed the duties for the Eastern Blue Bird nest box monitoring in the LBJ Grasslands, which had been Russell Bilyeu's project. She not only respected Russell's memory by continuing his work, she increased her responsibilities in the area. All during the long, hot summer breeding season, she checked the boxes and offered mealworms, which she raised. In the year 2013 Susan's efforts saw more than 100 blue bird hatchlings have a safe start in life. She selflessly donated her time and labor so we can all enjoy the beauty of an Eastern Blue Bird.

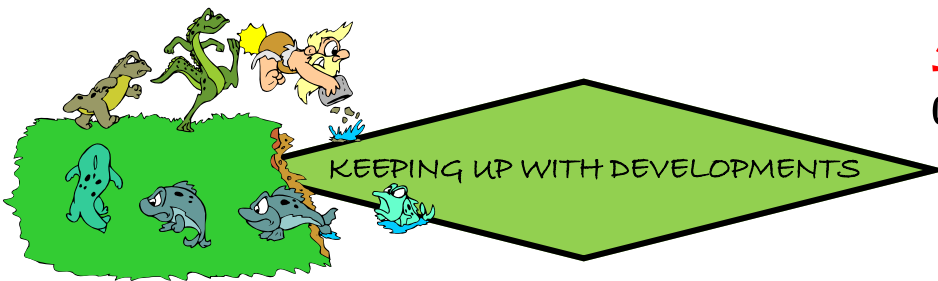
### **Chuck Thetford**

Chuck Thetford was the Project Manager for Lake Ray Roberts Interpretive Center. As learning Master Naturalists, the Students often have difficulty in finding a project where they can contribute. Chuck made it possible for some of the Students to work at the Interpretive Center where they met and greeted the public as they worked toward their certification. He supported the Students and encouraged them to find their place in public service.

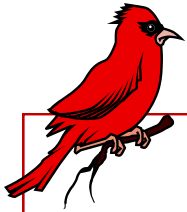
### **Kathy Trotter**

Kathy established a new project at Trophy Club Nature Preserve and supported the 2013 class in special ways. She consistently promoted her project and began developing training classes and opportunities for public outreach.

*Presented at Annual Meeting January 2014*



Please remember that the deadline for **Naturalist News** submission is the Wednesday immediately preceding the monthly board meeting. Anything received after that will be held over to the following month (if appropriate).



*This information comes from Peg La Point*

### Introducing Merlin Bird ID: A New Kind of Birding App (from Cornell Labs)

Information overload is the bane of the beginning bird watcher—as anyone knows who has ever flipped through 40 species of sparrows in a field guide. What if an app could quickly tell you which birds are most likely based on your location, date, and a brief description? Not just which birds theoretically could occur near you, but which birds are actually reported most often by other birders. That's what Merlin Bird ID does. **And it's free**—because we want to make bird watching easier for everyone.

Merlin Bird ID covers 285 of the most common birds of North America (with more on the way). In addition to help with ID, it contains expert tips, more than 1,400 gorgeous photos, and sounds for each species. It's available now for iPhone and other iOS7 devices, and it's coming soon for Android.

- [Download Merlin Bird ID](#) from the App Store
- [Get more details](#) at our Merlin website
- Android user? [Sign up for notification](#) when it's ready

Would you like to know more about our members? A suggestion has been made that the **Naturalist News** spotlight a chapter member periodically with a photo and a short bio to help members get better acquainted. Please send your suggestions to:

[wodum10043@reagan.com](mailto:wodum10043@reagan.com)

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/about/faqs/animals/names.htm>

Great fun for animals watchers – Peg La Point

[http://blog.rmi.org/blog\\_2014\\_01\\_28\\_high\\_renewables\\_today\\_denton\\_texas](http://blog.rmi.org/blog_2014_01_28_high_renewables_today_denton_texas)

Website of interest



On Wednesday, January 22, Kathryn, “**Kami**” Gildersleeve joined our staff as my assistant. Kami has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, is a certified nurse aid, speaks some Spanish and American Sign Language. Kami has spent much of her career in retail and has managerial experience as well. She is dedicated to public service and is an active volunteer with Denton County’s Community Emergency Response Team(CERT). I am excited along with the rest of our Extension staff to have Kami as part of our team. Please come by the office to welcome Kami and introduce yourself.

#### **Janet Laminack**

County Extension Agent – Horticulture  
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
 Joseph A. Carroll Building  
 401 W. Hickory St, Suite 125  
 Denton TX 76201  
 940.349.2883

## Service Opportunity

**W**e are scheduling our first series of work days at Clear Creek.

We will be working with Rodney Love on a variety of needed trail work beginning with widening and putting the finishing touches on the Bois d'arc trail.

**We are currently planning work days on Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM starting next Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and continuing each Friday through March 31st**

We will send out an email each week describing the work for that week and ask that RSVP only if you plan to come.

The work will vary from week to week and in March we will be asking for help to cover the green house.

We will meet at the building at 3310 Collins Rd at 10:00 AM.

Tools are available, but if you have clippers and cutting tools, it would be helpful.

For questions and RSVP's, please contact me:

Dave Rowley  
[d.rowley1@verizon.net](mailto:d.rowley1@verizon.net)  
940-565-9332



*Across the prairie*

*Photo—  
Alex Lieban*

**BRIT**—Join us Saturday, March 1, for Pollen Nation, an interactive First Saturday for the whole family from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Some of the free special events include:

- 10 a.m. "Native Bees of Texas" workshop presented by Michael Warriner of Texas Parks and Wildlife
- 12 p.m. "The Essential Bat" workshop presented by Kate Rugroden of Bat World Sanctuary

There will also be ongoing activities including "Exploring the Pollen Nation" - Family Scavenger Hunt, self-guided Bella activities, Buzz Pollinator Discovery Station, Plant ID, and the Partners in Pollination exhibit.

Botanical Research Institute of Texas  
<http://www.brit.org/>

**Free metamorphosis posters will be given to the first 300 people**



## Service Hour Opportunities

Two schools have requested help with judging their Science Fairs:

**Feb. 6th:** Pecan Creek Elementary in Denton - Kent Hamilton is lead teacher

**Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Olive Stephens Elementary in Shady Shores- Kim Griffith is lead teacher

If you are interested in helping judge the science fair for either of these schools, please contact me at:

[crkesterson@gmail.com](mailto:crkesterson@gmail.com)

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day:** Olive Stephens Elementary is having a big celebration that day and have requested help from the Master Naturalists. More information will be forthcoming but please contact me about this if you are interested in helping out.

[crkesterson@gmail.com](mailto:crkesterson@gmail.com)



## Advanced Training Opportunity Fort Worth SkyWarn spotter training

Local meteorologists are sharing what they know about severe weather—including what made some storms deadly last year for the first time since 2006—in a series of free training sessions now through the end of March.

The sessions offer basic and advanced information from National Weather Service meteorologists, including how to recognize in the clouds that suggest hail, flooding or tornadoes.

For information on the SkyWarn program with dates and locations of other training events, visit the weather services website, [www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd)



StormCloudsPhotography

### If you go:

### Basic and advanced training:

Denton: Saturday, Feb. 22, Hubbard Hall, Texas Woman's University

Basic training from 9 to 11 a.m.; advanced training from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

## Dallas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

**Speaker:** Carol Clark, an amateur botany enthusiast, a Texas Master Naturalist and a long-time member of the Native Plant Society of Texas

**Topic:** Onions of the DFW Metroplex Area

**Monthly meeting:** Monday 7:00 p.m., February 17, 2014, at the upstairs Guadalupe Peak meeting room of the Dallas REI store at 4515 LBJ Fwy, Farmers Branch (635 and Welch Rd).



## State Prairie Conference, May 29-31, Fort Worth, Texas.

For information see: [www.prairiepartner.org/page/2014-sop-conference](http://www.prairiepartner.org/page/2014-sop-conference)

## Prairie, Lakes and Timbers Regional Conference

**2014.** Please use the link below to access the registration site. Each registrant should receive a confirmation email once the registration process is complete. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Debbie Daniel at [danieldebra@hotmail.com](mailto:danieldebra@hotmail.com).

### Prairies, Lakes & Timbers



Registration site link: <http://www.rsvpbook.com/PLTC>



What are your ideas on how to improve the Naturalist News so that it better meets the needs of the Chapter?

Call or email Wanda Odum, [wodum10043@reagan.com](mailto:wodum10043@reagan.com)





## Projects on the move . . .

Project No. P-040708

Photo—Sherrill Campbell

### INTRODUCTION TO CLEAR CREEK

**T**hirty (30) Chapter members attended an introduction to session was held by Clear Creek Co-Project Managers Cheryl Kesterson, Sherrill Campbell, Dave Rowley and City of Denton Special Projects Manager Kathryn Barnett. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint new members and re-acquaint experienced members with the many natural resources available at Clear Creek. The history of the area, current activities, future development plans and planned volunteer opportunities were discussed. The city of Denton has near term plans to construct a parking lot and permanent rest rooms and longer term plans to construct an Education building. The meeting concluded with a 4 mile hike allowing all to see the potential for our increased involvement at Clear Creek.



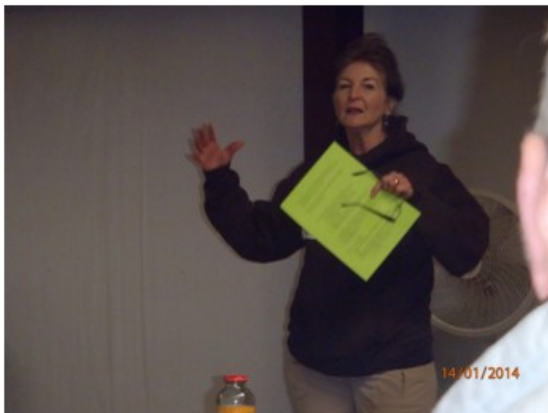
Taking a break

While there has been Elm Fork involvement at Clear Creek on a continuing basis, current project managers believe there is a tremendous opportunity for more chapter interface with the public utilizing this tremendous, under-utilized resource. This meeting was the first step, hopefully, in our taking advantage of the resources at Clear Creek.

Sherrill Campbell

Cheryl Kesterson

Dave Rowley



Cheryl Kesterson

Photo—Sherrill Campbell

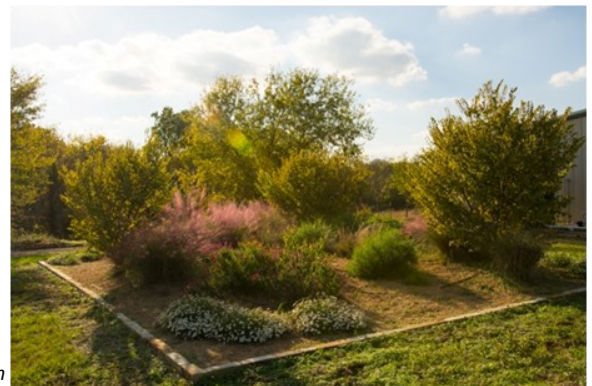


Kathryn Barnett

Photo—Sherrill Campbell



Jr. M N camp on 4-13-12  
Photo—Sherrill Campbell



Ed. building garden  
Photo—Alex Lieban