

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 12

# Naturalist News

DECEMBER 2014

Publication from Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter





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"*

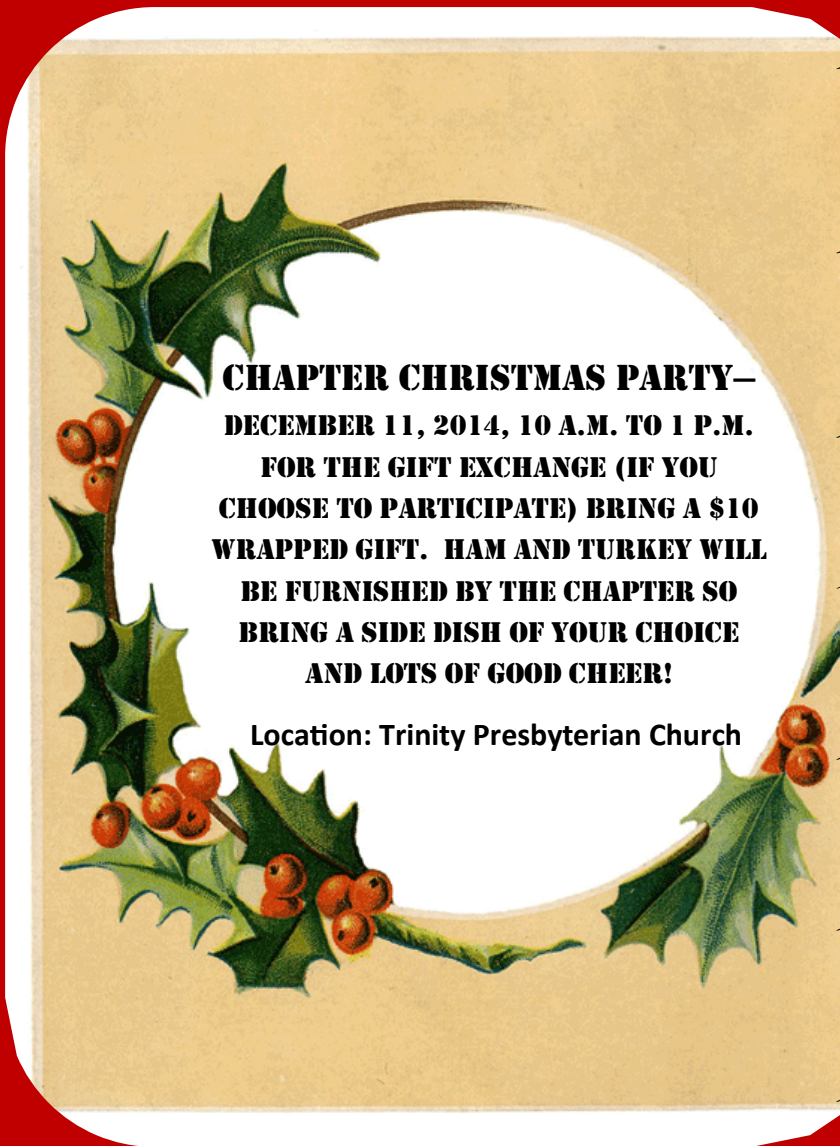
*Our vision. . .in our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future.*

**Special points of interest:**

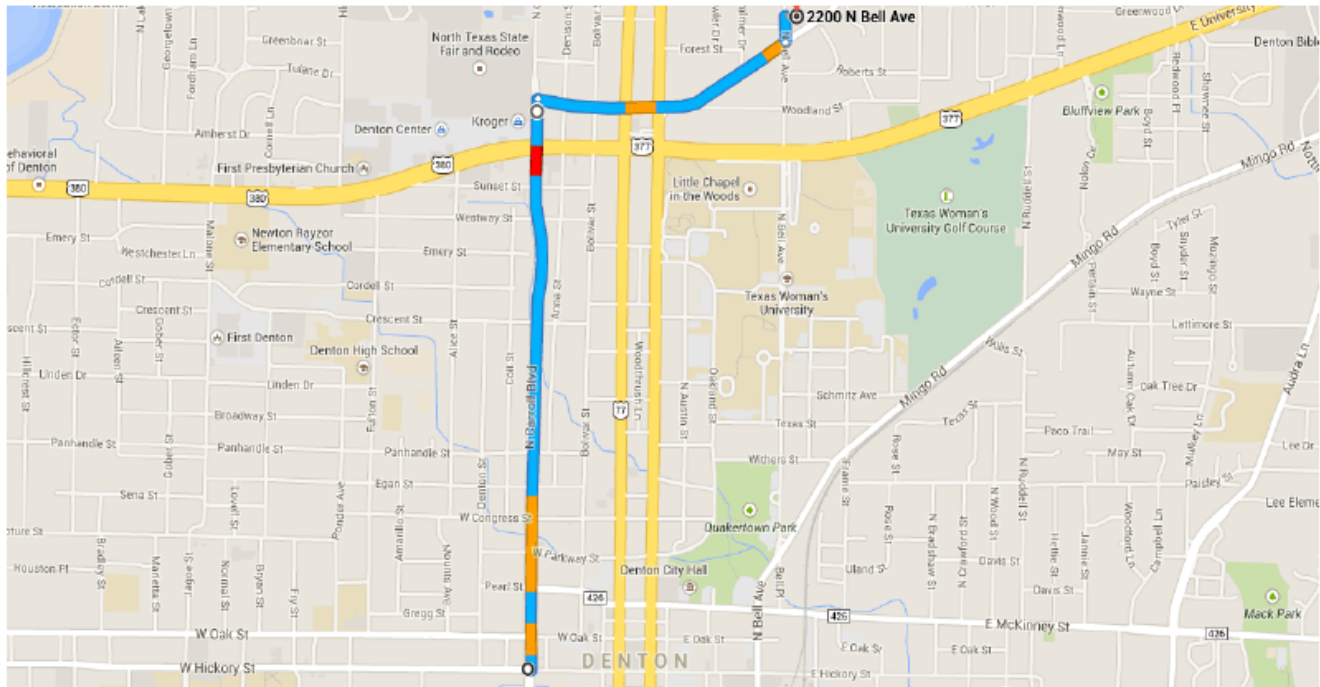
- Christmas festivities
- Outgoing 2014 President
- Pigeonberries
- New member contributor
- Art exhibit photos

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**Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Christmas Lunch and Gift Exchange**  
**Map & Directions to Meeting Location, 2200 N. Bell, Denton, TX**  
**December 11, 2014, 10 AM to 1 PM**



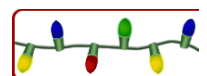
From the intersection of N. Carroll and W. Hickory drive North on N. Carroll, approximately 1.2 miles, to Sherman Drive. Turn Right on Sherman Drive and drive approximately 6/10 of a mile to the intersection of Sherman and Bell. Turn left on Bell at the stoplight and Trinity Presbyterian Church is on the right.

If you are coming from out of town take I 35E to the 377 / Fort Worth Drive [Exit # 465B]. Turn North on 377 / Fort Worth drive. At the intersection of W. Collins and 377 / Fort Worth Drive continue straight (North) on Carroll. When arriving at the intersection of N. Carroll and W. Hickory, follow the map above. A photo of the Church with key points is below.



1. **Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
EFCTMN membership drive location.
2. Front door = West side building.
3. **Meeting facility = Fellowship Hall**  
From front door walk straight into hall.
4. Large parking lot on the right (South side) of the building.
5. Intersection Sherman & Bell.

**Assistance needed, call**  
**214-287-4350**







President Van Elliott — Photo courtesy Larry Brennan

## The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts

During a recent presentation to the 2014 class, one slide gathered quite a positive response. "The Whole Is Greater Than The Sum Of Its Parts", which is the inspiration for this last newsletter article. It was to show as individuals we may do a few things and get recognition, but as a group, which is far greater than any one individual, we accomplish much more.

Obviously we were busy and productive. I will leave it at that, no more stats.

Those who came before me laid a strong foundation and through the years the Chapter has successfully built on that base. I have been fortunate to work with some of the past presidents and our Advisor. Without their help and guidance it would have been a far greater struggle. A sincere thank you for all the advice and support goes to: Susan Pohlen, Rob Roy, Dave Rowley and Janet Lamina. Also to my mentors, Board of

### The Whole Is Greater Than The Sum of Its Parts



Directors and fellow members.

Whatever successes have been accomplished this year were not because of what any one individual did, but because of what we, as a Chapter, did together.

This last article is the hardest, as I don't know what to say to the members other than thank you.

The big issue is how to tell you how much we have accomplished as a Chapter and what each of you mean to me. Yes a daunting task, but I will try to be brief.

Thank you all for the nice compliments about how well the chapter has been functioning. Some of you have tried to give Judi and me credit. However, we think our accomplishments belong to the Chapter because we just tried to live up to the expectations of those who came before us.

With support and commitment we have followed our vision of making Elm Fork Chapter known for 'Advisory, Education and Outreach' in the community as well as within the Texas Master Naturalist Program®. More opportunities come our way every day and we get stronger. Soon the new officers will be installed and we will be off on another great journey. The road taken may be different, but I look forward to being the Past President and witnessing the whole of our organization being greater than the sum of our individual parts.

Your Board members have a special energy. The meetings are meaningful, fun and productive. I had the privilege of leading this group, but it was their willingness to contribute and cooperate that made the effort successful.

Recently we asked the Chapter for help in choosing a volunteer of the year. One response was "how do you choose one when there are 20 or 30 who would easily qualify?" WOW! What an example of parts contributing to the greater whole.

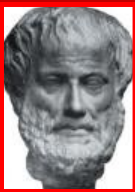
Thank each of you for being the person you are. My life is richer because you are part of it. Take care of each other, spread that special brand EFCTMN love and happy holidays to all.

The Chapter took an interest and 25 responses later we were able to choose that special someone you will meet at the February 19, 2015 Awards Ceremony.



*"Synergy is the interaction of multiple elements in a system to produce an effect different from or greater than the sum of their individual effects. The term "synergy comes from Greek word "synergia συνεργία from synergos, συνεργός,*

*meaning "working together".*



Aristotle

### Summary of what this Board has done this year:

- ◆ TMN issues - 21, EFC Issues - 92, Board & General meetings - 25 and member assists - 23. Roll it all together and there are 161 different aspects of chapter business
- ◆ Training Committee graduated 31 for a growth of rate of 30% over the last 2 years
- ◆ Active Members from 117 to 138
- ◆ Average member attendance at General Meetings Jan - Nov = 69. November set a record with 88.



Shook a lot of hands and gave some hugs too.



### The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2014 Is On the Move

Here is some of the art work that has been displayed at Denton Senior Center, Good Samaritan Denton Village, and November MN meeting.



Fritz Poppe, Marilyn Blanton, Dorothy Thetford helped to arrange the art work.

The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2014 featuring the artwork of fourth grade students from five local elementary students will be displayed at the following locations:

Texas Woman's University, Blagg Huey Library  
— 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of December – January 2015 —

University of North Texas, EESAT Bldg.  
— February 2015 —

Denton Public Libraries  
— March 2015 —

Denton Redbud Festival, Civic Center  
— April 18, 2015 —

Photos courtesy — Dorothy Thetford, Marilyn Blanton, Fritz Poppe



Betty Mullenweg, Shari Brand, Dorothy Thetford pause to pose

I hope you have an opportunity to see the exhibit. The facilities will display the award winning paintings and as many additional pieces as space allows. Almost 500 students participated in the project. Please check with the facilities for their hours, particularly during the holidays.

Marilyn Blanton, Project Manager



Good Samaritan residents viewing art



Checking it out



Marilyn tweaking

