



Courtney Blevins, Texas  
Forester, TAMU

## WORKSHOPS AT WORK

**E**lm Fork chapter members have the best of all worlds. Just mention a subject and, hokus pokus, somebody will provide an informed speaker, schedule a meeting location, send out invitations, take reservations, unlock the gate and welcome you to the event....with open arms t'boot!

Such was the case with the TREE ID Workshop, but weather postponed the original plan and, subsequently, some of the interested members were not able to attend on the alternate date. But, the show had to roll because the TAMU Regional Forester of our local 25 counties, Courtney Blevins, had a mission, and it was time-sensitive. Yes, he needed to teach us how to identify our native trees without any leaves, blooms, or fruit. And timing was of the essence.

Courtney discussed morphology of trees to emphasize that every species has different bark pattern and texture, different leaf or leaflet shapes, veins and edges, unique flowers buds, the three stem arrangements, plus the obvious differences in shapes and sizes of seeds (even among the acorns of oak trees).

However, without getting a hands-on connection with a tree, or being able to check for leaves or seeds on the ground below, Courtney emphasized that we can begin learning to identify trees by recognizing the overall silhouette of a tree without leaves or fruit. And, thus, his workshop was appropriately scheduled before buds and leaves start popping out on trees.

After an interesting presentation inside the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center educational building on February 26, 2015, most of the attendees bundled up (in 35 degree temperature) and hit the trail for Courtney's hands-on tree-walk.

The workshop was educational, informative, enjoyable and fun. If Courtney offers to share his time with our chapter again, don't miss his presentation and delightful personality.

In the meantime, see if you can identify the naked trees around your neighborhood. If you have any tree questions, Courtney offered his contact information as: [dblevins@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:dblevins@tfs.tamu.edu).

Thanks to Rob Roy for scheduling and re-scheduling this workshop.

Dorothy Brown Thetford  
Master Naturalist Class 2001

Workshop attendees bundled  
up for tree-walk



Bur oak (Quercus  
macrocarpa)



Honey mesquite (Prosopis  
glauca)



Post oak (Quercus stellata)



Texas red oak  
(Quercus buckleyi)

# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Elm Fork Chapter planning ahead

March 5,12,19,26 SWAt planning and work meeting 1:00-4:00 p.m.

March 11 Natural News submission deadline

March 12 Monthly Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 19 Regular monthly chapter meeting 9:30 a.m.

March 20 UNT Wildflower Garden work day 9:00—3:00

March 24 Jr. MN monthly planning meeting 1:00 p.m.;

March 24 Appreciation Reception

April 8 April Naturalist News submission deadline

April 18 Bird migration

May 16 LLELA's Big Sit

Oct. 27 All About Bats

**HELP ME**

## Naturalist News Needs You

Naturalist News deadline  
for next issue is April 8.

We REALLY need flora  
and fauna photo-  
graphs as well as Pro-  
ject updates and your  
flora and fauna articles.

January				February				March				April			
S	M	T	W	F	S	M	T	W	F	S	M	T	W	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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New videos from the February General Meeting are now available to everyone on our YouTube channel.

Elm Fork YouTube channel  
Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter

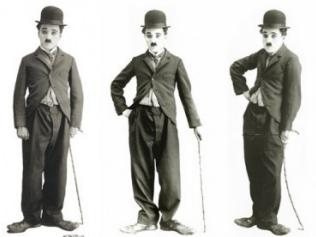
Elm Fork Chapter Feb General Meeting  
<http://youtu.be/HaiEOObZfgA>

Elm Fork Chapter Awards Meeting 2015  
<http://youtu.be/i8v0hMdeViU>

**SWAt ( Science with Attitude) Planning and Work Days—Volunteers Needed!**

- ✓ **Feb. 26:** 1pm-4pm, 6th Floor, Resource Room
- March 5,12,19,& 26** 1pm-4pm, 6th Floor, Resource Room
- April 23** 1pm-4pm, 6th Floor, Resource Room

Contact: Susan Kilpatrick [s\\_kilpatrick@verizon.net](mailto:s_kilpatrick@verizon.net)<mailto:[s\\_kilpatrick@verizon.net](mailto:s_kilpatrick@verizon.net)>



Make your Naturalist News editor smile with new materials. PLEASE send to newsletter:

wodum10043@reagan.com



**Entomology Specialist Training Sept 28- Oct 2! - AT**

This year's program which will be held **September 28 through October 2** in Conroe, TX. We will make use of the excellent facilities at the Monroe County Extension Office, the site of our 2009 training.

We are not yet set up to take registrations, but I wanted to let you know so you can save the date.

To read more about the program, see my recent blog post<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/2015/02/03/save-the-date/> and visit the MVES website<<http://agrilife.org/insectsspecialist/>>.

Michael E. Merchant, PhD, BCE  
Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



**Junior Master Naturalist:** Planning meetings the **last Tuesday each month Jan-Oct**, 1pm. Only 3 meetings before the next camp! We are planning a second camp this year.

Also, Trophy Club has asked us back for the summer. And, Denia always asks for additional summer camp programs.

If you are interested in working with kids come join us—[janhodson@ntin.net](mailto:janhodson@ntin.net)



## UNT Wildflower Garden Spring Equinox Workday



*Help butterflies, bees and other wildlife in North Texas!*

**Friday, 3/20, 9 AM – 3 PM**

- **WHAT:** Raking, pruning, pulling weeds, and tilling to prep the garden for sowing seeds on 3/28. Arrive and leave as you wish.
- **WHERE:** Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Garden south of Apogee Stadium next to the Waranch Tennis Complex.  
*GPS coordinates: 33.199400, -97.158405*  
*Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/2zneX>*
- **REQUIRED:** Yard work attire (pants, long sleeve shirt, closed-toe shoes, etc.), a water bottle and a good attitude!

The UNT Wildflower Garden effort aims to cultivate a landscape using native plant species that are beneficial to wildlife. A specific goal of this project is to create a rest place for Monarch butterflies during their great migration across North America, in addition to other pollinators such as bees and birds. Visit us on Facebook for more information and tell your friends!

<https://www.facebook.com/untwildflowergarden>

RSVP or questions to [facgis@unt.edu](mailto:facgis@unt.edu), or call 940-369-8049



### All About Bats

October 27, 2014 @ 7 p.m.  
Flower Mound Public Library

The Flower Mound Public Library will host the program "All About Bats" on Monday, October 27 at 7 p.m. Learn all about bats in this family-friendly program! The presentation will cover bat biology and habitat; species of bats, including Texas bats; and bat and human interactions. Presenter **Scott Kiester** is a

Texas Master Naturalist who has volunteered with the Houston Bat Project as a "Bridge Host" at the Waugh Street Bridge bat colony. A retired oil and gas geologist, he is completing a Master's degree in conservation biology studying prairie ecology and restoration. To register, call 972.874.6165 or email [fmpl@flower-mound.com](mailto:fmpl@flower-mound.com).

### Appreciation Reception

**Tuesday, March 24      5:30 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Emily Fowler Central Library  
502 Oakland St., Denton, Texas**

This is an Appreciation Reception for the students and art teachers that participated in the Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2014. There is no program so you can come anytime to view the award winning artwork, meet the art teachers and see the students show off their artwork. I hope you can come to represent the Texas Master Naturalist.

*Marilyn Blanton  
Project Manager*

"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"...  
"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine..."

— Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*



### Bird Migration

**April 18, 2015  
1:00 p.m.**

**at The Flower Mound  
Public Library**

The seasonal migration of birds has fascinated people for over 3,000 years. In this program, find out what we know about bird migration and the questions that still remain. Learn about some of the birds that either migrate to or through North Texas each year.

Following the program, join us at Heritage Park in Flower Mound. Presenter Scott Kiester, a certified Texas Master Naturalist, will lead a bird walk at the park to look for birds showcased in the program.

Bring your binoculars if you'll join us for the bird walk at Heritage Park.



**To register, email [fmpl@flower-mound.com](mailto:fmpl@flower-mound.com) or  
call 972.874.6165.**



Flower Mound Public Library  
3030 Broadmoor Lane  
Flower Mound, TX 75022  
972.874.6200  
[www.fmlibrary.net](http://www.fmlibrary.net)

From Scott Kiester

## ALL BIRDERS WELCOME!

LLELA is sponsoring their first ever Big Sit Fundraiser!

Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 AM 'til Noon

So what is a Big Sit, you ask? Well, if you've ever wanted to bird while kicking back in a comfortable lawn chair and have the cooler within arm's reach, the Big Sit is for you!

Participants, individuals or teams of up to five, will be directed to a 17 foot diameter circle somewhere on LLELA's 2000 acres of natural habitat. Set up shop. Settle into your circle. Relax, sit back and for 5 hours Saturday morning ID each species that comes within sight or earshot of your spot... just think, no slogging along muddy trails tripping on hidden roots and no warbler-neck! All levels of birder, spotting scopes, bird guides etc. welcome. Potty breaks and short jaunts outside the circle to confirm an ID allowed.

Then enjoy lunch at the Cicada Pavilion, hotdogs with all the trimmings, chips, soft drinks and s'mores, provided by the Friends of LLELA. After lunch feel free to wander LLELA'S trails, explore the Elm Fork's riparian corridor, the adjacent bottomland forests or our blackland prairie.

All participants, individuals or teams, are requested to solicit at least one donor or as an alternative make a minimum \$25.00 donation. Donor contributions are on a per species identified basis, i.e. thirty species ID'd at a buck a bird = \$30.00 donation. All funds raised will be used to refurbish and expand LLELA's nest box programs and to recondition the low blind on Bittern Marsh.

For more information and/or a registration packet, email: [llelabigsit@gmail.com](mailto:llelabigsit@gmail.com)

# LLELA's Big Sit

Birding's most Sedentary Event



May 16, 2015 6:30 AM 'til Noon

Info at [LLELAFriends.org](http://LLELAFriends.org)