

NATURALIST NEWS

PUBLICATION FROM TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

January 2016

Volume 17 Issue 1



Barn owl in flight

Bing.com

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This first issue for 2016 of Chapter's Naturalist News is dedicated to all the contributors who makes this publication possible. Thank you—Editor

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Jonathan Reynolds captured this photo
at *Lake Brownwood State Park*



Gray Fox
(*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

F

ound throughout most of the southern half of North America from southern Canada to northern Venezuela and Colombia, the gray fox is adaptable, usually more wary than fearful, and quite handsome. It may be difficult to appreciate the coloration of this fox until you see her for yourself. With a mostly gray back and reddish sides, she has a white throat with beautiful red markings. To top it off, the middle of the back is usually black and she sports a magnificent, long, bushy tail with a black tip.

Not large, weighing between 8 and 12 pounds, the gray fox is smaller than some well-fed domestic cats and moves quite gracefully... much like a cross between a cat and a dog; however, all fox.

visitwimberley.com/critters/grayFox.shtml

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See You Next Month at Annual Recognition ceremonies





Projects at Work

From Marilyn Blanton

* **The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2015** will be displayed *
* at the TWU Blagg-Huey Library through the end of January. *
* The artwork will be exhibited in the Eagle Exhibit Hall in the *
* EESAT Building at UNT during the month of February. *
* The staff at the library has a beautiful display set up. I hope *
* you have an opportunity to see it. All of the first and second *
* place winners as well as some of the third place winners are *
* on display. *



Class of 2015 1st Workday on Clear Creek Greenhouse Project

December 1 began with a Project Workday for the Class of 2015. Becky Bertoni and I arrived early and discussed what project was most urgent with Jonathan Smith, Clear Creek Project Manager. The greenhouse was at the top of his list. As people began to arrive for workday, the class gathered around and took instructions from Jonathan. The 2015 volunteers divided into teams as follows:

Team Table – Bruce Babcock, Larry Legg, Dan Prins

Team Sideboard – Brenda Maston, Nicole Swanstrom

Team Seeders and Gatherers– Toni Benjamin, Becky Bertoni, Sheri Bratton, Mary Cissell, Kaye Jackson, Nellie Nelson, Cecily Pegues, Harriet Powell, Cindy Ross, Sandy Stickane, Denise Thompson, Erin Tran,

Photographer – Harriet Powell

Journalist – Brenda Maston



The manly table team trudged through the sand and muck with their wagon load of pallets. Then the sorting began and assembling of the tables. Dan will bring more wood to continue building tables. My sideboard partner and I managed to finish stapling the wood strips to the plastic bottom on one side of the greenhouse. Our team recycled rulers to reinforce the joints. After running out of sideboards,

I left to document the progress of each group. Work still in progress.

The conglomerate of Seeders and Gatherers first planted seedling trays with an assortment of native plant seeds from Jonathan.

The group fractured with the majority following Jonathan through the prairie and gathering seeds for future planting. Harriet began to shoot action photos and Sandy Stickane, Kaye Jackson, and Mary Cissell grabbed a rake, evening the gravel floor in the greenhouse. Seeding and gathering will be an ongoing process to continue the cycle of the greenhouse.

