

# FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS



**Baby downy—comes from the nursery gallery  
of Clay Thurmond**

*Featuring Master Naturalist photographers—  
flora and fauna as you see them*



## Projects on Target and Elm Fork Chapter Around the Community



Clay Thurmond took this photo of a happy-looking fellow, Scott Kiester in the Flower Mound Library manning the “booth” at Carol Clark’s presentation—**Monarch Butterfly Flight School**

### Back To Nature 2017

From Bob Ross

Our Elm Fork Chapter was well represented at the latest Back To Nature festival in Trophy Club on March 18<sup>th</sup>. EFC members manned various booths to inform the attendees about Texas Master Naturalists and chapter recruiting, angler education with demonstrations, animal track displays, and monarch displays with seed packet handouts.

It was a beautiful day with sunny skies and temperatures in the low 80’s. The festival attendance exceeded over 1,000 people. Children, adults, young and old roamed the grounds walking past each booth and taking in all the splendor of a fun day in the park and nature.

New to the festival this year was an In-N-Out food truck. In-N-Out gave away, FREE, 830 burgers along with drinks and chips. Needless to say, they were a big hit with everyone, as shown by the photo of folks standing in line.

In-N-Out food Truck



EFC members working in the booths were: Sheri Bratton, Kevin Frerich, Tom Mills, Sarah Goodrich, Veronica Ruangskul, and Bob Ross. At the other end of the field, Jan Hodson and Judy Riley were presenting Backyard

Bass and Animal Track activities. Also working the festival for Trophy Club Parks and Recreation was former member from the 2013 training class, Jacob Lohse. Everyone worked hard making this year’s Back To Nature a success.



Sheri Bratton, Kevin Frerich, Veronica Ruangskul

Booth attendees



Photo by Judy Riley at Backyard Bass activity

## Green Acres November to April

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e have been busy at Green Acres with a great crew: EFCMN folks (many in the 2016 class), Greater Lewisville Newcomers Club Garden Group members, and even a neighbor! EFC folks who have helped are: Becky Bertoni, Larry Brennan, Will Carlton, Mary Cissell, Linda Cox, Amy Garrett, John and Janice Goetz, Sharon McAuley, Andi Milton, Brenda Tucker, and Marilyn Turnage.



Amy, Will, Becky, Brenda, GLNC Garden Group Linda



neighbor Nancy, GLNC Garden Group Sandi, Amy (in the back), Brenda

In the process we have received support and donations from many: Chuck Jennings, Josh Brown, and Clayton Litton from the Town of Flower Mound, Friends of LLELA: Bill Freiheit, Martha Peet, Scott Kiester, Keep Flower Mound Beautiful: Marilyn Lawson, the Monarch Waystation program: Tom Klrwan, Veronica Ruangskul, Will Carlton, Trinity Forks NPSOT: Fonda Fox. We also gave back by sharing plants, particularly frostweed.

In January the seven bluebird boxes were cleaned out and brought up to snuff (pinning them to their posts really was a great improvement!) by Larry. In March there has been nest building and egg laying, and now in early April we have nestlings in three boxes! Larry banded some babies on April 3—first ever at Green Acres. (See photos elsewhere in this Newsletter.)



Larry banding

In January we did some trimming and then in March the Monarch Station was cleaned up for the spring. We removed encroaching plants and put in plants donated to us at the Monarch Waystation program on March 21 and from the April 1 Trinity Forks NPSOT, and also planted fennel, frogfruit, and passion vine, and some seeds: orange cosmos, cleome, and fennel. Bluebonnets, salvia greggii, Henry Duelberg salvia, a four nerve daisy, and our new prairie verbena are blooming there.

The wildflower area has three hugelkultur areas (12 inch piles of stumps, tree branches, and for us mostly mulch). The hugelkultur idea is to avoid competition for our prairie plants from the bermuda, Johnson grass, etc, that are present in the area; it was recommended to us by LLELA folks. We worked on these areas in November through March. The Town of Flower Mound dumped the mulch for us on the areas, and installed a water spigot for us there, too.

Two of the hugelkultur areas are planted with donations from LLELA and Trinity Forks NPSOT, using soil funded by Keep Flower Mound Beautiful. We added a couple Chickasaw plum trees along the edge of our area; looking forward to their fragrant early blooms for the pollinators next spring! We've discovered other plants growing already at Green Acres—crow poison, toadflax, white heliotrope, southern dewberry, yarrow, ten-petal anemone, evening primrose, blue-eyed grass--that we are digging up and planting, too. And also an EFCMN sign is on display now in the wildflower prairie.



longhorn neighbors

The iris beds are holding their own. We had some blooming spring bulbs, a few white irises so far, and lyre leaf sage is blooming, with day lilies are on the way.

Our longhorn neighbors keep us company occasionally, and we spotted a new baby in March. On April 3 there were two more gamboling about.

More to come: We will have a large fence section sign, reinforced with steel from Amy Garrett—"Davis Wildflower Prairie". (Green Acres was donated to Flower Mound by the Davis family.) And we will be receiving green milkweed plants from the Monarch Waystation Program that we will use at the Monarch Station and in the wildflower prairie.

What we need: We are looking for an idea for plant ID signs and a volunteer to make them—opportunity for volunteer hours if you are interested!

**“Ecology of North Central Texas/Cross Timbers”**—hike on April 4 through the property of Susan Pohlen. The trek was arduous and challenging but attendees state it was well worth it.



Fritz Poppe, Dorothy Thetford, Dave Ford in deep listening mode—photo Jonathan Reynolds



Looking through Dave Ford’s microscope at Hackberry blossom—photo Janice Goetz



Susan pointing out and explaining along the way—photo J. Reynolds

Listening to Dave Ford prior to hike—photo Jonathan Reynolds



Group photo by Janice Goetz



Spotted along the trail were this (?) shelf mushroom and Spiderwort spp (probably, *T. occidentalis* according to I.D. from D. Thetford)

Photos from Jonathan Reynolds

