

Urban Forestry cont'd

Being persistent little buggers, UFAC started lobbying the city council again in 2015 calling for a division or department of urban forestry. Unlike before, UFAC's recommendations received significant support. UFAC members were apprehensive, having been stung in the past, but they briefed the Quality of Life Committee again in early 2016. The full council was briefed in August of 2016 and the effort received unanimous support.

Shock and awe would describe our response. UFAC started to celebrate until we realized the division could still be cut from the budget before its approval in October. UFAC members collectively held our breath and contained our celebrations—until the budget item *was* approved in October. Back to dancing in the streets, with our safety vests on—of course.

Steve Houser

Bill Seaman

Trustees

Texas Historic Tree Coalition



Big Spring Burr Oak (from dallastrinitytrails.blogspot.com/)

Article from Joanne Fellows (Dec 2013)

Oyster Mushrooms, *Pleurotus sp.*

On our trail hike at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center we found this wonderful display of Oyster mushrooms growing up a fallen log. The gills on the caps' bottom surfaces extend onto the thick stems. Oyster Mushrooms produce white spores. *Pleurotus ostreatus* is the most widely eaten and *Pleurotus populinus*, specializes on growing on poplars, and cottonwoods.



Bobwhite Quail by w. odum

The Bobwhite is the most widespread and familiar quail in North America. Except during breeding season, these birds can be found in coveys. Bobwhites are plump and short-tailed with the male's plumage on the body being chestnut, brown, and white, and he sports a blackish plumage on the head. The throat is white plus a white eye line. The female looks much the same but the throat and eye line is buffy and the head plumage is brown.

The male emits an "advertising call" of a whistled bobwhite or bob-bob-white.

As we are well aware, the Bobwhite quail has been in decline throughout the past half century most likely due to habitat loss and changes in agriculture. So conservation is a high priority. They live in pine forests, overgrown fields, shrubby areas and grassland; and respond well to areas managed by prescribed fires.

Quail are dependent on "edge" areas so they can move quickly between nesting, watering and feeding and use as escape cover. They need a wide variety of native plant species such as: Grama grass, Broom snakeweed, Mesquite, Hackberry, Sumac, Wild grape and Wild plum.

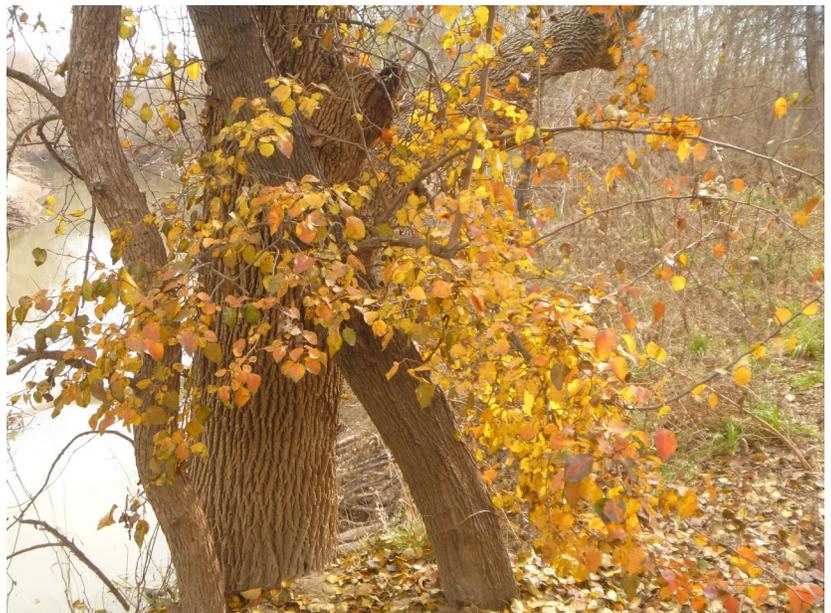
Such a beautiful bird—observe the colors and patterning. Become a "bird connoisseur". Try it. You'll like it!

Information for this article comes from: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/northern-bobwhite/>; www.allaboutbirds.org ; tpwd.texas.gov/; and random thoughts from the wo(a)ndering mind of w odum

Bobwhite quail—Sharon Barr



—Sit a Spell and Enjoy
the View—



At Clear Creek—Jonathan Reynolds



Wren by Ken Agee and shared by Jan Hodson—Ken says they are around pretty much all year.



Buck in tall grass from Alex Lieban



Pages of This and That



The Board of Directors Annual Planning Meeting on January 5, 2017

The Board's annual planning meeting evolves with each new year. I am in a unique position to observe the changes since I have served on the Board for several years in a couple of capacities. I am continually surprised and pleased at the level of talent the chapter members who represent us bring to the table. I have seen how the board as a whole changes with each member addition and position shifts; but also how it remains the same in that each year we can be assured of the dedication of these board members who lead the chapter.

At the meeting, old goals and objectives made way for new! Our President Don Fikes will be sharing with the chapter the things your board will be striving to accomplish during this year as the plans further develop. The chapter is poised to accomplish great things, so grab your outdoor gear and hold on to your hat. We are off to the races!



NOW HIRING

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NATURALIST NEWS is looking for contributors!

Articles, photos, news tidbits and announcements needed for the newsletter. Send to w. odum, editor

For the upcoming educational lecture series at BRIT, visit: <http://www.brit.org/events/lecture-series> and/or http://brit.org/events/classes_workshops

1. **Permaculture** - This year, resolve to take a creative and proactive approach to your garden! The four workshops for this series are:



- Introduction to Permaculture for Home Gardeners (2/4/2017)
- Introduction to Vegetable Gardening (3/4/2017)
- Raised Beds and Irrigation (4/1/2017)
- Building a Herb Spiral (5/6/2017)

For more information about these classes, please [click here](#). To register, please [click here](#).

2. **BRIT Brown Bags Return for their 13th Year!**

For the past 13 years, BRIT has played host to the Brown Bag series which is designed to create community-wide conversation about a diverse range of important and rapidly developing topics. We've brought in speakers from around the world who have discussed topics ranging from cows with GPS to ethnobotanical research in Belize. BRIT Brown Bags give scientists and speakers a forum for sharing the most current information about their areas of expertise and allow the public to interact with leading members of the local, national, and international scientific community. In 2017 we will be welcoming speakers from the Fort Worth Zoo, Tarleton State University, and The Fort Worth Nature Center in addition to speakers from BRIT. And, in honor of BRIT's 30th Anniversary, our own Barney Lipscomb will present "A 30 Year Celebration of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas" on October 3rd. All events are free and open to the public and take place in the BRIT Commons from noon – 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. For more information please visit our [webpage](#).



Information from Becky Bartoni