



**Speaker for May meeting**

From Rita Lokie



<http://texasinsects.tamu.edu>

**Leah Patton** will present “Tarantulas in Texas” at the Chapter meeting on May 18, 2017. She will discuss the Texas tarantula population and her work with the Hentzi Project, which is a ten year attempt to reintroduce a population of the Hentzi tarantula into a controlled Wildlife area.

Leah is a local spider expert. She has rescued tarantulas from several sites throughout North Texas where they have lost their homes to development or invasive species. She has been collecting and raising baby spiders for release at several controlled Wildlife areas including LLELA. She is often referred to as the “Spider Queen”.



*Male Yellow-headed Blackbird—Ken Agree shared by Jan Hodson*

**W**ith a golden head, a white patch on black wings, and a call that sounds like a rusty farm gate opening, the Yellow-headed Blackbird demands your attention. Look for them in western and prairie wetlands, where they nest in reeds directly over the water. They're just as impressive in winter, when huge flocks seem to roll across farm fields. Each bird gleans seeds from the ground, then leapfrogs over its flock mates to the front edge of the ever-advancing troupe.

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/yellow-headed\\_blackbird/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/yellow-headed_blackbird/id)



*Female Yellow-headed Blackbird—Ken Agree shared by Jan Hodson*



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

Marilyn Blanton, Project Manager

**I**t was all smiles at the **Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2016 Appreciation Reception**. About 300 attended the reception at the DISD Professional Development Center on April 26. There were lots of happy students, teachers, parents, grandparents, display site hosts and project volunteers. I would like to thank everyone for their help to make this a fun event.

Here's a few photos of students and teachers at the reception.





April 5, 2017 JMN Camp Planning meeting: (left-right) Erin Tran, MN/MG; John Williams, MG/MN; Lee Ann Yates, MG; Coral Gates, MG; Leah Knack, MG; Dave Ford, MN; Claire Kamego, MN; Not shown: Toni Benjamin, MN; Theresa Page, MN.

From Theresa Page

## Planning the Fun!

A group of Science with Attitude (SWAt) members are busy planning the next Junior Master Naturalist (JMN) Camp scheduled at Global Spheres for June 26-30, 9am-12 noon each day. To date the group, led by Erin Tran and consisting of both Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners, have developed themes for each of the five days of the JMN camp. Each theme focuses on some aspect of the environment with a mix of activities that help children (ages 6-11) explore nature in its many forms. These are the themes being developed by the group:

- **Biology I: Invertebrates:** Examining the biology underlying how invertebrates use their senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling and tasting. Participating in related crafts, games and experiments such as examining animal mouthparts and extracting DNA from a banana. Outside activity: observing animals using their senses in nature.
- **Biology II: Vertebrates:** Observing what animals eat and categorizing them based on the type of food consumed. Participating in related crafts, games and a variety of experiments such as digestion of a carbohydrate to demonstrate vertebrate characteristics. Outside activity: observing vertebrates consuming or hunting for food.
- **Botany:** Learning about plant parts: roots, leaves and flowers. Showing propagation by leaf cuttings. Outside activities: Demonstration of pollination by bees. Prepare a seed planting in pots made from newspaper. Participate in a game of leaf identification.
- **Climate and Weather:** Discussion of lightning, rain, tornadoes and rainbows using hands-on experiments. Outside activity: building an anemometer to measure the speed of wind.
- **Geology:** Discussing the earth's atmosphere, the lithosphere and atmospheric pressure. Terms to be covered include: classes of rocks, fossils, volcano, lava, granite and minerals. Outside activity: Using iron filings and magnets to show magnetic poles. Pouring layers of colored sand in a bottle to demonstrate sedimentary layers.

We will need lots of volunteers to help with the many activities that are planned for the Camp. Volunteer for a couple of hours or join us for the whole week. Since this is an approved SWAt activity, service hours may be counted for either (but not both) MN or MG.

Submitted by:

Theresa Page (MN 2005)

Claire Kamego (MN 2012)

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## JMN Preschool 'Fishing Fun' Class

On April 7, a Science with Attitude (SWAt) group held a Junior Master Naturalist Preschool fishing class for children in Denton at Cross Timbers Park, and again on April 22 at Denia Park. Theresa Page, MN, served as the class Leader. Part of the lesson plan for these classes came from the 'Fishing Fun' section of the *Growing Up Wild* manual. It includes a number of craft ideas, games, and other information on fishing. [[www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm](http://www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm)]



One of the children attending the *Fishing Fun* class, four year-old Anna, enthusiastically shared the joys of fishing as she told stories about the many fish she had caught at her grandmother's pond. Another child, Elliot, age 10, caught three sunfish in the Cross Timbers pond--, with the guidance of our fishing expert, Don Page. When Elliot caught a fish, the other children would excitedly rush over to look at it. And,

every time Don removed one of Elliot's fish from the crankbait lure, it would quickly leap back into the pond and swim away. *Much to the dismay of all!*



Don Page, who has 50 plus years of fishing experience, told fishing tales as he demonstrated a number of fishing techniques and explained why the trout flies he had tied looked like bugs. The kids, parents, and volunteers appeared to enjoy this part immensely. Don also brought several small cane fishing poles with hand carved bobbbers and colorful paper clips for hooks that he had made for the younger children to use while fishing in the pond. The raw cane for the poles was donated by Doris Laing who is the mother of Lee Ann Yates. Lee Ann is a Master Gardener and a member of our SWAt group.

With the guidance of Anissa Stinson, MG, and Claire Kamego, MN, the children engaged in a game of 'Freddy the Fish' at Denia Park. 'Freddy the Fish' is an educational game developed by the Master Gardeners and is used to demonstrate how to better protect the aquatic environment. Erin Tran, MN/MG demonstrated the same game at Cross Timbers Park. In our SWAt classes, we use curriculum kits from either or both Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners. This cooperative project is not only a fun and rewarding way to provide educational opportunities for our community, it is a great learning experience for SWAt members.

Submitted by: Theresa Page, MN