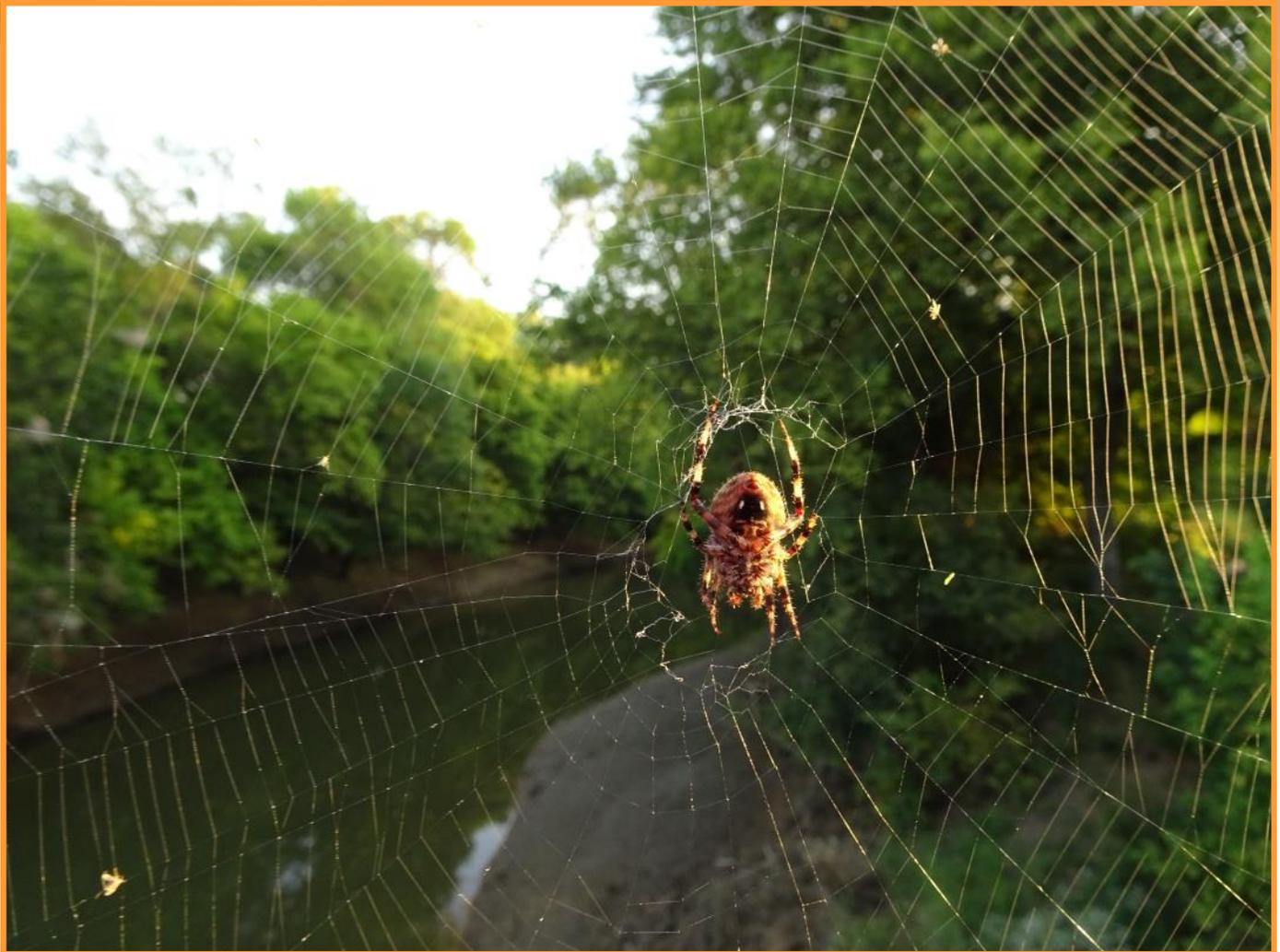


NATURALIST NEWS

— SPREAD THE NEWS —

We're on the web: www.txmn.org/elmfork

- * See upcoming events
- * Check resources
- * Read articles
- * Watch videos



Neoscona crucifera
(Spotted Orbweaver)

From Jonathan Reynolds

PUBLICATION FROM TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

NATURALIST NEWS

Meet the 2017 Class—
welcome y'all!

Photo courtesy Denise Remfert



Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalists Class of 2017

Back Row:	George Slack,	Brand Richter,	John Carpenter,	Andy Shelton,	Will Hanisko,	Daniel Arenas-Richier
5th Row:	Sharon Miggins,	Gay Campbell,	Elise Spain,	Phyllis Minton,	Cody Tomlinson,	Jim Terry
4th Row:	Robert McLaughlin,	Jean Mason,	Fran Witte,	Meg Van De Walle,	Kathryn Wells,	Carolyn Trivette
3rd Row:	Karen Jamieson,	Katherine Wilcox,	Patti Barry,	Karen Peden,	Shannon Bushong	
2nd Row:	Allen York,	Judy Watkins,	Sue Yost,	Laurel Oyarce,	Cynthia Keller,	Kathy Webb
Front Row:	Kim Wootton,	Deb Holyfield,	Alan See,	not pictured- Judy Thrumond		

**Needed:
Share your
book recom-
mendations
—p. 18**

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Highlights From October Meeting

Photos courtesy Denise Remfert
(unless otherwise indicated)



Photo from Bill Coleman

Our own **Bill Coleman** provided the program
“Solar Eclipses”

President Don Fikes gave certificates and pins as recognition for dedicated work to:

MILESTONES

250 HOURS: Don Prens (2016), [Harriet Powell (2015)]



500 HOURS: Bob Ross (2013), Ray Kreutzfeld (2014)



RE-CERTIFICATIONS:

Deborah Estes (2010), Bob Ross (2013), LeeAnn Weaver (2004), Richard Johnson (2009), Tedra Kelly (2016), [Rob Roy (2005), Harley Shepardson (2014)]



1500 HOURS: Tom Mills (2014)

INITIAL CERTIFICATION: Travis Schattle (2016)

What's next

November 16, 2017 Speaker

From Rita Lokie

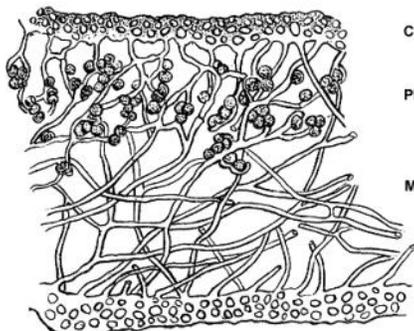
Taylor Sultan Quedensley, Ph.D.

Research Botanist

Lichen-forming fungi play a major role in the biodiversity of most terrestrial ecosystems on every continent. These symbiotic entities represent a wide ecological breadth and phylogenetic evidence supports several lichenization events that have occurred over evolutionary time. The natural history and current trends within this diverse group will be discussed.

Taylor Quedensley joined BRIT in July 2017, and he is from Marin County, California. He developed interests in conservation and biodiversity as a volunteer at the San Francisco Botanical Garden. His graduate research involved the phylogenetics of montane Senecioneae (Asteraceae) from Mexico and Guatemala. Since graduate school Taylor has been conducting field work involving lichens and bryophytes and teaching biology courses at two different universities. His two current projects involve the lichen and bryophyte flora of Northwestern Missouri and monitoring biodiversity in Missouri Ozarks glade ecosystems. He also is interested in collecting in Texas to inventory lichen and bryophyte taxa from the state.

Taylor has a B.S. in Horticulture, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, M.S. in Biology, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.



Cortex

Photobiontic layer

Medulla

Typical arrangement of tissues in a foliose lichen.

As a foliose lichen, it has both an upper and a lower cortex. The photobiontic layer is in the upper part of the medulla, where the algal cells will receive enough light, yet be protected from the full strength of the sun's rays by the upper cortex. [*Physcia parietina* is an old synonym for *Xanthoria parietina*.]

www.lichens.lastdragon.org/faq/whatisalichen

Fig. 8. *Physcia parietina* De Not. Vertical section of thallus obtained by synthetic culture $\times 130$ (after Bonnier).

*Projects of Elm Fork
Chapter in the Community*

Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2017

Artwork, artwork and more artwork! That's what we had, 944 pictures from 18 elementary schools! It has all been judged, 244 ribbons have been awarded and the first exhibit is set up at the Denton Senior Center. All of the first and second place winning pieces are displayed on the south and north wall boards in the hallway around the large center room. I hope you have an opportunity to see it. The exhibit will be in place until November 30. It will be at the TWU Blagg-Huey Library for December and January. The kids did a great job on their artwork and our committee had a lot of fun judging and setting up the display.

From Marilyn Blanton, Project Manager



Projects of Elm Fork Chapter in the Community cont'd

From Kathryn Wells



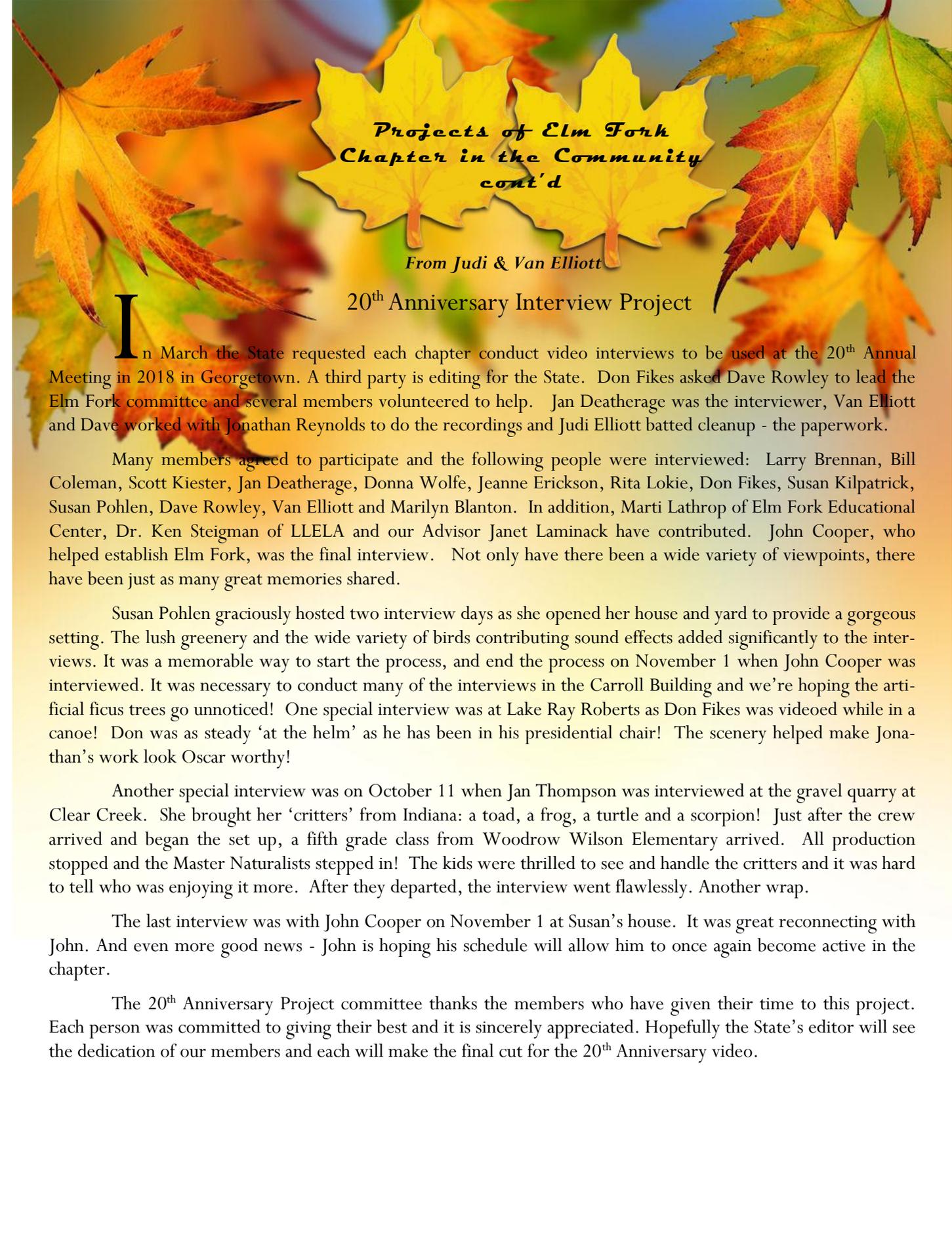
Mary Morrow, setting up our EFC TM booth on 10/13/17 in preparation for the Denton County Master Gardeners Association (DCMGA) Fall Garden Fest on 10/14/17. (North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 N Carroll Blvd, Denton, TX 76209)

From Kathryn Wells



In conjunction with Make-a-Difference Day, Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists covered the county to assist with a variety of projects. Flower Mound Foundation project manager Diane Wetherbee led a team including current Class of 2017 trainees Karen Jamison and Kathryn Wells in preservation efforts at The Flower Mound, a 12.576-acre native tall grass prairie segment of the historic Blackland Prairie. The only area native prairie land which has never been plowed, The Flower Mound is home to over 400 species of forbs and flowers. During the October 28th workday, the team sowed native wildflower seeds, removed woody plants and invasive species, and picked up trash.





*Projects of Elm Fork
Chapter in the Community
cont'd*

From Judi & Van Elliott

20th Anniversary Interview Project

In March the State requested each chapter conduct video interviews to be used at the 20th Annual Meeting in 2018 in Georgetown. A third party is editing for the State. Don Fikes asked Dave Rowley to lead the Elm Fork committee and several members volunteered to help. Jan Deatherage was the interviewer, Van Elliott and Dave worked with Jonathan Reynolds to do the recordings and Judi Elliott batted cleanup - the paperwork.

Many members agreed to participate and the following people were interviewed: Larry Brennan, Bill Coleman, Scott Kiester, Jan Deatherage, Donna Wolfe, Jeanne Erickson, Rita Lokie, Don Fikes, Susan Kilpatrick, Susan Pohlen, Dave Rowley, Van Elliott and Marilyn Blanton. In addition, Marti Lathrop of Elm Fork Educational Center, Dr. Ken Steigman of LLELA and our Advisor Janet Laminack have contributed. John Cooper, who helped establish Elm Fork, was the final interview. Not only have there been a wide variety of viewpoints, there have been just as many great memories shared.

Susan Pohlen graciously hosted two interview days as she opened her house and yard to provide a gorgeous setting. The lush greenery and the wide variety of birds contributing sound effects added significantly to the interviews. It was a memorable way to start the process, and end the process on November 1 when John Cooper was interviewed. It was necessary to conduct many of the interviews in the Carroll Building and we're hoping the artificial ficus trees go unnoticed! One special interview was at Lake Ray Roberts as Don Fikes was videoed while in a canoe! Don was as steady 'at the helm' as he has been in his presidential chair! The scenery helped make Jonathan's work look Oscar worthy!

Another special interview was on October 11 when Jan Thompson was interviewed at the gravel quarry at Clear Creek. She brought her 'critters' from Indiana: a toad, a frog, a turtle and a scorpion! Just after the crew arrived and began the set up, a fifth grade class from Woodrow Wilson Elementary arrived. All production stopped and the Master Naturalists stepped in! The kids were thrilled to see and handle the critters and it was hard to tell who was enjoying it more. After they departed, the interview went flawlessly. Another wrap.

The last interview was with John Cooper on November 1 at Susan's house. It was great reconnecting with John. And even more good news - John is hoping his schedule will allow him to once again become active in the chapter.

The 20th Anniversary Project committee thanks the members who have given their time to this project. Each person was committed to giving their best and it is sincerely appreciated. Hopefully the State's editor will see the dedication of our members and each will make the final cut for the 20th Anniversary video.

*Projects of Elm Fork
Chapter in the Community
cont'd*



From Judi & Van Elliott

Susan Pohlen (2013), Van Elliott (2014), Jan Deatherage (2015), Dave Rowley (2005, 2007 and 2009) and John Cooper (AgriLife Advisor 2002 - 2008).

On November 1 these Past Presidents worked together on the 20th Anniversary Project. Good to know the Chapter can call on our past officers when it needs a bit of help. Thanks to each of you.



20th Anniversary Project Team. Van Elliott, Jonathan Reynolds, Dave Rowley, Judi Elliott and Jan Deatherage.

*Seeking knowledge—
Features*

Dancing Jewels

From Joanne Fellows

Dancer damselflies are members of the Genus *Argia*. The easiest identifying feature is wing position. Dancer damselflies hold their wings slightly above their abdomens. Bluets and Forktails hold their wings alongside their abdomens. Dancers are stream dwellers and usually found near flowing water. They perch low, on the ground, or on logs or rocks. They exhibit a jerky pattern of flight. Bluets and Forktails fly in a straightforward manner.



Blue-fronted Dancer, *Argia apicalis*



Blue Ringed Dancer, *Argia sedula*



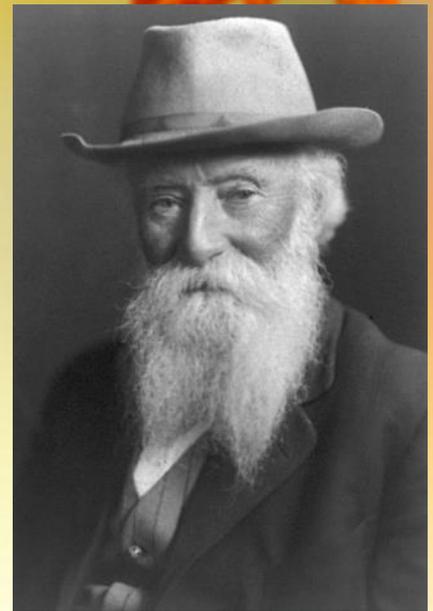
Kiowa Dancer, *Argia immunda*

*Seeking knowledge—
Features cont'd*

JOHN O'BIRDS

By Bob James

The band started a rousing rendition of “The Stars and Stripes Forever” as the train began slowing for the station. As it approached the loading platform 25,000 people surged forward, most of them children carrying American Flags. The Toledo, Ohio school system had dismissed classes so the children could greet the arrival of the train from New York. When the railcar door opened a small man in a rumpled grey suit stepped out. The crowd cheered and the children proudly waved their flags. The man had a flowing white beard and his eyes flashed as he looked over the crowd. John O’Birds was 81 years old and had been invited to Toledo for the unveiling of his statue. The heroic statue was a beautiful bronze entitled “The Seer” by C.S. Pietro. The little old man being honored on this day, April 12, 1918 in Toledo was probably the most beloved man in the United States. He was John Burroughs naturalist, philosopher, poet and author of twenty three books on nature and hundreds of articles for magazines and newspapers.



John Burroughs was born on April 3, 1837 in an unpainted, weatherworn clapboard house in the hills above Roxbury, New York. His parents were simple farming people and John grew up close to the soil and close to nature he came to love. His early environment stamped itself upon his soul. He earned and paid for his own education and as he matured he reached out for the things his spirit craved, finding them in nature and in books. After a few short years teaching school John left for Washington, D.C. where he joined the Quartermasters Corps and met his lifelong friend Walt Whitman. Through Whitman he met Ralph Waldo Emerson and they impelled him to write and to write about what he knew best, nature and wildlife. His first book Wake Robin was a book about birds with the title of a flower. The book became a best seller and started his long career as a writer and naturalist.

After the Civil War Burroughs joined the Treasury Department and worked several years as a bank examiner. He traveled widely throughout the east but yearned to go home to the Hudson River valley. With his success as a writer he was finally able to go back to the valley where he would live for the rest of his life, Riverby on the Hudson River. In his words he became a “vine dresser and tender of trees”. At Riverby he grew fruit and grapes while he watched birds and other animals in his orchard. He was a great walker and walked for miles through the adjoining woods. He had the eye of a hunter and enjoyed camping west of the river.



Features cont'd

With each book John Burroughs fame grew and people flocked to Riverby to sit at his feet. He became friends with Henry Ford, Harry Firestone and Teddy Roosevelt. Roosevelt invited him to go on the Yellowstone Expedition and he was invited to go on the Harriman Expedition to Alaska where he met John Muir. He and Muir became close friends – Muir was called John O'Mountains and Burroughs was called John O'Birds.

Throughout his life Burroughs kept the common touch. He often said, "I would rather see a snake cast it's skin than see a King crowned".

Burroughs loved children and they sensed this. He loved seeing them discover nature and they flocked to his side. By the turn of the century John Burroughs was one of the best known and loved men in America. All of his twenty three books from Wake Robin published in 1871 to The Last Harvest published in 1921 were best sellers. Houghton Mifflin published several editions of each book and later published matched sets for libraries.

John Burroughs had a long and productive life and he died on March 29, 1921 in route to Riverby. His last words were, "Tomorrow by two o'clock I shall be home". After his death it seemed the world changed. The country went into a deep economic depression and then the world was face with the horrors of World War II. John Burroughs was forgotten and his writings passed almost into oblivion. He seemed to be a man of another time.

Paradoxically, his work is just as important today as it was a century ago. He inspires deep reverence for nature and a desire to understand the natural world. His writing is beautiful and appealing for young and old alike. Perhaps we will discover John O'Birds again and he will take his rightful place in our world,

"Serene, I fold my hands and wait."

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order." *John Burroughs*

Features cont'd

If you plant it, they will come ...

Class of 2017 trainee Kathryn Wells reports that she added several new plants to her garden in October, including Texas native Gregg's Mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*). Although she's seen many butterfly species in her pollinator garden, she had never been visited by Monarchs ... until now!

From Kathryn Wells





Alex Lieban was class of 2005

*Relax a Spell and Enjoy
the View—wear a coat!*



Deer herd foraging—from Alex Lieban in Colorado

This and That

From Mary Morrow



Tis' the Season

Please nominate your favorite non-profit organization for our
Holiday Season Gift Giving.

Those we have donated to in the past which can be considered
again:

Friends of LLELA

DFW Wildlife Coalition

Nature Conservancy

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center

Your nomination _____

Please email Mary Morrow, hawkilittle@aol.com,

Forms will be available at the November Chapter Meeting

This and That

Scott Kiestler has announced that LLELA will host "Bringing Nature to Your Home" on January 27. There will be several workshops for attendees throughout the day. Plans are in the works and more information will follow. This will be a follow-up of last spring's "Bringing Nature Home" event featuring Doug Tallamy.

Might want to check this out from Becky Berton:

<http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/free-milkweeds-for-restoration-projects/>



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CONSERVATION**

ARE YOU A PRODUCER?
Registration Fee Waiver & Limited
Travel Subsidies Available

**NOVEMBER 14-16, 2017
FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

The fourth biennial America's Grasslands Conference will bring together diverse stakeholders to discuss conservation of America's grasslands. We are very pleased to announce a new partnership for this year with the Southern Plains and Prairies conference that will include some regionally focused sessions.

CO-HOSTED BY

National Wildlife Federation
Coastal Prairie Partnership

Native Prairies Association
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

www.nwf.org/grasslandsconference



TEXAS A&M
**AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**



Native Prairies
Association of Texas

Photo Courtesy of Chris Emory

This and That cont'd

From Kathryn Wells & Becky Baetoni



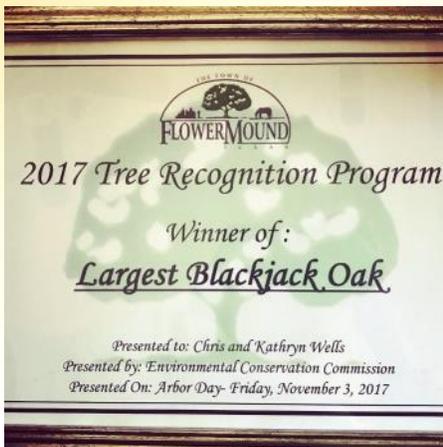
2017 Class Trainee Kathryn Wells Being Recognized —Awareness Begins at Home

Tree Recognition Award Presentation at Flower Mound's Arbor Day Celebration, Green Acres—Diane Wetherbee, Brenda Tucker, Kathryn Wells, Chris Wells

@ Blackjack Oak on the property of Kathryn Wells, current Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter Trainee (Class of 2017), and her husband, Chris, was certified as the largest of its species in the town of Flower Mound. The 2017 Tree Recognition certificate was presented at Flower Mound's Arbor Day celebration on November 3rd at Green Acres Farm Memorial Park.



Winning Blackjack Oak on the Wells' Property in Flower Mound, TX



2017 Tree Recognition Certificate

Kathryn shared that when they bought the property, the tree was infested with mistletoe and its trunk was covered with about three feet of soil and mulch contained by a concrete and stone border installed by the previous owners. After some careful pruning by a certified arborist, one broken sledgehammer, and a (lovingly completed) project of exposing the root flare, the tree is healthy, happy, and can breathe again!

flare, the tree is healthy, happy, and can breathe again!

An official photo (complete with yard sign!) should be on the town's website soon.



Exposing the Root Flare, 2016



FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS

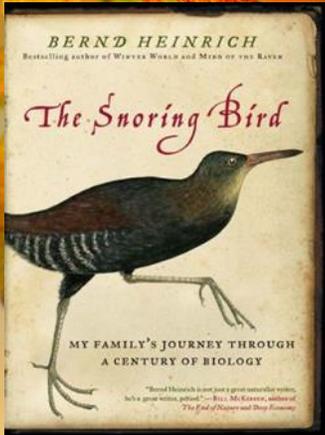


**RACER (*Coluber constrictor*) —comes
from gallery of Jonathan Reynolds**

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



Into the Reading Nook— share your treasures

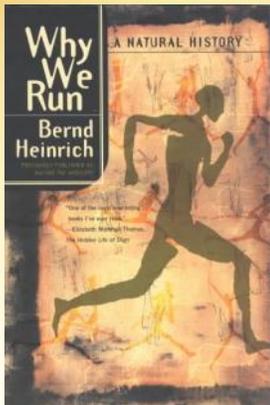
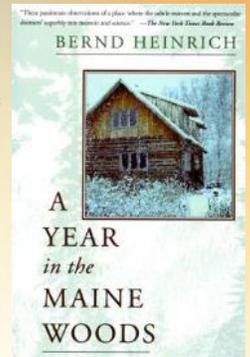


“...the remarkable story of his father's life, his family's past, and how the forces of history and nature have shaped his own life. Although Bernd Heinrich's father, Gerd, a devoted naturalist, specialized in wasps, Bernd tried to distance himself from his “old-fashioned” father, becoming a hybrid: a modern, experimental biologist with a naturalist's sensibilities.” *from Goodreads.com*

The Snoring Bird: My Family's Journey Through a Century of Biology by Bernd Heinrich

A Year in the Maine Woods by Bernd Heinrich

“... Bernd Heinrich's dream was to focus on the riches of one small place --a few green acres along Alder Brook just east of the Presidential Mountains. The year begins as he settles into a cabin with no running water and no electricity, built of hand-cut logs he dragged out of the woods with a team of oxen. There, alone except for his pet raven, Jack, he rediscovers the meaning of peace and quiet and harmony with nature--of days spent not filling out forms, but tracking deer, or listening to the sound of a moth's wings”. *From Amazon.com*

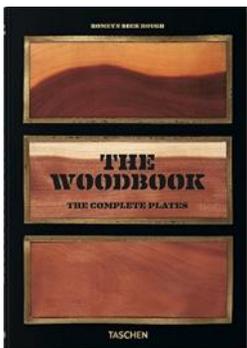


Why We Run by Bernd Heinrich

“Barry L. Jacobs and colleagues from the neuroscience program at Princeton University showed that when mice ran every day on an exercise wheel, they developed more brain cells and they learned faster than sedentary controls. I believe in mice.”
— Bernd Heinrich, *Why We Run: A Natural History*

From Amazon.com

These recommendations come from Tom Mills. Tom related that Bernd Heinrich was a neighbor of his in Maine. Heinrich's family escaped the war in Germany & Poland and came to Maine where he began collecting birds from all over and is restoring a 3500 forest to its natural state.



From Don Fikes comes his recommendation for good reading, **The Woodbook** by Romeyn Beck Hough.

“For the love of trees: An illustrated encyclopedia of wood types”

“Culled and assembled by **Romeyn Beck Hough** between 1888 and 1913 in what still remains a stunning and unparalleled achievement, *American Woods*—originally published in 14 volumes, with actual specimens mounted on card stock—is a work of breathtaking beauty that has set the standard for the study of trees and wood.” *From taschen.com*

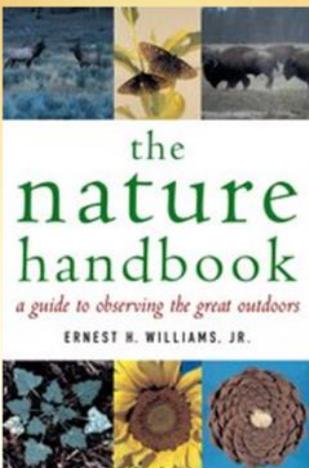
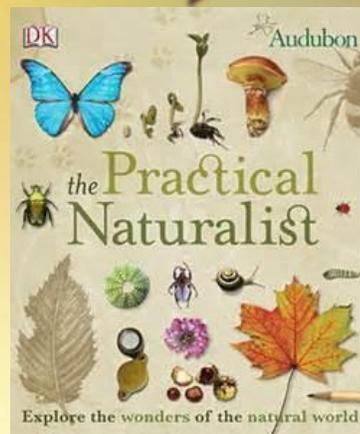


Into the Reading Nook— cont'd

The Practical Naturalist

From Audubon, edited by Chris Packham

From Goodreads.com “Inspirational, informative, and educational, "The Practical Naturalist" is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about their surroundings and looking at their world in a brand-new light. This edition shows readers how to experience the wonders of the world and what creatures live in each habitat.”



The Nature Handbook

A guide to observing the great outdoors

By Ernest H. Williams, Jr

“No mere field guide, *The Nature Handbook* invites readers to see the natural world in a new way, with an emphasis on patterns rather than on species. Approximately 500 color photographs help make the more than 200 patterns apparent and recognizable for readers, and each pattern is accompanied by a detailed description and a brief list of sources.” *From* <https://global.oup.com>

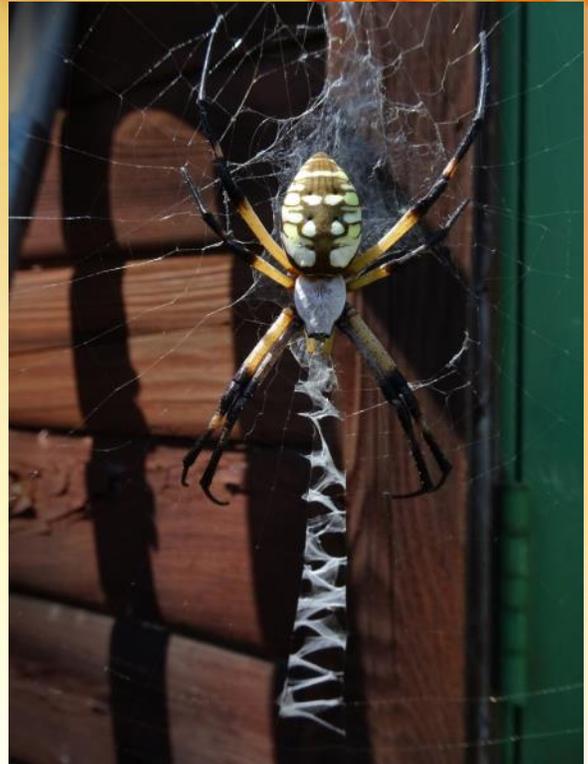
These recommendations come from Betty Zajac

Hold that Pose



Monarch on its way

From Jonathan Reynolds

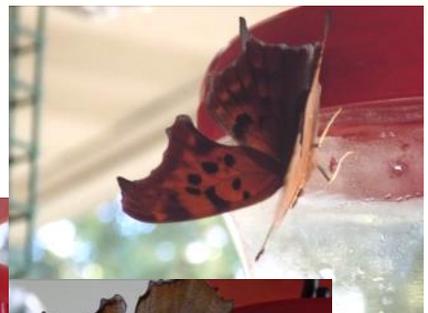


Argiope aurantia
(Black and Yellow Garden Spider)



w odum from her window

Caught resting at the hummer
feeder by w odum



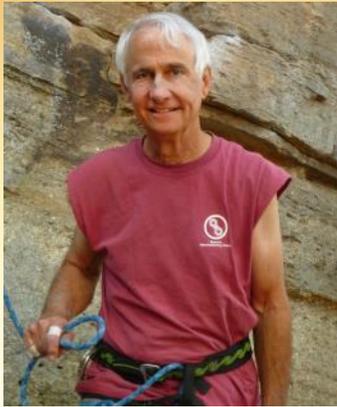


—Naturalist News Helpers this Month—
Thank you contributors

Wanda odum
class 2005 —
NN editor



Judy Elliott class 2009



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



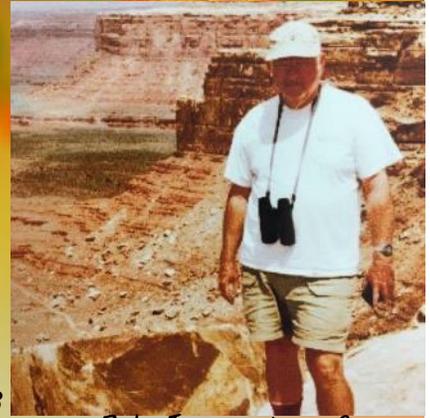
Don Fikes class 2013



Denise Remfert class 2015



Betty Zajac class 2003



Bob James—transfer



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Mary Morrow class 2014



Joanne Fellows class 2008



Rita Lokie class 2013



Van Elliott class 2009



Marilyn Blanton class
1999



Kathryn Wells 2017 trainee



Tom Mills class 2013

Last Word

How did Turkey become Thanksgiving tradition?

Since Bradford wrote of how the colonists had hunted wild **turkeys** during the autumn of 1621 and since **turkey** is a uniquely American (and scrumptious) bird, it gained traction as the **Thanksgiving** meal of choice for Americans after Lincoln declared **Thanksgiving** a national holiday in 1863.



NATURALIST NEWS is always looking for contributors!

Articles about plants and animals especially needed for the newsletter. Need good books sharing for "Reading Nook" section. Send to w. odum, editor

Send your idea for Last Word to wanda odum, Naturalist News editor



Please take a little time each month to thank a contributor. Without them there could be no Naturalist News. As always, my sincere thanks to each of you who have contributed! Chapter member talents are boundless.

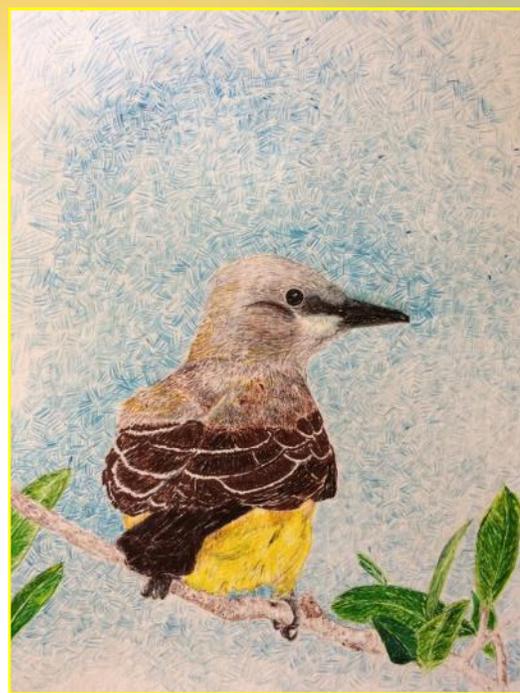


Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension
 Joseph A. Carroll Building
 401 W. Hickory Street
 Denton, TX 76201—9026
940-349-2883

We're on the web:
www.txmn.org/elmfork

Our mission. . . "to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community"

Our vision. . . "In our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future."



Western Kingbird—
w odum (ballpoint pen)

Board of Directors

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Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings
 9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Chapter meetings are open to the public.
Next meeting November 16, 2017:
 Taylor Sultan Quedensley, Ph.D. will be speaking on Lichen-forming Fungi

Meeting will be at:
 701 Kimberly Drive
 Denton, TX 76208-6301
 Denton Elections Technology Services Bldg.

Board Meetings
The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met November 9, 2017. However, because of Holiday, next monthly Board meeting is December 7, 2017.
Board meetings are open to members.