



Looking good! — Projects of Elm Fork Chapter in the Community



Sharon McAuley, Clay Thurman, Kaye Jackson, Brenda Maston, Toni Benjamin compose the group who planted the butterfly garden at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. The photographer here is unknown but Toni provided it to Naturalist News. All other photos are by **Denise Remfert** taken at the Garden.



Photo at right: Toni Benjamin and Kaye Jackson



Denise Remfert



Editor's Note: Denise Remfert provided several other beautiful photos which will be featured in future issues.

Relax a Spell and Enjoy the View



Early morning with Jonathan Reynolds at Lake Ray Roberts

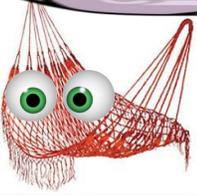


Squirrel chows down—from Marilyn Blanton

Jan LaPine provided this photo as well as the caption: “Who is eating our corn”? (2 bucks and 4 raccoons)



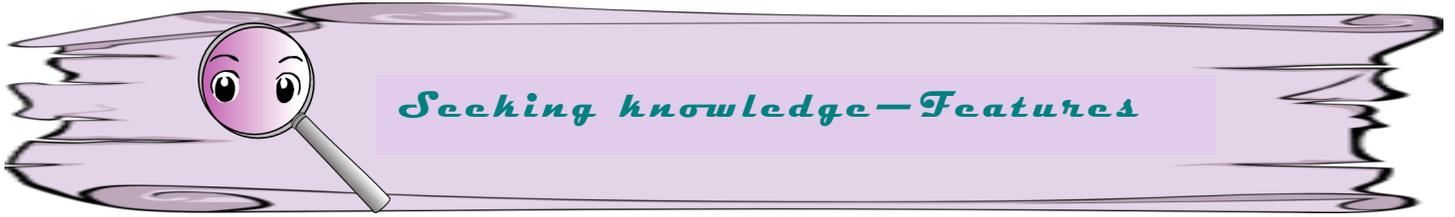
Relax a Spell and Enjoy the View—cont'd



In Texas we grow 'em big—**Susan Pohlen** came upon these in her woods. Notice the ruler. An ID from someone is welcome.

As well as colorful—these Turkey tail fungi come from **Dorothy Thetford**





See photo by Jonathan Reynolds on cover page.

w. odum

Texas Thistle

[Southern Thistle, *Cirsium texanum* Buckl.]

Information taken from: <http://uvalde.tamu.edu/herbarium/forbs-common-name-index/texas-thistle/>

Family :Asteraceae

Longevity : Perennial

Origin :Native

Season :Warm

Texas thistle is found in sandy or clayey soils of the Edwards Plateau and South Texas Plains. It is an upright perennial that can grow two to five feet tall, with spiny leaves and bracts. The flower head lacks ray flowers, but has numerous pink to rose-purple disk flowers. Texas thistle is foraged by butterflies and other insects. Birds, such as the goldfinch, eat the seeds of this plant and use the silky fluff of the mature seeds to line their nests. The flower buds are occasionally eaten by white-tailed deer and the seeds are eaten by Rio Grande turkeys. Texas thistle blooms from April to July.

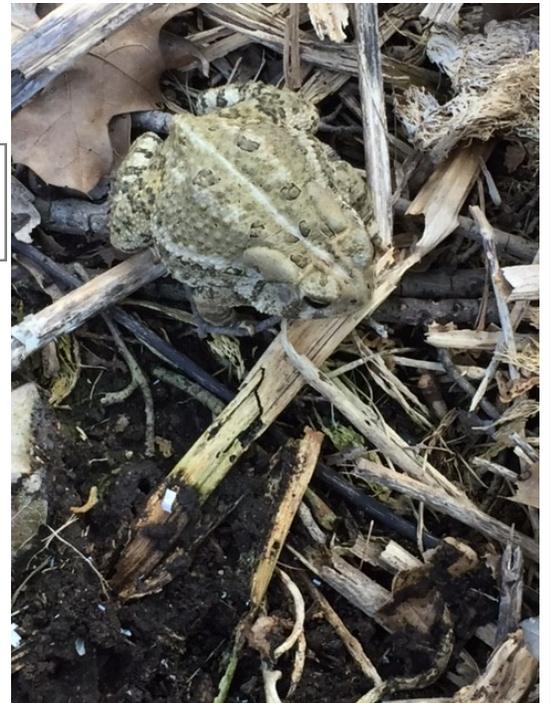


Never know who's lurking in the garden—photos and information from Dorothy Thetford

Woodhouse's Toad
(Anaxyrus (Bufo) Woodhousii/
Velotus/fowleri complex)

Garden spider (Araneus aurantia)

It is a beneficial spider that catches flying insects and is really helpful in a vegetable garden because it catches aphids, flies, grasshoppers, mosquitoes, wasps, bees and moths. It is not dangerous but, if harassed, will attempt to sting; sting is equivalent to a bee sting.





Features cont'd

Photos and article comes from Joanne Fellows

The Color of Butterfly Wings

Butterflies have a well-developed color vision system. The color of their wings is integral to their life. Butterfly wings are made of two layers of chitin that have veins and are covered with scales. Scales are flat on the bottom layer and have intricate patterns on the top surface. These multiple layers increase the effects of color and iridescence because as the light passes through the light waves reflect and magnify.

Butterflies colors can be pigments or structural. Often they are a combination of both. When you see yellow, orange or black, this is pigment that comes from the normal chemicals in plants the caterpillar feasted upon. Melanin creates the brown colors. It is the same melanin that causes you to tan or freckle. When you see blue, red, purple or white that is structural color. The interior and exterior structure of the clear scale reflects those colors. Think of how a prism works.



Common Buckeye Butterfly, *Junonia coenia*

Viceroy butterfly, *Limnitis archippus*

