**LEWISVILLE LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING AREA (LLELA)**

**Project #P040512**

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Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) is a 2,600-acre wildlife management area located just below the Lewisville Lake Dam, at the corner of Jones and Kealy in Lewisville. LLELA is a major Master Naturalist project including the regular volunteer efforts of over 30 Master Naturalists. Members can volunteer for weekly work days, for individual projects or on an as needed basis.

Following are some of the opportunities for Master Naturalists at LLELA.

* + **Prairie and Wetland Restoration:** Workin the greenhouse and plant nursery at LLELA’s office on the preserve, (weekly hours, if desired; regular work crews on Wednesday and Saturday 9AM-Noon) Learn to germinate and propagate prairie grasses, wildflowers, or wetlands plants; process seeds to prepare them for planting (both can be an indoor, seated job), plant those plants on LLELA, participate in plant rescues and seed gathering both on and off the property. There are multiple ongoing restoration efforts on the Blackland prairie, the Crosstimbers and in the bottomland forest. These can include brush clearing, planting, and invasives removal. In addition managed burns are conducted at appropriate times of the year.
* **Trail Building and Maintenance:** Help cut new trails and maintain existing trails
* **Bird Banding:** Assist in banding of birds for study purposes. This is an ongoing commitment. A required training class takes place periodically, participation requires early mornings
* **Bluebird Monitoring:** Part of LLELA’s ongoing research programs include nest box monitoring, nestling banding and parentage studies, participation requires some training that can be “learned on the job.”
* **Nest Box Maintenance:** Assist in maintaining bluebird boxes, warbler boxes, wood duck boxes, barn owl, American kestrel and other nesting boxes; this is an ongoing commitment that requires some informal training.
* **Box Turtle Population Study and Re-Introduction Project:**  This is a long term project just beginning in 2018. The population study will census the two species of box turtles known to be present on LLELA, attempt to determine size and location of home ranges and monitor individuals. The re-introduction project will foster hatchling turtles of both species and release them onto the property.
* **Annual Bioblitz:** Each year the LLELA staff and volunteers along with local experts conduct a week long survey that catalogs as much of the LLELA biome as possible.Opportunitiesare available to participate in the surveys, record data on INaturalist, lead nature hikes for members of the larger community, and help with planning and organization.

* **Angler Education:** Assist in programs to introduce families to responsible fishing
* **Outdoor Education:** Lead short nature hikes with students and assist staff with school group labs. Can volunteer on a steady basis (weekly, bi-weekly, once a month, etc.)
* **Nature Walks:** Lead nature hikes for the general public; training provided
* **Birding Hikes:** Share your knowledge of birding with the general public; lead hikes or assist in leading bird hikes for adults, children, youth groups
* **1870s Homestead:** Give tours of LLELA’s log house and homestead area; once a month open house on the weekend; regular school groups during the week; training provided; there is also a training reference guide
* **Information Center**: Man the information on weekends. Training is provided.