

NATURALIST NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2018

PUBLICATION FROM TEXAS MASTER
NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER



Upright Prairie Cone-
flower, *Ratibida*
Columnifera —
Kathryn Wells

We are on the web: www.txmn.org/elmfork

— SPREAD THE NEWS —



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Bushy bluestem —
Kathryn Wells

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— SPREAD THE NEWS —

Highlights From January Meeting



AWARDS

Initial certification: Patricia Barry, Karen Jamison, Alan See, Allen York, Shannon Bushong, Barbara Kraus, James Terry, John Goetz, Robert McLaughlin, Carolyn Trivette, Deborah Holyfield, Sharon Sahm, Kathryn Wells

Re-certification: Shannon Bushong, Margaret Lange, Carolyn Norgaard, Dorothy Thetford, Faith Fielder, Cindy Maloney, Erin Piper, Kim Wootton, Janet Gershenfeld, Sharon McAuley, Joan Stanley,

Deborah Holyfield, Susan Myers, Chuck Thetford

Milestones: Margaret Lange-250 hrs; Mindy Anderson, Bill Coleman, Erin Piper-500 hrs; Rita Lokie-1000 hrs; John Bodnar-2500 hrs; Vin Merrill-3000 hrs.

Program was provided by Dr. Ken Steigman presenting **“New Projects at LLELA”**



What's next?



February 15 meeting will be the Annual Awards. Come find out who did what. Who knows, maybe you will be rewarded if not with a certificate, then with appreciation from all of us to all of you for helping make Elm Fork Chapter the success it is. Stay after the presentations to enjoy cake provided by 2017 class.



Projects and Into the Community

From Judi Elliott

Update on the Denton County Administrative Complex (DCAC) Project

Janet Laminack was instrumental in creating a contact between Elm Fork Chapter and Fred Burrell, Landscape Manager. For three years the committee, consisting of Brenda Wellenreiter, Judy Riley, Mary Morrow, Dan Prins and Van Elliott (Project Manager), have worked closely with Fred on plans for wildflower areas, information kiosks and chimney swift towers at DCAC.



Dan Prins delivering the tower to DCAC.

Wildflowers have been seeded and the information kiosks are in the final stages of creation. A special thank you to the ladies on the committee as they have played a large part in these areas.



Dan Prins, Fred Burrell and Ray Kreutzfeld.

Recently the chimney swift tower was constructed at Dan Prins' house by Dan, Ray Kreutzfeld, Allen York and Van. Thank you, Dan, for the use of your work place, tools, vehicles and time! Without your participation and support it would not have happened as smoothly as it did.



Making sure the tower lines up correctly

On Friday, January 19, the group met again and with additional support from Don Fikes and Dave Rowley and the 15' tower was transported and erected at DCAC. Fred Burrell coordinated support work from Denton County and those workers prepared the base and helped raise the tower to a standing position. No easy task considering the tower is extremely heavy, it was 48° and windy! Support beams were temporarily attached to hold the tower erect and level until the concrete base sets. Soon the beams will be removed, signage installed and then we wait for the chimney swifts.

From start to finish the project has been full of challenges and rewards which will, hopefully, make the second tower a smoother project! Thank you, team, for making this a success.

Projects and Into the Community

Update cont'd

The tower is located on the south side of CPS & Health Services Building adjacent to the creek which runs through the property. It is north of the Elections and Tech Building (where the chapter meetings are held). The next time you are in the area please take a moment to check it out. One more Elm Fork Master Naturalist project for all to enjoy.



Chimney swift tower #1.



Van Elliott, Dave Rowley, Don Fikes, Dan Prins and Allen York.

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Work day at Clear Creek with project manager, Clay Thurmond—
photographer Jonathan Reynolds



Projects and Into the Community

Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2017



The Elm Fork Education Center in the EESAT Building at UNT is hosting the Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2017 in the Eagle Exhibit Hall for the month of February. All of the first, second and third place entries are displayed. Hundred of elementary students will have the opportunity to see the artwork when their schools visit the center as well as UNT students and faculty. The general public is also welcome to see the art exhibit. The Elm Fork Education Center's support on this project and their dedication to environmental education is greatly appreciated. The artwork will be displayed at Denton's three public libraries next month.

Marilyn Blanton, project manager



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Projects and Into
the Community

Green Acres 2018

by Becky Bertoni

Our first work day of the year at Green Acres was January 30--with longhorns, sunshine, and a wonderful crew: Linda Cox, Brenda Tucker, Jackie (GLNC Garden Group), Nancy (Neighbor), Barbara Krause, Yolanda (Neighbor), Kathy Webb, Patti Barry, Malou (Neighbor), Karen Jameison, Becky Bertoni, and we were cheered on by Jean Mason, who came for a visit while she is recuperating.

The **Monarch Station** is cleared and clipped for the spring. This was a big job to remove all of the dead growth. The vitex's low branches were pruned; the monster fall aster was dug and split, with three planted and many donated to workers there; the xemenia was moved out to the front of the east side bed.

The three **iris beds** were all weeded and cleaned up--we have some of Mary S (Neighbor)'s columbines growing! More sea oats seeds were scattered in the third iris bed by the picnic tables.



Kathy Webb, Patti Barry, and Becky Bertoni at cardboard area 3, with the longhorns on the other side of the fence (by Malou)

On the **Davis Wildflower Prairie** the area in front of the second hugelkulture was weed whacked down and cardboarded (thanks to Linda and Karen for cardboard), with an additional small area of clear plastic to try solarization. Several arrow, prairie rose, and pink evening primrose were planted in the wildflower area, and we also dug out a few yarrow and southern dewberry, and a couple of wine cup, from spots at Green Acres and planted them in the first cardboard bed. Patti collected two soil samples from the east and west sides of this land and they have been sent to Texas AgriLife Extension Service for analysis. We're grateful to EFCMN for giving us a budget to cover this charge.



In front of the Monarch Station: standing: Jackie, Barbara Krause, Nancy, Brenda Tucker, Linda Cox, Kathy Webb; sitting: Becky Bertoni, Patti Barry, Karen Jameison (by Malou)

Projects and Into the Community

Green Acres cont'd



milk carton seed terrarium--
keep the lid down to sprout
seed

Barbara explained her method of **seed planting** using a gallon milk container as a terrarium. Several took seeds-- wine cup, Mexican milkweed, Mexican sunflower, fennel--to try. I'm trying this at home with partridge pea seeds from Irene Hanson.

Also, Larry Brennan stopped by in January and reinstalled a bluebird box that had been knocked over last year, and all seven boxes are ready for spring with peat pots.

Good News: Green Acres will be a location in Flower Mound for **City Nature Challenge** with iNaturalist this April 27-30. You can find our iNaturalist site so far:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/green-acres-farm-memorial-park>

We look forward to the coming year; we meet again on Feb 13 at 1-3 pm—come and join us!



Bluebird Box # 1 is ready
for tenants



Standing: Jackie, Barbara Krause, Nancy, Brenda
Tucker, Linda Cox, Kathy Webb

Sitting: Malou, Patti Barry, Karen Jameison

Projects and Into the Community

From Elise Spain

Y

Enhancing DISD School Days at Clear Creek

You may know that more than 5,000 Denton ISD students visit Clear Creek on field trips each year, with mostly second graders in the spring and fourth graders in the fall. But did you know that they don't all love it...or even *like* it...and neither do some teachers who feel out of their element in nature? In discussing the 2017 TMN Class project of "Enhancing Clear Creek," one of our ideas was to help students and teachers enjoy Clear Creek more.

We had already started on a path of discovery as we saw the differences in Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center (CCNHC) and the Lewisville ISD Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA), which is designed for student visits, on our training field trips to these areas. While appreciating the very naturalness of CCNHC, we also hoped that some of the fun and creative learning experiences that LISDOLA provided to Lewisville students could be added to DISD school visits to CCNHC.

To learn more, we accompanied the fourth graders from Ryan Elementary School on their visit to Clear Creek in November, and then asked Katherine Barnett, Sustainability and Customer Initiatives Manager for the City of Denton, to tell us more about the history of CCNHC and the DISD program. We then contacted Kathy Morrison, Science Coordinator for PreK-5 in the DISD Elementary Curriculum Department, to discuss ways we might enhance the field trips for students and teachers, and we received a warm welcome there. We presented the idea to the SWAt team and felt their enthusiasm for the project.

Our discovery phase continued as we heard about the Master Naturalists who helped launch the DISD visits to CCNHC in 2006, and we learned that we were actually following in their pioneering footsteps! We met with Cheryl Kesterson (MN 2005) to hear about the beginning years of the program, and she encouraged us to go forward. At about the same time, other MNs learned what we were incubating, and they, too, offered their support. So the idea hatched and is now growing!

In January, Cheryl Kesterson led us on a hike along the Prairie Trail at CCHNC, where the second graders will go this spring. We look forward to additional hikes with her and also with Susan Pohlen (MN 2007) and others. As we learn more, we may become better trail guides ourselves. Cheryl suggested that we each learn something we can teach the students about trees or grasses or the history of CCNHC.

Our first goal was to have a MN with each class that visits in the spring, knowing that our presence alone will add a level of comfort for the teachers and that our enthusiasm will be encouraging. But then another idea began to grow: what if we could provide education stations for each field trip? We liked the idea of stations to provide good and consistent information to supplement the students' activities.

So now, with the help of Toni Benjamin (MN 2015) who is our SWAt advisor on the project, we are determining what those education stations could be. Then we will launch our preparation phase, when we finalize some plans for the spring school visits. With enough interest from MNs, we could staff the education stations and also accompany some classes on their hikes.

We look forward to sharing information with you all as the project moves forward. We actually look forward to sharing the journey with you! We will have a sign-up poster at the February and March meetings for those who want to join us for the school visits, April 1 through May 3. We look forward to enhancing Clear Creek for the second graders and their teachers. And, even further, we hope that everything we learn can be applied in the fall for fourth graders, too!



Projects and Into the Community

From Jan Hodson

About Trophy Club Park

Trophy Club Park borders the northwest edge of Lake Grapevine in Denton County and is comprised of 877 acres that the Town of Trophy Club leases from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for use as a public park.

Within the borders of Trophy Club Park (south from the main gate) is an approximate 600-acre (depends on whether it's flood or drought) land designated as Trophy Club Park Conservation Area (TCPCA). Much of the native forest still survives, and is largely comprised of mature species. Native grasses flourish, wildflowers bloom much of the year. Birds thrive year round, wildlife also abounds. Eight miles of marked nature trails provide hikers and horseback riders an experience of exploration and sense of tranquility. Marshall Creek and Denton Creek meander through the area and feed into Grapevine Lake to provide drinking water for surrounding communities.

The developed area of the park provides: Picnic areas, camping, boat ramp, fishing, a beach, ATV trails and disc golf and is fee based.

The conservation area (TCPCA) is south of the entry gate and if you park in the lot outside the gate and walk in entry is free to enjoy the gardens, trails and creek areas for free.

KTCW

Keep Trophy Club Wild (KTCW) is a 501c3 non-profit organization, run by volunteers and funded by individual and public contributions is on a mission to offer public education and outreach that aim to protect TCPCA's flora and fauna, watershed for generations to come. Volunteers partner with the town of Trophy Club to maintain trails and conduct conservation, restoration and education projects in the TCPCA.

KTCW Mission

To promote preservation, conservation and restoration of TCPCA, a small part of the Cross Timbers ecological zone and prairies, to maintain its natural environment through publicity, community education, and volunteer recruitment, to raise public awareness of TCPCA as an asset to the community and surrounding areas.

To facilitate use of TCPCA as an education and recreation resources for understanding and experiencing the natural environment.

To collaborate and share like-minded visions and activities with our affiliations and other organizations.



*About Trophy Club Park
cont'd*

Projects and Into
the Community

Conservation programs

- Bluebird nest box monitoring program
- Bat box
- Wildlife and plant ID projects
- Pollinator and butterfly ID projects
- Seed collection and propagation
- Native plant Pollinator Garden
- Aquatic eco-system monitoring program
- Invaders of Texas species detect and report program
- Byron Nelson High School Monarch Project



Recreation programs

- Guided hike
- Bird walks
- Angler Education
- Archery
- Educational programs



Projects and Into the Community

Restoration

- Remove non-native and invasive plants in woodlands and prairies
- Replanting Cross Timbers eco-region species

Back to Nature Event

Annually Trophy Club Parks and Recreation partners with businesses and volunteer organizations in the area to promote outdoor recreation. This year the event is on Saturday March 17th, from 11am to 2pm in Trophy Club Park. The event is free, entry fees are waived.

Last year around 1000 people attended the event. In and Out Burger ran out of food after serving 600 free meals.

We need volunteers to man the EFCTMN information booth and activity areas including: Back Yard Bass casting station, Archery, and Crafts.

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018

Time: 11:00 AM 2:00 PM (setup at 10am)11:00 14:00

Location: 2885 Trophy Park Drive Trophy Club, TX, 76262

Contact Sarah Goodrich to volunteer Email - embryolady@yahoo.com

Phone - [\(817\) 313-3641](tel:8173133641)



Features



The Bird that Wears the Sky on it's Back....the Bluebird

[Thoreau]

Sue YOST

Class of 2017

B

luebirds are part of the Thrush family. National Geographic Field Guide describes

thrushes as; “eloquent songsters of many habitats that feed mainly on insects and fruits”

There are three types of bluebirds found in the United States and all three of those can be found in Texas. The Mountain Bluebird is found way out in west Texas from the panhandle to El Paso. The Western Bluebird can be found west of the metroplex from El Paso to Big Bend. The Eastern Bluebird is what we get in the metroplex to East Texas and all the way to Houston and Corpus.

“The Eastern Bluebird is what we get in the metroplex ...”

Here is a small lesson on how to attract the Bluebird of Happiness to your yard. Bluebirds favor open woodland, golf courses, greenbelts and mowed trails. They use tree branches and fence/power lines for hunting perches, watching closely for movement and then dashing to the ground for capture! They are secondary cavity nesters, meaning they cannot chisel out a nesting hole in a tree but will

take advantage of the handiwork of a woodpecker. They are also easily attracted to manmade nest boxes [built to the specifications of the American Bluebird Society]. Decades ago, Bluebird populations were in a downward spiral due to habitat loss, increased use of agricultural pesticides and competition from the invasive, very aggressive, non-native Old English House Sparrow and European Starling, decreasing as much as 90%! As more and more humans started to provide nest boxes and monitoring services to those boxes the numbers shot back up good and solid! Depending on the weather conditions, Bluebirds can start nesting as early as February having up to four clutches and go as late into August. Some Bluebirds will even use the nest boxes off season to roost in especially on those cold winters nights!

The Eastern Bluebirds love a good bath, so provide fresh water in a birdbath year around for them. Being insectivores you can provide them with yummy treats of live mealworms [in a speciality mealworm feeder]. They really need that extra help during those frigid cold days during the winter. Our eastern Bluebirds do not migrate, they are here year around.

If you have the correct habitat then maybe YOU can attract the Bluebird of Happiness in your yard! We all can use a flash of happiness now and then!!

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Features

THE FERAL HOG

A Formidable Foe



by Bob James

Several weeks ago I took my son to catch the train to Dallas. The Medpark Station was much closer than going into downtown Denton. As I drove through the parking lot I noticed on the southeast side a large area of mowed and manicured grass between the lot and a patch of dense undergrowth and trees. This area looked like it had been plowed up and the turf overturned. I wondered what the maintenance people were doing to that area. On closer inspection I came to realize the area had

been torn-up by feral hogs rooting for food and I even found hog hoof prints in the mud. I have enclosed a photograph I took of the area.

So, Feral hogs are in Denton and a lot closer than we realize. Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) are hogs that have gone wild. In fact, *feral* is Latin for ‘wild beast’. In the mid 19th century Russian Wild Boars were imported for sport hunting in the South. Many escaped and they have bred with escaped domestic hogs to make the feral hogs that now infest the entire South. These animals are not only invasive they are invaders. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has estimated there are over 2.8 million in the State of Texas. They also say there are feral hogs in 253 of the 254 counties in Texas.

“... showed that hunting is not a method of hog control.”

On January 30th, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension sponsored a conference on Feral Hog Control. The Conference was held at the Ben E. Keith Company and featured a presentation by Josh Gaskamp of the Noble Research Institute. They showed that hunting is not a method of hog control. In fact, regular single traps were ineffective because they trapped other animals and hogs that were unaware of the danger. The smarter hogs escaped to breed more smarter hogs that learned to stay out of the traps. Large fall traps worked and would capture the entire Sounder but they were expensive and difficult to set-up. Poisons were also eliminated because the poison was passed on to other creatures that fed on the dead hogs. They have decided that feral hogs should be placed on a “no kill” list to eliminate the financial aspect of hog hunting which they show spreads the population over wide areas and increases the numbers. It is a very complex issue and a difficult problem for landowners and wildlife management.



damage at the Medpark Train Station

Features

Feral hogs are not related to the Collared Peccary or Javelina (*Pecari tajacu*), which is another species. Feral hogs are much larger and have been known to weigh over 1000 pounds. The maximum weight is about 200 pounds for a female and 400 pounds for a male. The animal has long bristly hair black to brown in color and has upper and lower tusks, which can become quite sharp. The tusks grow continuously and wear down in their rooting for food. Feral hogs have few natural predators, the Mountain Lion and pack Coyotes. Pack Coyotes can separate the piglets from the Sow but the mother is highly protective. Sows travel in pairs called a Sounder and a Sow can give birth to as many as eight piglets in a litter twice a year. They are usually split into half males and half females. The piglets are weaned within a month and are capable of foraging for their own food within several weeks. The females can reproduce by six months of age depending on the animal's health. It is easy to see how they have multiplied over time. The male Feral hogs or Boars are solitary and join a Sounder only to breed. During breeding the males become very aggressive and fight over the females. Old large males can be covered with combat scars. Both male and female are nocturnal and omnivorous. They will eat almost any vegetable or animal matter. Their favorite foods are mast and roots of grasses. The animals live in heavy brush and prefer wet bottomland adjacent to creeks and drainages and can range over thousands of acres.

*“Feral hogs are not related to the Collared Peccary or Javelina (*Pecari tajacu*)”*

Feral hogs carry a number of diseases, up to 34 pathogens, that can be transmitted to livestock. They usually have internal parasites, liver worms, kidney worms and have external parasites, ticks, fleas and lice. Biologists fear they might become a vector for swine flu. Anthrax and Foot and Mouth disease can also be prevalent.

These animals cause billions of dollars in property damage each year. They can ruin a pecan orchard, peanut or wheat field in one night. They tear down fences and destroy deer feeders. They will devour quail and turkey eggs and newborn deer if they can find them. Feral hogs are not considered game animals and there is no hunting season on them. Ranchers and Farmers do advertise Hog Hunts in the local papers. Hog hunting has turned into a big business in South Texas. A Rancher near Coleman, Coleman County, Texas said they devour rattlesnakes and the rattlesnakes have even learned not to rattle because it will draw the hogs. A snake hunter at the Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup said it was getting harder and harder to find “them Rattlers” because they just don’t rattle anymore because of “them hogs”. (I cannot testify to the truth of these statements). Perhaps hunters could “rattle” up hogs while hunting them – sorta like rattling up deer on a deer hunt. But then again, the hunter might find one of the smelly vicious creatures right in his lap.

The Pig

The pig, if I am not mistaken,
Supplies us sausage, ham and bacon,
Let others say his heart is big –
I call it stupid of the pig.

- Ogden Nash

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Features

Chickadees: Chick-a-dee-de-dee! **How our tiny Carolina Chickadees [and other birds] survive the cold.** **Sue YOST Class of 2018**

Chickadees fluff out their feathers in a cold snap, which makes them look fat but adds many layers of insulating air between their bodies and the cold. Studies have shown that bird feathers provide much better insulation than mammal fur.

Chickadees maintain daytime body temperatures by shivering, which burns calories but generates heat.

Chickadees can drastically reduce their body temperature at night by more than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, from 108 to about 50. This process of "nocturnal hypothermia" saves considerable energy because the birds don't burn precious fat to maintain their daytime body temps over the long winter nights, which they spend alone in tree cavities.

Chickadees can add 30 percent more brain cells in fall for remembering hundreds of hidden seed locations.

Chickadees have the ability to store vast numbers of seeds in hidden caches all over their huge flock territories in winter.

"Their remarkable spatial memory is created by whopping 30 percent increase in the capacity of the hippocampus every fall ..."

And did you know....A single chickadee can cache tens of thousands of seeds a year, each seed in its own hiding place, usually behind strips of bark. Some chickadees have been observed caching 1,000 seeds in a single day. This caching of

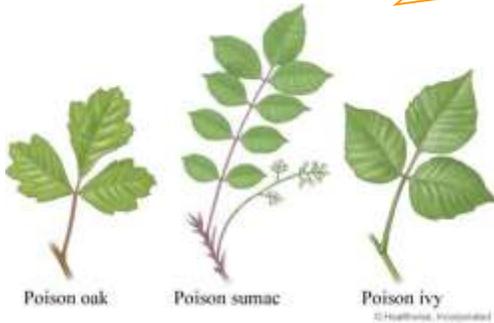
seeds would be useless without the chickadee's astonishing ability to remember their locations, which they do almost without fail over winter territories up to ten square miles.

Their remarkable spatial memory is created by a whopping 30 percent increase in the capacity of the hippocampus every fall, that portion of their brains (as in mammals) devoted to spatial memory. In 1994, it was discovered that chickadees add a tremendous number of nerve cells to this part of their brains as winter approaches. Lab studies show that chickadees remember thousands of seed locations by relating them to angles or distances from landmarks. (nationalgeographic.com/drawing) Be sure to keep fresh [unfrozen] water and plenty of high fat seeds like black oil sunflower and safflower in your feeders. Our Carolina Chickadees also enjoy shelled peanuts and suet.

So snuggle up with a blanket and a warm beverage and watch how the Carolina Chickadees survives winter in your yard!



Of Special Interest



With spring just around the corner, **Karen Mangum** thought this article about poison ivy would be of special interest.

Myth or truth: Leaves of Three, Let It Be
Are you sure? Read up!

<https://www.webmd.com/allergies/ss/slideshow-poison-plants>



NPSOT spring symposium scheduled February 24

<https://npsot.org/wp/story/2017/10501/>

All the sessions for the NPSOT Spring Symposium will qualify for AT, EXCEPT the session on the Austin Parks Foundation.



At Clear Creek—Jonathan Reynolds

APPROVED FOR AT

Of Special Interest

From Martha Peet

DISTRICT X Spring Convention
Thursday March 1, 2018
Brookhaven GARDEN CLUB

LOCATION:

Brookhaven Country Club
3333 Golfing Green Dr. Farmers
Branch, TX.

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$35.00 includes the luncheon and
program \$40.00 after February
24th. No refunds after February
24th.

PROGRAM:

"Pocket Prairies"

SPEAKER:

Patricia Merkord of Native Prairies
Association of Texas

Mail Registration & Check to:

Janet Gustafson, 2911 Winterberry
Dr. Carrollton, TX. 75007



From the **North**, use either Central
Expressway, (75) or the North
Dallas Tollway south to LBJ (I
635) Freeway and then west to
Marsh Ln. Turn North to Country
Club Ln. Take a left and go west to
Golfing Green Dr. and another
right into the Brookhaven Country
Club.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: the

From the **South**, use either North
Dallas Tollway or I 35 E to LBJ
(I635) Freeway. From Tollway go
west to Marsh Ln. and from I 35 E
Go east to Marsh Ln. Go north on
Marsh Ln. to Country Club Dr. and
turn west to Golfing Green Dr. take
a right and another right into the
Brookhaven Country Club.

3333 Golfing Green Dr.
Farmers
Branch, TX 75234



DISTRICT X Spring Convention REGISTRATION, March 1, 2018

Please fill out a registration form for each individual attending.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Make Payable to Brookhaven Garden Club

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ Home _____ Cell _____

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP: _____

E-MAIL _____

CLUB(S): _____

INFORMATION FOR CREDENTIALS REPORT: PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

CLUB: President _____ Delegate _____ Alternate _____ Member _____

COUNCIL/FORUM: President _____ Delegate _____

DISTRICT: Officer _____ Chairman _____ Charter Member _____

STATE: Officer _____ Chairman _____ Trustee _____

REGION: Officer _____ Chairman _____ Representative _____

NATIONAL BOARD: _____

LIFE MEMBER: DISTRICT X _____ STATE _____ REGION _____ NATIONAL _____

FORMER STATE PRESIDENT: _____ FORMER DISTRICT DIRECTOR _____

FORMER COUNCIL/FORUM PRESIDENT _____

FLOWER SHOW JUDGE: MASTER _____ LIFE _____ ACCREDITED _____ STUDENT _____

EMERITUS: _____ INSTRUCTOR _____

LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSULTANT: _____ GARDEN STUDY CONSULTANT: _____ ENVIRONMENTAL

CONSULTANT: _____ TEXAS DESIGN CONSULTANT: _____ TEXAS MASTER GARDENER: _____

FIRST TIME ATTENDEE: Yes ___ No ___ GUEST Yes ___ No ___

APPROVED FOR AT

Of Special Interest

We can help you get started using Texas native plants in your landscape!



The Native Plant Society of Texas is pleased to offer the Native Landscape Certification Program to help you further your education.

The program is a series of one-day classes that teach best practices for native plant landscaping, including wildlife habitat gardening. Each class consists of an indoor training session and a two-hour plant walk. You will learn 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and five invasive plants to avoid in each class.

Three programs are currently offered:

Level 1, Introduction to Native Landscapes -
pre-requisite for all other levels

Level 2, Design and Development with Native Plants

Level 3, Installation and Maintenance of Native Landscapes

Upcoming Level 1 Classes

24 March - Clear Creek Natural Heritage Site, Denton

31 March - Heard Natural Science Museum, McKinney

14 April - George W. Bush Presidential Library, Dallas

Register at [NPSOT.org](https://www.npsot.org) > Education.

Watch for additional classes in
Levels 1, 2 and 3 coming up later in the year.

Happy Gardening!

Class Schedule | Native Landscape Certification Program
[npsot.org](https://www.npsot.org)

Learn to landscape using native plants in our popular day-long classes.

Of Special Interest



SWAt Monthly Planning Meeting and Advanced Training

WHEN

Thursday, February 22, 2018

9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Business Meeting 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Advanced Training 10:30 a.m.-noon

WHERE

**Joseph A. Carroll Courts Bldg.
401 W. Hickory St., Denton
Room 115**

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the activity kits and demos SWAT uses in the classroom and other community venues to teach about water conservation, pollution and environmental responsibility.

Training will include instruction by veteran SWAT volunteers as well as hands-on opportunities for attendees to try out some of the kits.

Join us for a fun and interactive session!

**Questions? Want more info? Contact:
Susan or Marion at:
sciencewithattitude@gmail.com**

FEATURING THESE WATER KITS AND DEMOS



Incredible Water Journey



Water Drops on a Penny



Enviroscape



Freddy the Fish



Rainfall Simulator



Stream Trailer

Of Special Interest

Hi, everyone. We have a crop of great volunteers already working at the LLELA Info Center, but if you are looking for an easy way to help out we could use some additional volunteers to help us cover shifts on some Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Info Center volunteers share trail and activity information with visitors, monitor use of the touch tables, help visitors find the right book in our library to identify wildlife sightings, etc. If you're interested, please email Vicki Keathley (vickikeathley@gmail.com) to receive the Info Center handbook and more details.

Lisa Cole
Education Coordinator
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area
[469-635-5481](tel:469-635-5481)
LLELA.org



Window Photography



Male Red-bellied woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus



Caroline Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

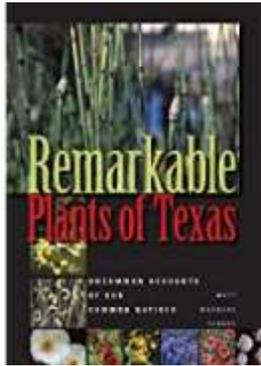
From Dorothy Thetford
Note comparison in size of my two birds in birdbath feeder.

FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS



**Red-shouldered Hawk from
the gallery of Jonathan Reynolds**

Into the Reading Nook—share your treasures



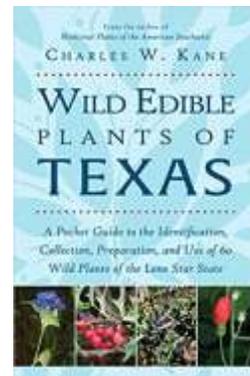
Remarkable Plants of Texas
Uncommon accounts of our common natives.

Author: Matt Warnock Turner

From Betty Zajac

Wild Edible Plants of Texas: A Pocket Guide to the Identification, Collection, Preparation, and Use of 60 Wild Plants of the Lone Star State Paperback – February 1, 2016
by Charles W. Kane

“Designed as a light-weight and field-portable reference booklet, Wild Edible Plants of Texas highlights the Lone Star State’s most important edible wild plants. To the point and understandable, this guide best suits the prepper or outdoor enthusiast in need of a salient introduction to the field. No fluff. Just the facts.” from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Hold that Pose

BALD EAGLE COMES FROM ALEX LIEBAN





—Naturalist News Helpers this Month—
Thank you contributors

wanda odum class
2005 — NN editor



Betty Zajac class 2003



Judi Elliott class 2009



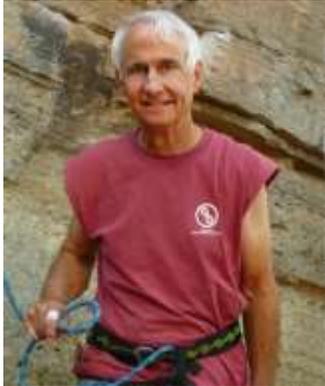
Elise Spain class 2017



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Martha Peet class 2012



Jonathan Reynolds 2014



Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Marilyn Blanton class
1999



Kathryn Wells class 2017



Jan Hodson class 2002



Sue Yost 2017

T

here is nothing is more musical than a sunset. He who feels what he sees will find no more beautiful example of development in all that book which, alas, musicians read but too little - the book of Nature. *Claude Debussy*



Sunset—Dorothy Thetford

Last Word

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



Thank you Contributors

NATURALIST NEWS welcomes interesting article on plant life, insects, birds, fish, mammals, etc. Get those fingers on the keys—ready, set, go!



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www.txmn.org/elmfork

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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."*



w odum
 (ballpoint pen)

Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings
 Regularly, 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 is February 15, 2018, "ANNUAL AWARDS"

Meeting will be at:
 Southwest Government Bldg, 6200
 Canyon Falls Dr., Flower Mount, TX

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met February 8, 2018. Next monthly Board meeting is March 8, 2018.

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.