

Naturalist News

Publication from Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter



Come back to camp after 2 day hike

I go on an *abandoned* logging road until it ends.

John Carpenter



DCAC Technology and Elections Building
701 Kimberly Denton

OPEN HOUSE

July 19, 2018

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



Welcome
to our
World



2018 - Texas Master Naturalist celebrating 20 years.

Welcome to our World

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

OPEN HOUSE

Elections and Technology Bldg,

701 Kimberly, Denton

July 19, 2018—8:00 A.M.

AMBASSADORS

PROJECT DISPLAYS

HOSPITALITY

SET UP - July 18, 1:00 P.M.

CLEAN UP

FUN

Contact Rita Lokie if you can help

rj.stephenson1@verizon.net

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Wanda, our wonderful newsletter editor, is taking a much needed break this month. She will soon be looking at the world with rose-colored lens— The pictures this month are truly eye-catching. I am glad she will be able to enjoy them in all their beauty. It has been my pleasure to bring you the *Naturalist News* this month. Mary

On the web: txmn.org/elmfork

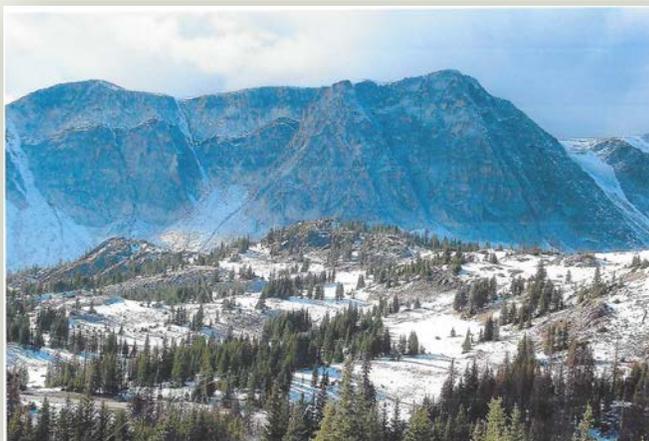
On Facebook: [facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork](https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork)

HIKING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WYOMING

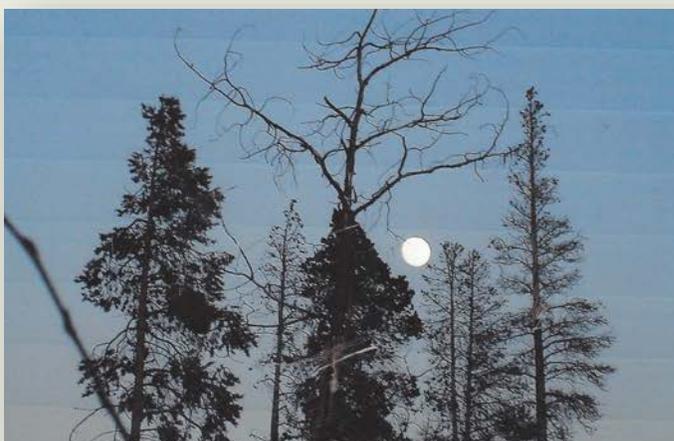
John Carpenter

I grew up in New Mexico and as a youth spent time in various mountain ranges. While employed I would go to the mountains for two weeks hunting and fishing. After retirement in 2001 I decided two weeks were not enough. I extended my trips to four weeks. I go to either the Snowy Range in the Medicine Bow Mountains or the Big Horn Mountains. I leave in mid-October and return in mid-November.

There are few people in the mountains this time of the year. I go on an abandoned logging road until it ends. That is where I set up my base camp. Elevation is between 8700-9000 feet. The time of the year and elevation assures me I will have cold temperatures and snow.



I do not like hiking man made trails. I hike across the mountains or follow a game trail. I never know where the game trail will lead me; a hidden stream, pond, or meadow.



Animals I have seen include elk, deer, moose, bear, big horn sheep, and a mountain lion. Smaller animals are rabbits, squirrels, chip monks and martins.

One of my biggest thrills was seeing a snowshoe rabbit turn from tan to

white. When I first saw the rabbit there was no snow. Three days later it snowed and I went looking for the rabbit. It was tan with white spots. I spotted it a few days later and it was completely white.



While hiking I enjoy seeing the plants and flowers that grow in the mountains, wild berries, mountain mahogany, and other shrubs wild life feed on. The birds I see include eagles, grouse, woodpeckers, camp robbers and trumpeter swans.

Relatives and friends have told me that I am taking a risk being in the mountains alone without communications. I do go to a location once a week where *I can call Erma (my wife) so she doesn't have the forest service looking for me.*

The distance from my camp varies from 8-20 miles to get cellphone service. I tell them the experience is worth the risk. I have felt threatened a few times when meeting a bear or moose on a game trail. I feel like I am an intruder in their domain.



Sometimes the forest seems silent. Other times I hear the wind in the trees, birds calling, squirrels chattering, elk bugling, and wolves howling. I especially like to hear water running over the rocks in streams. I sometimes camp near a stream and listen to it at night. With all the years I have hiked in the mountains I never cease to wonder at God's creation of nature, plants, animals and land formation.



I have had only three accidents in 17 years of camping alone. A broken nose when I jumped across a stream and hit my nose on a tree limb. A fractured knee cap when I slipped on a wet rock, and a sprained ankle. None caused me to end my trips early.

I have been concerned about the preservation of our National forests and parks.



With Texas Master Naturalists I can see it is just as important to preserve all natural resources both public and private. It is my love of nature and being part of preserving it that brought me to TMN. No regrets.

**Medicine
Wheel
In Big Horn
Mountains.**



**Warning in 8 States: Don't Touch;
Burn, Blindness Threat**
<https://www.weather.com/science/nature/video/horror-plant-spreads-in-us-spotted-in-virginia-for-first-time?pl=pl-the-latest>

From The Weather Channel iPhone App
Submitted by Karen Mangum.



2018
EFCTMN
Chapter Meeting
Awards - June



Re-Certifications—Marilyn Blanton, Mike Hatch, Barbara Kraus, Laurel Oyarce, Jonathan Reynolds, Diana Hatch, Jan Deatherage

250 Hours—Kim Wootton (2017),
1,000 Lifetime Hours—Ivy Doak (2013)
1,500 Lifetime Hours— Don Fikes (2013), Donna Wolfe (1998),
2,500—Susan Myers (2012)
3,500 Lifetime Hours—Hilton Dickerson (2009)
4,000 Lifetime Hours—Wanda Odum,
receiving the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.
Wanda received her 4,000 Lifetime Hours Award in May.



7,000 Lifetime Hours Larry Brennan

BILL HUGHEN - CLASS OF 2005

Tracy Durmick

I met Bill in 2006 working on a DCMGA project with Dorothy Thetford and Sher Harnish, creating a native plant butterfly garden at Calhoun Middle School OLC.



Shortly after I began this project, I began working for Denia Rec Center. Bill came in every day and used the bike in the gym for 15 mins. Due to his perseverance he had lost 20 lbs by just changing this one daily habit. At the beginning of working at Denia, I spent a lot of time at the front desk. Bill always had a story to tell about his travels with his lovely wife, Pat. Bill and Pat loved birding. The loons that he didn't pass out to almost every person in Denton he took on his travels and sold to gift shops. During one of our early conversations I learned that he was a professional sign maker. He made beautiful handmade signs that could be seen all over North Texas. The EFCMN signs at Ray Roberts were created by Bill. He offered to make the CMS Butterfly Garden sign to represent DCMGA and EFCMN, it was a beautiful sign, painted a buttery yellow.

Every spring Bill's yard on Jacquelyn was covered in blue bonnets. He would collect the seeds in pill bottles and pass them around all over Denton.

After Pat passed away Bill was devastated. He wore Pat's wedding rings and her watch for a while when he came into Denia. This broke my heart. Bill was a part of the Denia family. He visited almost every week and when he didn't come by we missed him.

This is from Bills own words:

In the first week in January 2005 my legs began to bother me. They hurt on both sides of my calves and just felt weak. My wife, Pat, and I walked rather regularly at the Civic Center and sometimes it was very difficult for me to walk.

So, I signed up for one month at the Denia Fitness Center and began a regular (everyday) 20-30 minute routine using the treadmill and a stationary bicycle. My legs began to feel better almost immediately and there was an even more valuable side effect. I **BEGAN TO LOSE WEIGHT!** Since I began this routine from 206 pounds down to a fairly well stabilized 188 (occasionally I dip down to 186)

An important side note is that no diet is involved. I eat exactly what I did 2 years ago: even including chocolate, peanut butter and ice cream.

Thank you Denia for providing this healthy Recreation Center for our community for only \$10 a month.

Mr. Bill Hughen - 1928-2018



Linda Cox



Laurel Oyarce



Janet Laminack



Mary Morrow



Donna Wolfe



Fritz Poppe



Tracy Durmick's Collection

ARMADILLOS ON THE ROAD

Bob James



On the way home from our Chapter meeting I was driving down Country Club Road and I saw a dead Armadillo on the side of the highway. It triggered an old memory of one of my encounters with an Armadillo. I was squirrel hunting just north of Granbury, Somervell County, Texas. It was just getting light and I was leaning against a Blackjack Oak tree watching a glade with several pecan trees where squirrels were known to roam. It was a cold and beautiful fall morning. As I stood there I heard rustling off to my right and I finally saw this creature nosing through the deep leaves. It was an Armadillo and he made a large circle finally arriving right in front of me as I leaned against the tree. He must have smelled me for he stopped and remained very still. Carefully, I took my rifle and reached down and touched him with the end of the barrel. The animal immediately exploded off the ground right up in my face with teeth bared and claws extended. I fell over backward afraid he was going to attack me. He bounded off while I tried to find my rifle in the leaves. I had every intention of shooting him for scaring me so badly. The creature made a safe getaway as I tried to calm down.

I later realized this act of jumping straight up in the air when threatened was one of the methods the Armadillo uses to protect himself. It is also the reason we see so many Armadillos dead on our highways. When the creature strays on to the highway and a car comes along the driver wanting to miss the animal splits the difference and tries not to hit him with the tires. As the car passes overhead the Armadillo leaps straight up hitting the undercarriage of the car. The impact, of course, kills him and he is rolled down the highway as road kill.

Speaking of road kill I have been told that our neighbors in east Texas hunt the dead animals up and if relatively fresh prepare them for dinner. It is called 'Possum on the Half Shell'. This might not be a true tale.

I have only eaten Armadillo one time. At a hunting camp in the Hill Country several hunters hired a cook. He was an old Mexican man and on reflection reminded me of Po Campo of Lonesome Dove fame. He was a great cook and prepared some wonderful chili (Chili Con Carne). After



eating a bowl of it one of the hunters asked about the meat in the chili. He replied that it was "Are may day yo". I later heard the Armadillo carries leprosy. Even though the chili was quite good I haven't eaten any Armadillo since.

The Armadillos we see here in Texas are the Nine Banded Armadillo (*Dasyus novemcinctus*) and they are the Texas State Small Animal. They originated in South America where they were confined for most of the Cenozoic era.



There are 11 different species in South America but only the Nine Banded Armadillo has immigrated to the United States by passing through Central America and swimming the Rio Grand River rather late in the nineteenth century. Since then, they have spread throughout the southwest. A friend of mine who lives in southern Nebraska told me he saw this creature in his backyard that looked like it had just come from Jurassic Park. After he described it I knew it was an Armadillo. They do not tolerate cold weather too well and I was surprised they have roamed that far north.

Armadillos are prolific diggers. They dig for grubs, insects and other invertebrates. They have a great sense of smell but terrible eyesight. Their body is covered with an armor of dermal bone covered by small overlapping epidermal scales. Their underside is covered with a soft skin and delicate fur. Armadillos do not hibernate but live in deep dens and venture forth at night to search for food. They generally have four young after mating.

When I was a teenager, I went to visit my cousin, Terry, in Gatesville, Coryell county, Texas. He and I decided to go hiking out south of town and we spied this Armadillo in a pasture. My cousin exclaimed, "Let's catch him" and off we went. We chased the poor animal for about 200 yards through the brush until it finally gained its burrow. Just as it entered its burrow my cousin grabbed the animal by its tail. I ran up and grabbed on. With both of us tugging on his tail we could not budge him from his burrow. We finally gave up; I don't know what we would have done had we extracted him. Of course, being teenagers, we had never thought that far ahead.



Armadillo - The Opposite of Pillow

What is the opposite of pillow?
The answer, child, is armadillo.
"Oh, don't talk nonsense," you protest.

However, if you tried to rest
Your head upon the creature, you
Would find that what I say is
true.

It isn't soft. From head to tail
It wears a scratchy coat of mail.
And furthermore, it won't stay still
Upon a bed, as pillows will,
But squirms, and jumps at every
chance

To run away and eat some ants.
- by Richard Wilbur

Check out the article on Facebook from
Bob in the Denton Record Chronicle—
[Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist](#)

These pups were making a ruckus on top of the woodpile in Brent and Janie Farler's yard. They started to scatter when I ran to get my camera, just managed to get an individual shot of all three. Photos by Mary Morrow.

Photos on Pgs 9/10 courtesy of Jonathan Reynolds.

HOLD THAT POSE!...



These Opossums were released after they received some rehab from a Texas Metro Wildlife Rehabilitators' Volunteer. Photos submitted by Barbara Kraus.

They are always released close to a body of water and left with food and water . TMWR is now an official project of EFC. Contact Barbara Kraus if interested.



To 'Pull' or not to 'Pull'?

The Texas Poinsettia (*Poinsettia cyathophora*) is a small, wild poinsettia relative showing many of the characteristics of our ornamental Christmas poinsettia, and is annual in nature. In the dry garden it makes a charming and colorful patchwork of green, scalloped alternate leaves combined with a noticeable red blotch at the base of each of the bracts (often called "petals") touching the base of the flower. It is one of the modest old-fashioned, tough plants sometimes seen in early Central Texas gardens.

The plants will grow from 1' to 3' in height, depending on access to good watering and nutrition. From midsummer till frost the innermost parts of each bract (often called the "petals") turn a vibrant red. The yellow pollen found in the clusters of small flowers (known as 'cyanthia') is very attractive to small insects as well as butterflies and some sphinx moths. Its foliage is an attractive forage for Sphinx moth caterpillars.

Texas Poinsettia is also known as Mexican Fireplant, Painted Euphorbia, Desert Poinsettia, Wild Poinsettia, Fireplant, Desert Poinsettia, Fire on the Mountain,



Paint Leaf, Mexican Poinsettia and Kaliko plant. Texas Poinsettia and the very closely related to *Euphorbia heterophylla* are often lumped together because they share many characteristics, but *E. heterophylla*, as would be suggested by its Latin name, is found with many different leaf shapes, including narrow drooping leaves without notches or scallops. One of the

major differences appears to be that *E. heterophylla* does not "color up" and is

regarded as a pest of crops and wastelands over the subtropical and tropical areas of the world rather than an interesting old-fashioned garden ornament. Botanical nomenclature has shifted the names of these two plants from time to time between Poinsettia and Euphorbia.



This article is from Texas Poinsettia (*Poinsettia cyathophora*/*Euphorbia heterophylla*). The complete article can be read on-line: https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2011/nov_dec/

Knock, Knock? Who's there?

Sue Yost

It's Woody Woodpecker of course!

Woodpeckers are found all over the world. Here, in North Texas, we can enjoy the drumming of the Red-bellied Woodpecker [yes it has a slight tinge of red on it's belly!], the Downey Woodpecker, Ladderback, Hairy, Red-headed, and the magnificent Pileated Woodpecker [for whom the Woody Woodpecker character was fashioned after!] During the winter months our year around regulars are joined by the Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.



Woodpeckers are primary cavity nesters which means they excavate their own nesting cavities or save their energy and use an old cavity or just a natural hole in a tree. The male chooses the nest site. Once the perfect place is found he will do most of the excavating. [Look for a pile of wood chips below] Sometimes he starts a hole then for some unknown reason, abandons it and starts a new site. He will call loudly from high perches and drums on hollowed branches within his territory to attract a mate. The louder and deeper the drumming the more suitable mate he is [or so he thinks!] That is why sometimes they will drum on gutters, flashings etc. BIG sounds! The entrance is hollowed out

to the perfect size, just barely large enough for the birds to squeeze in and out.

A woodpecker's skull is designed to withstand repeated hammering and pounding against a tree without causing any brain damage. The bill is long and the tongue is really long, so much, as it coils up inside the head and extends up to 2" past the end of the bill! It has tiny backward pointing barbs and a sticky saliva substance to allow it to grab insects from under bark, cracks and crevices. The nose has special feathers to keep out dust and particles. The tail is strong and allows for extra stability when moving up the trunks. Unlike other birds, they have specialized feet with 2 toes pointing forward and 2 toes pointing back. This is called "zygodactyl" and provide extra toe power to allow them to move up the trunk of a tree vertically.



The main part of a woodpeckers diet are insects; the eggs, larvae, and adults of nearly every insect species are fair game. Spiders, beetles and ants are eaten as well. [Flickers are mostly ant eaters . That is why you can spot them on the ground foraging.] Studies have shown woodpeckers will also eat bird eggs and nestlings of other birds. Sapsuckers on the other hand also drill a series of horizontal holes in trees to release the sweet tree sap. They then lick up the sap with their specialized tongues. Bugs are also attracted to this sweet sticky sap which then attracts other birds such as hummingbirds and warblers. These holes do NOT damage the trees. Once they stop using the holes, the tree will naturally close the hole and heal without permanent damage to the tree.

Earlier we mentioned about the drumming. Did you know that the specific “drummer” can be identified by it’s drum? Yes it can! Each species has it’s own unique pattern.

Woodpecker eggs are pure white, no need for coloring or camouflage deep inside a tree cavity. Quantity depends on the species and climate. Both parents will incubate as unlike other birds, the male woodpecker develops a brood patch to help with incubation. Both parents feed the nestlings. Once fledged you might get to witness an adult feeding a young one from your backyard suet or peanut feeder.



Take a listen...

Take a look...

Just better Knock Knock Knock on wood...it’s a woodpecker -
 “aah ha a ha ha! aah ha a ha ha! “

Woody’s friends’ photos courtesy of Mary Morrow



If you apply yourself to study you will avoid all boredom with life, you will not long for night because you are sick of daylight, you will be neither a burden to yourself nor useless to others, you will attract many to become your friends and the finest people will flock about you. Seneca

From Jim’s This n That, submitted by Judy Riley.

Photo by Judy Riley

WHAT'S HAPPENING???

There are so many opportunities at LLELA for volunteering, did you know that they also offer these activities on a regular basis when you have a little down time?

What's Happening at LLELA?

Schedules are subject to change. Call City of Lewisville Parks & Recreation Department to confirm: 972.219.3550



Homestead Open House

- Third Saturday of most months. Check LLELA.org for upcoming dates and times.

Walk through LLELA's restored 1870's log home and smokehouse, a replica dugout, and an unrestored barn. Friendly and knowledgeable staff and/or volunteers will be available to answer questions. There is no fee for this program, but LLELA's admission is \$5/vehicle without an annual pass.



Bird Walks

- Second Saturday of each month except July & August at 7:30 a.m.

Accompany a master birder on a guided hike. Over 280 species of birds have been documented at LLELA, so there's no telling what you might find! Birders of all skill levels (but at least 10 years old) are welcome. Registration is not required. Bring your own binoculars. \$5/vehicle without an annual pass.



River Trips by KayakPower.com

- Third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Whether you're got lots of river time under your belt or have never set foot in a kayak, you're welcome here! Kayak Power will provide equipment and instruction followed by a six-mile trip down the Elm Fork to a shuttle vehicle. Contact info@kayakpower.com or 214.669.1663 for information.

Registration required. www.kayakpower.com for details.



Nature Walks

- First Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Explore LLELA's trails with a naturalist in this guided search for animal tracks and signs, and learn more about the natural history of LLELA. All ages are welcome. Registration is not required.

There is no fee for this program, but LLELA's admission is \$5/vehicle without an annual pass.



Night Hikes

- Check LLELA.org for upcoming dates and times.

Follow our trail guides on a moonlit stroll down the nature trails. Coyotes howling, owls hooting, and other nocturnal sounds will provide an out-of-the-ordinary hiking experience. Ages 5 years and up. **Registration required: check LLELA.org/calendar for details.** \$10/person and \$5/vehicle.



Gather at our Campfire

- Check LLELA.org for upcoming dates and times.

Meet us in the campground, where a cozy campfire will be waiting for us. People of all ages will enjoy traditional campfire fun, which may include stories, songs, and more, plus of course toasted marshmallows. **Registration required: check LLELA.org/calendar for details.** \$10/person and \$5/vehicle.



Stars on the Prairie

- Check LLELA.org for upcoming dates and times.

Bring a blanket and comfy chair and settle in for a fascinating evening as we explore the wonders of the night sky. Ages 5 and up. **Registration required: check LLELA.org/calendar for details.** \$10/person and \$5/vehicle.

DOROTHY'S CAST OF CRITTERS!

Dorothy Thetford

Giant Katydid Green Leaf Bug (Pterophylla camellifolia)

rested his wings awhile as he hitched a free ride on our tractor as Alan mowed 1/2+ acre along frontage road. It rode to the mowing area, through the actual mowing, and then all the way back to the barn without moving a wing!



Woodhouse's Toad

Anaxyrus woodhousii

I don't deserve to have this garden pet because of my negligence as a landlord....aka garden-lord. This special toad seems to be hiding in the least expected vegetable beds and I've concluded that it does so just to hear me scream each time he catapults out of the soil in which I'm working. I'm even guilty of stabbing the skin of one shoulder with my fork, but he healed and continues to play games with me. Would you say he's well camouflaged?

Western Rat Snake (Pantherophis Obsoletus)



BLUEBELL GENTIAN (*Eustoma russellianum*)

If you want to make my heart sing, drop me off in a prairie of Bluebell Gentians in bloom. That's got to be one of my most favorite native wildflowers in this part of the world! It is a genus of a single species, and is found from southern North America to northern South America. It's Greek



Photo by Dorothy Thetford

name, eustoma, is interpreted as 'eu' meaning 'good' and 'stoma' meaning 'mouth'. The flower is a deep cup, or mouth, composed of five petals.

The petal colors vary from plant to plant, but the predominate color is purple, with a varying range from deep bluish-purple to pale lavender. If you have time to scout a large prairie of Bluebells, you may find a few pinks and/or whites mixed in with the deep, rich colors.

Each open flower is approximately two inches in diameter and, when fully opened, prominently exposes a bright yellow two-lobed stigma against its dark purple-black throat. The color contrast is mind-boggling splendid.

Our local plants are normally 12" to 15" tall, grow as a single or few-stemmed arrangement, and appear as a bouquet, or, botanically described as a terminal cluster composed of flowers and buds.

Leaves of Bluebell (also called prairie gentian) are very unique because they are not a true, normal green color but rather a bluish-green. This coloring adds yet another dimension of color contrast to the plant. They are opposite, clasping to the stem without a petiole or stalk, and have three prominent veins. They are ovate to elliptic-oblong, grow upward, almost parallel with stem, and have a whitish-colored coating.

There are a couple of disadvantages associated with this native. Firstly, it's an annual (or short-lived perennial). Secondly, it's prime blooming cycle surfaces at the same time that our local TxDOT ROW mowers feel obligated to fire up their engines....plus....this is also hay-meadow mowing time. Thus, if this annual blooms in late June/early July, and then is promptly mowed, there will be NO seed production for the future.

If your heart needs to sing, take a drive from Montague County all the way southward to Fredericksburg.



Photo by Rita Lokie at LLELA

Dorothy Brown Thetford

Handy Hints to keep Hummingbird [and Humans] Healthy and Happy!

Sue Yost

Here in the metroplex we are gearing up for big hummingbird activity. Nesting is over and the little hummers will start upping their fat reserves so they can make it back to their wintering grounds. Here are some handy hints to help.

Nectar. You can buy ready made nectar or you can make your own. 4 cups hot water to 1 cup sugar. [regular table sugar only!] **NO RED DYE please!** Make it ahead, it will keep in the fridge for 2 weeks.



2-days old,
already cloudy.

Freshness: The nectar should be changed every other day in this TEXAS heat. Yes. Every other day. There is a [natural] product sold at Wild Birds Unlimited that can be added to nectar that will prolong the freshness and allow you to change it every 4-5 days before it gets cloudy.

Maintenance: Feeders should be thoroughly cleaned once a week. Rinse with hot water in between. If mold is seen use a bit of bleach to disinfect. A port brush is a handy tool.

Location & style: Feeders should be in the open. Hummers will find them by sight as they fly over. Even though red is their favorite color, Mother Nature doesn't grow just red flowers....so any color of feeder will work. [except green...what can a hummer get from the green part of a flower/plant?]

Attraction: You can increase your chance by putting up feeders using the tips from above. Also natural nectar is suggested. Any Texas Native gardener can suggest hummingbird-friendly flowers whether a hanging baskets, containers or rows of blooming flowers.



Photos for the
article provided
by Mary Morrow

Problem solvers:

Domination: In the metroplex, where there is plenty of natural nectar and feeders available, those tiny hummers are very territorial and will not allow any other hummer [or any bird in fact] near "it's" feeder. By placing feeders far apart makes it difficult for one dominate hummer to protect them all increasing your numbers feeding. This usually is not a problem where feeders and natural nectar is more scarce like in the country, on a ranch, in the mountains etc.



Ants: Ants loves the sugary nectar as much as hummers do. Problem solved with an ant moat. Some feeders have this feature built in or one can be purchased separately. Ants also do not like cinnamon!

Bees and wasps: Unfortunately this a bit harder to solve. If you remove any yellow that will help to not attract them to a feeder. IF they have already found the feeder they will remember where that source of sugar water so it's too late. With bees and wasps having a tough time I suggest this solution. Make a bee feeder. Relocate the hummer feeder. In it's place put an open hanging small birdbath, etc. Add fresh nectar or dump the old in it. I also toss in sweet fruit like watermelon rinds, peach pits, berries, etc. and old bananas and peels. {a butterfly's favorite!} You could also put a sponge in the middle or pebbles so they have a place to land. Some say peppermint oil, lavender oil, Avon Skin so Soft or Vicks Vapor rub put around the feeding ports will keep bees at bay The downside is these could seep into the port hole and into the nectar and also makes cleaning harder for us.



Help the hummers with the added bonus of enjoying them in your yard. Hit the garden centers and local bird friendly stores. Hummingbirds like the Ruby-throated and Black-chinned will be here till mid-October so there is time to attract them to your Texas Master Naturalist yard!



Did you know you can support EFCTMN by doing a little grocery shopping at Kroger and Tom Thumb? Go to Kroger.com, sign in, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on 'Kroger Community Rewards', click on 'View Details' under 'I am a Customer' and follow the instructions.

Go to Tom Thumb.com, sign in, stay tune for more info, I don't remember my password and TT doesn't remember my email til I try to register again, sorry. Get started on Kroger.com and stay tune. A percentage of your total receipt goes to our chapter each month/quarter. Thanks for helping out.

WHAT'S HAPPENING???

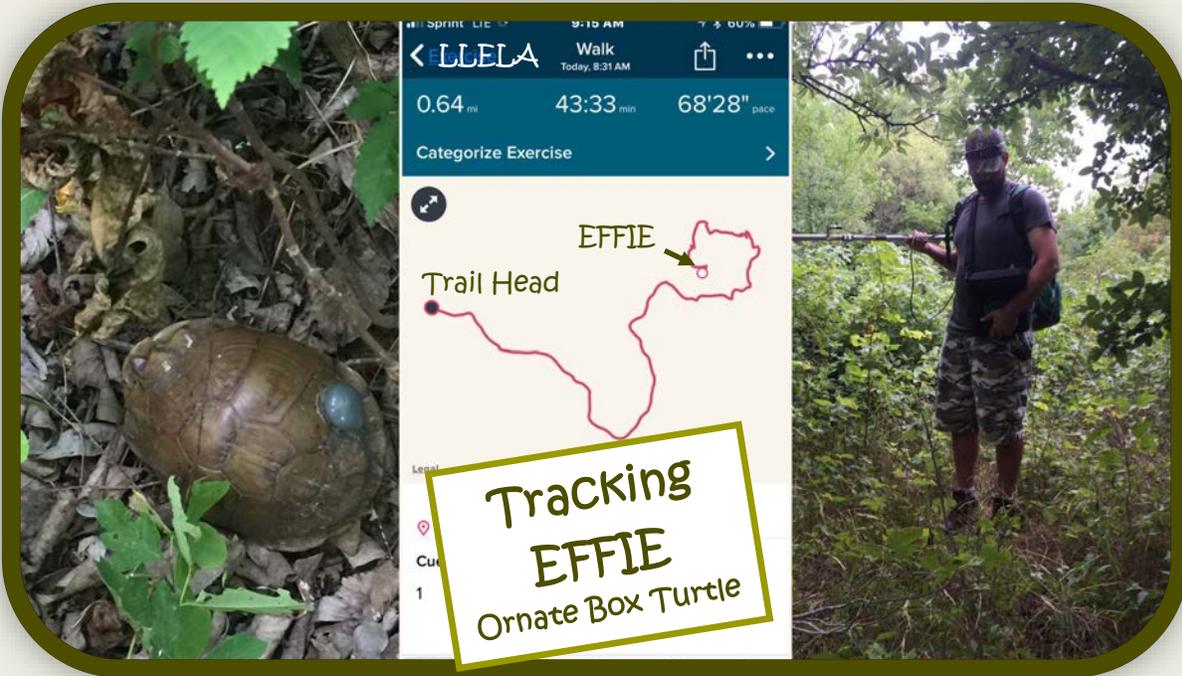


Rumor has it registration will be open in August. The presentations and field trips will be available later in July...we will keep you posted. In the meantime check out <https://txmn.org/2018-annual-meeting/>



Orbweaver,
Family
Araneidae
Has not been
ID'd on iNat.
If you know,
please pass on
or go to
iNaturalist.org,
hawkilitle and
ID.

WHAT'S HAPPENING???



Tracking
EFFIE
Ornate Box Turtle

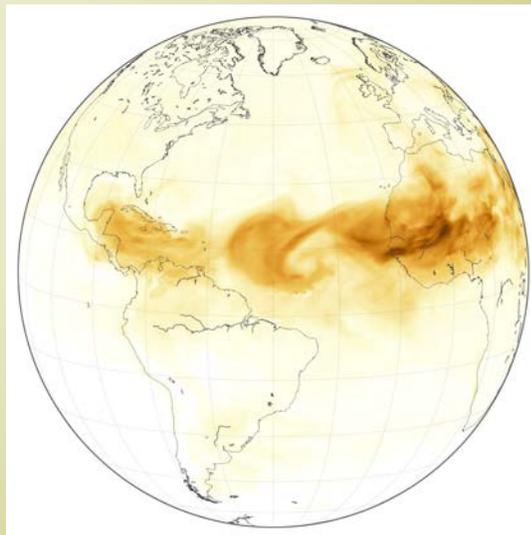
The Sahara Desert, the Caribbean, and Texas may be several thousand miles apart, but a massive cloud of dust connected these places in late June 2018.

On June 18, satellites began to detect thick plumes of Saharan dust passing over Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau before moving out over the Atlantic Ocean. For the next ten days, the skies over West Africa and across the tropical Atlantic were stained a distinctive shade of yellow as winds pushed pulse after pulse of Saharan dust to the west.

According to one preliminary analysis, this brought the tropical Atlantic one of its dustiest weeks in 15 years.

The map shows dust crossing the Atlantic on June 28, 2018, as represented by the Goddard Earth Observing System Model, Version 5 (GEOS-5).

[Read more...](#)



VMS TIPS

Open House is Thursday, July 19th – we have several different ways to volunteer on Wednesday and Thursday – to enter your Service hours in VMS:

Wednesday – meeting at 1:00 P.M. to load items from the Resource Room and take to the DCAC Elections Bldg to set up and Project display set up.
Chapter Administrative Work- Recruiting

Thursday – meeting at DCAC Elections Bldg to finish setting up or bringing Project Displays – 8:00 A.M.
Chapter Administrative Work – Recruiting

Ambassadors – for those escorting the visitors through the day, introducing them, keeping them company during lunch, etc. Start time 9:15 A.M.
Chapter Administrative Work – Recruiting

Project Displays – those manning the display tables throughout the day
Chapter Administrative Work – Recruiting

Welcome Table– Greeting visitors and assigning them to an Ambassador,
Chapter Administrative Work – Recruiting

Program Participants or other Training Class duties -
Chapter Administrative Work – Recruiting

Prep Work – if you prepared displays, the program, etc. prior to the Open House -
Chapter Administrative Work – Recruiting

Food Prep – if you prepared food, not picked up something at your favorite grocer...
Chapter Administrative Work – Hospitality

Clean up, clean up, everybody clean up –
Chapter Administrative Work – Hospitality

If you came, socialized, ate and left you receive 1 hour service
Chapter Administrative Work – Chapter Meeting

There is no Advanced Training for the Open House Meeting...

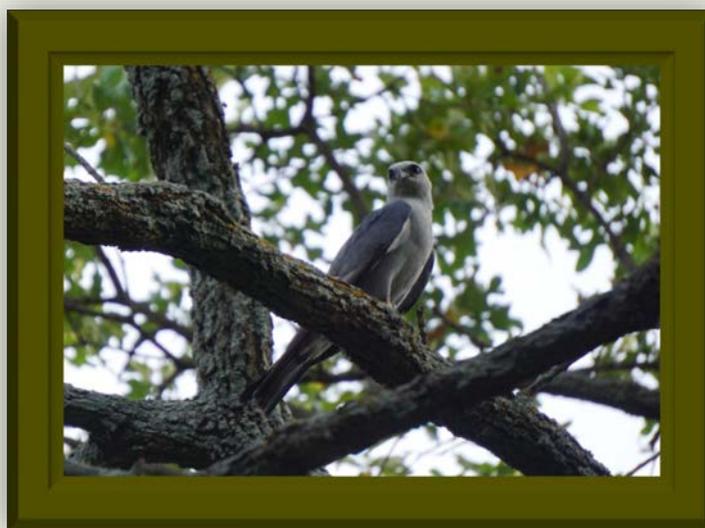
If you have any questions, please email efctmn.vms@gmail.com

Let's Fly my little Chickadees!



Have not been able to catch the little Chickadees yet. They must be shy, not venturing out of the leaf canopy of the trees. My camera is fully charged and lots of memory! I will prevail!!!

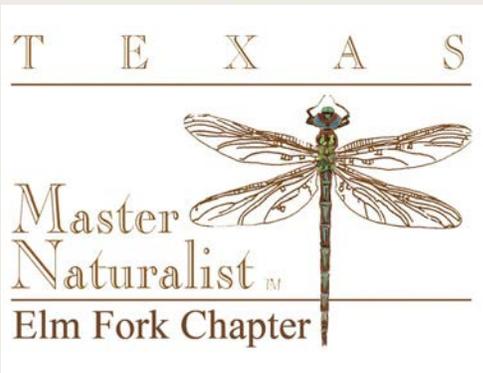
Our non-resident Mississippi Kite (MK) drops in for a visit every year! Beware my little toads, big bullfrogs and sweet Koi...he will get you! My husband witnessed MK snatching a much smaller bird mid-air. No wonder my little Chickadees are in hiding. Smart Chicks!



Photos by Mary Morrow

Psst...don't tell her I'm here.





VISION STATEMENT

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.

EFC BOARD MEMBERS

- PRESIDENT** Adelaide Bodnar
- VICE-PRESIDENT** Brent Farler
- SECRETARY** John Williams
- TREASURER** Brenda Wellenreiter
- PAST PRESIDENT** Don Fikes
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- REPRESENTATIVES** Robert McLaughlin
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- MEMBERSHIP** Mary Morrow
- TPWD ADVISOR** Rick Torres
- AGRILIFE ADVISOR** Janet Laminack



The Mission

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.

Our next Chapter Meetings is July 19th, the annual Open House. All are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at the DCAC Technology and Elections Bldg, 701 Kimberly in Denton. The Open House begins at 10:00 A.M., followed by a short business meeting, presentations and pot luck lunch. Please join us!

The Board of Directors meet the 2nd Thursday each month. The meeting begins at 9:30 A.M. All members are welcome!



Group	Email Address
AT Committee	elmforkat@gmail.com
VMS Team	efctmn.vms@gmail.com
Website	marthawpeet
Newsletter	wanda.odum@gmail.com
Plan Your Week	dwolfepack@verizon.net,hawkilitle@aol.com
Chapter	master.naturalist@dentoncounty.com

Please update your VMS Profile with current contact info

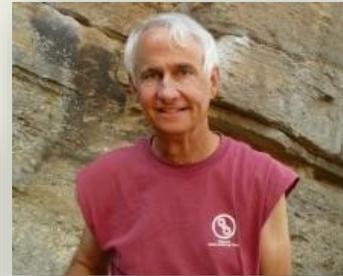
Contact Plan Your Week and update your VMS Profile with email address changes

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR MAKING THE NATURALIST NEWS HAPPENING!



Bob James—Class of 2017 refresher, transferred in

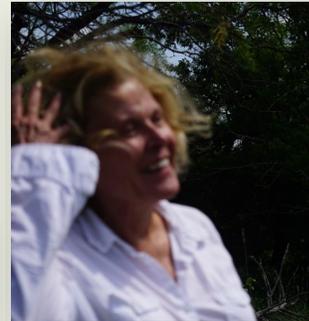
Rjta Lokie—Class of 2013



Jonathan Reynolds—Class of 2014



Dorothy Thetford—Class of 2001



Judy Riley—Class of 2014

Sue Yost—Class of 2017



Mary Morrow—Class of 2014



Tracy Durmick—interested



Karen Mangum—Class of 2000



John Carpenter—Class of 2017



Loon Lenders

Barbara Kraus—Class of 2017

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker