

September 2018

# *Naturalist News*

Vol. 19 Issue 9



Publication from Texas Master Naturalist,  
Elm Fork Chapter



Widow Skimmer (*Libellula luctuosa*), Lake Ray Roberts  
- Jonathan Reynolds

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

**On the web:** [www.txmn.org/elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)



Publication from Texas Master Naturalist,  
Elm Fork Chapter

### Look for:

- September program with Scott Kiester
- Articles galore!
- Photography at its best
- Looking for a place to work? Check out "Of Interest"

### Inside this issue:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Meet Class of 2018</i>               | 3  |
| <i>August program/<br/>awards recap</i> | 4  |
| <i>What's next?</i>                     | 5  |
| <i>Field notes in focus</i>             | 6  |
| <i>Features</i>                         | 7  |
| <i>Hold that pose</i>                   | 12 |
| <i>Of interest</i>                      | 13 |
| <i>This month's contribu-<br/>tors</i>  | 25 |
| <i>Mostly the last word</i>             | 26 |
| <i>Who we are</i>                       | 27 |



Golden Crownbeard or Cowpen Daisy (*Verbesina encelioides*)  
—courtesy Dorothy Thetford



**Have you thanked a contributor today??**



# Class of 2018 Elm Fork Chapter TMN

Photos courtesy  
Denise Remfert



Gale Bacon



Barbara Beane



Jerry Betty



Sharon Betty



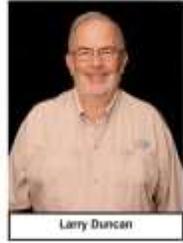
Sydney Chase



Jeff Davis



Pat DeBaca



Larry Duncan



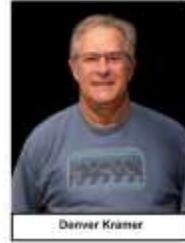
Caroline Finley



Terika Grogan



Sue Hudburgh



Denver Kramer



Angela Lindsey



Isabel Nieves



Nick Makarenko



Kayla Peebles



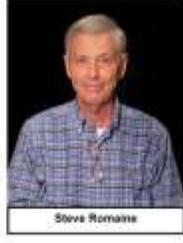
Pam Pierce



Jean Priddy



Michele Rawleigh



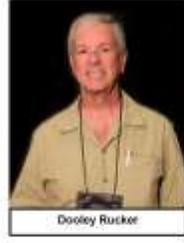
Steve Romaine



Lisa Rosenberg



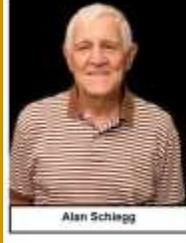
Deb Rucker



Dooley Rucker



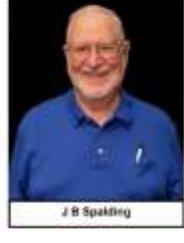
Kenneth Saintonge



Alan Schiegg



Lisa Saladin



J B Spalding



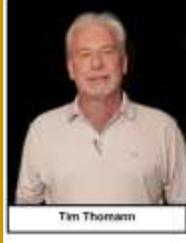
Jody Springer



Chuck Swatske



Mary Thomann



Tim Thomann



Tim Trosper



Russell Tyson



Joyce Yarnall-Smith



Gale Bacon, Barbara Beane, Jerry Betty, Sharon Betty, Sydney Chase, Jeff Davis, Pat DeBaca, Larry Duncan, Caroline Finley, Terika Grogan, Sue Hudburgh, Denver Kramer, Angela Lindsey, Isabel Nieves, Nick Makarenko, Kayla Peebles, Pam Pierce, Jean Priddy, Michele Rawleigh, Steve Romaine, Lisa Rosenberg, Deb Rucker, Dooley Rucker, Kenneth Saintonge, Alan Schiegg, Lisa Saladin, J B Spalding, Jody Springer, Chuck Swatske, Mary Thomann, Tim Thomann, Tim Trosper, Russell Tyson, Joyce Yarnall-Smith



# August 2018 Regular Meeting

Photos courtesy  
Denise Remfert

Initial Certification: Judy Thurmond

Re-certifications: Ivy Doak; Deborah Estes; Kevin Frerich; Karen Jamieson; Diane Kohlhasse; Raymond Kreutzfeld; Betty Mullenweg; Judy Riley; Dave Rowley; Erin Tran; Sharon Miggins; Andy Shelton; Irene Hanson; Kaye Jackson; Richard Johnson; Susan Myers; Harriet Powell

250 Hour Milestone: Shannon Bushong; Elise Spain; Kathy Webb

500 Hour Milestone: Erin Tran; John Williams

1000 Hour Milestone: Wilbur Poppe

1500 Hour Milestone: Mary Cissell; Linda Cox, Donna Wolfe

2000 Hour Milestone: Theresa Page

3500 Hour Milestone: Betty Zajac

Re-certs (see above)



Judy Thurmond



Kathy Webb, Elise Spain  
Shannon Bushong



John Williams



Linda Cox, Mary Cissell,  
Donna Wolfe



Wilbur ("Fritz") Poppe



Betty Zajac




Program presented by  
Dr. Michael C. Slattery  
"A constructive discussion in the Climate Change debate."



Rick Torres introducing Daniel Rios, Greenbelt Mgr & Natural Resource Specialist, Ray Roberts Lake State Park and Kenneth Saintonage, AmeriCorps Vista volunteer working at Johnson Branch unit of the park focusing on community outreach.



## What's Next?

*From Rita Lokie*

**Scott Kiester will present "What is a Bioblitz" at the September 20, 2018 Elm Fork Chapter Meeting at the Denton County Southwest County Courthouse.**

"So what is a Bioblitz anyway?" Well, it is a short duration, usually 24 to 36 hours, biological survey, covering a specific area. They have become very popular worldwide as a way to obtain a snapshot of an area's biodiversity and just as important a way to introduce the residents of a community to the plants and animals that live where they live and demonstrate the interconnectedness of nature. But who first came up with the idea? Where did it start? How long have they been around? Why has it become one of the most popular ways to get a picture of a local biome and connect people with the natural world? There are definite protocols and rules, what are they and why does it matter? What are the long term and short term objectives? What goes into planning one, let alone doing it? And lastly how can you help with our own blitz at LLELA?

A certified Texas Master Naturalist since 2003 and Audubon North Central Texas Master Birder, Scott is a lifelong student of nature. He has worked on different conservation related projects and with conservation groups throughout Texas. Currently he is active in the Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, leads a monthly bird walk at the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center near Denton and regularly volunteers at the LLELA bird banding station as well as other ecological restoration and wildlife related projects. He is a retired geologist and completed an M.S. in environmental science in 2015. Husband and partner to the very patient Lovely Deborah for 41 years and Grandpa to Hayden, Parker, Lorelei, Annelise and Arthur.

Rita Lokie  
[rj.stephenson1@verizon.net](mailto:rj.stephenson1@verizon.net)



At Open House washing all those plates! From Richard Johnson





## FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS



## Water Snake - From the Gallery of Jonathan Reynolds



A place to showcase your photos of flora and fauna.



## Features

Submission from Martha Peet reprinted  
by permission of author

### Have you discovered LLELA yet?



*Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly*

**By Laura Kimberly, North Texas Master Naturalist Chapter New Class Director (the original article appeared in the North Texas Master Naturalist Dragonflyer newsletter)**

LLELA (Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area) is an unlikely gem of wildlife and wildflowers—hidden among the spoils of civilization. Pay no attention to the power lines, landfills, and dam. Don't look there. Instead step into the amazing woods and wetlands where the ecoregions of Blackland Prairie and Cross Timbers meet and migratory birds stop in. LLELA's got prairie, wetlands, riparian areas, forests, and glades. Many consider it a nature photographer's wonderland.

Managed in cooperation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the University of North Texas, the Lewisville Independent School District and the City of Lewisville, LLELA offers hiking, fishing, paddling, camping, education, and research. For the Master Naturalist, LLELA offers a range of options for volunteering and advanced training.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteering at LLELA lets you in on the secrets of this crossroads for birds, insects, and plants. Volunteers work “to heal the land and restore the bond between people and nature,” as stated in the LLELA vision statement.

Volunteering alongside Master Naturalists and staff knowledgeable of plants, insects, herptiles, birds, and land restoration, you are bound to see and learn something new each week. LLELA is volunteer crossroads as well, where Master Naturalists from several chapters meld into a dedicated and fun group.



## Features cont'd

The North Texas Chapter has contributed 400 volunteer hours on average over the past few years. You'll find me there on Wednesdays and the monthly Saturday—sometimes working hard, sometimes distracted by insect observations, and always learning from my fellow volunteers and the nature around me. I hope you'll join me and get hooked on LLELA, too.

—Weekly and monthly workdays: Monday and Wednesday mornings and one Saturday a month, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Volunteers work on prairie restoration, plant propagation, seed collection, removal of exotic species, trail maintenance, and other projects. To volunteer and for specifics about directions, etc., contact Richard Freiheit [richard.freiheit@unt.edu](mailto:richard.freiheit@unt.edu). Learn more at [www.llela.org](http://www.llela.org). No training required; come on out and join a workday crew.

—River Care Team: Saturdays and Sundays. The River Care Team communicates with anglers and other visitors along the Elm Fork at LLELA, discussing river stewardship and proper disposal of trash. Contact: Lisa Cole, [lcole@cityoflewisville.com](mailto:lcole@cityoflewisville.com) about the River Care Team training and volunteer schedule.

—Outdoor Education: Monday-Saturday, times vary. Lead short nature hikes with students or assist staff with school group labs. Assist with weekend family events such as Stars on the Prairie, Night Hikes, etc. Contact Lisa Cole, [lcole@cityoflewisville.com](mailto:lcole@cityoflewisville.com) about becoming a trained nature hike leader.

--Visitor Center: Saturdays and Sundays. The Center docents answer questions about LLELA and generally make visitors feel welcome. Contact Vicki Keathley, [vickikeathley@gmail.com](mailto:vickikeathley@gmail.com)

—Specialized opportunities are available for naturalists with specific expertise. Be on the lookout for a call for expertise for the October 2018 BioBlitz, sponsored by the Friends of LLELA.

### Advanced Training

Just a visit to LLELA is a lesson in land restoration, habitat preservation, ecosystems, plant and animal diversity, and plant and animal survival in an ever-growing population center. But you can learn more, and get advanced training hours, by participating in scheduled educational events:

—The monthly Bird Walk: Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join an expert birder every 2nd Saturday (except July and August) at 7:30 a.m.

—Monthly Nature Walks: Knowledgeable trail guides lead monthly Saturday walks to identify nature's sights and sounds of the season. These are family friendly walks.



## Features cont'd

—Monthly Night Hikes: The nighttime version of the nature walks. Listen for the owls, coyotes, frogs and more. Registration is required for these after-hours events one Saturday a month.

--Saturday Lecture Series is hosted by the Friends of LLELA. Susan Pohlen will be presenting The Ecology of North Texas on Oct. 20 10-noon in the LLELA classroom.

Periodically, LLELA schedules star gazing, guided kayaking, local history lectures, and other events, which may qualify for AT or may be just plain fun. Events that qualify for AT are listed on the Chapter calendar.

### Hiking, Paddling, Photographing, and Fishing

With seven miles of trails through various landscapes, an interpretative paddling trail, and a Trinity River launch for kayaking and canoeing, LLELA is a wonderland for birders, photographers, paddlers, casual hikers, and anglers. Check out the LLELA iNaturalist project for photographs of the wide range of flora and fauna found there. Fishing is permitted (license required) along a one-mile stretch of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

Go discover LLELA. Volunteer, learn, play, enjoy.

LLELA is open seven days a week. Summer hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Winter hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The daily fee is \$5 per car; a yearly pass is \$60. Some events carry an additional \$5 registration fee; other events require registration, but no additional charge. Be sure to check the LLELA events calendar for all the details, registration links, and surprise events.

Scott Kiester, [skiester2@gmail.com](mailto:skiester2@gmail.com), is the Elm Fork project manager for LLELA. Contact him for more information.

LLELA website: [llela.org](http://llela.org)

Friends of LLELA website: [llelafriends.org](http://llelafriends.org)

LLELA on iNaturalist: [https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?nelat=33.0634389802915&nelng=-96.97823101970852&place\\_id=any&swlat=33.0607410197085&swlng=-96.98092898029154](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?nelat=33.0634389802915&nelng=-96.97823101970852&place_id=any&swlat=33.0607410197085&swlng=-96.98092898029154)





## Features cont'd

**F**ALL...it has to be just around the corner!!

As the seasons change so do the birds. Our everyday, year around birds like the Cardinals, Jays, Woodpeckers, Bluebirds etc are molting into their new feathers. You will notice an increase in single feathers found in your yard as the old fall out and the new come in. I am sure you have seen some mangy, bald-headed looking jays and cardinals. Don't worry, those head feathers will grow back and they will be beautiful again! The fledglings Cardinals are also molting into their mature plumage. We can now tell who are going to be males and who are going to be females.



Baltimore Oriole

Some of our birds will be leaving for places to the south. Some fly as far as South America, Mexico, Belize etc. Those that have left or are leaving are the buntings, hummers, Dickcissels, all the flycatchers such as Purple Martins, Scissortails, Swallows and Kingbirds. Waterbirds like the Green Herons and Little Blues will also move out.



"Ruby" of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet

We are in what is called the Central Flyaway zone. So some traveling birds just pass through our area to rest and bulk up their fat reserves to make it farther south. Right now is a good time to see the various warblers, Orioles, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds just to name a few. Multitudes of Hawks [known as "Kettles"] will also pass through. Shorebirds started their migration in July but can still be seen for a while longer.

Incoming! Incoming! We should start seeing the winter woodpeckers like the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Flickers arrive soon. Brown Creepers, Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, Juncos and Winter Wrens too. And let's not forget all the "LBJ's" a.k.a. wintering sparrows and waterfowl! There will be an increase in the number of Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles as those from up north join our locals. Hawks and Owls that will come to "vacation" in the metroplex will be the Kestrels, Merlins & Peregrines, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Short & Long-eared Owls. Everyone's favorite, the American Goldfinch should arrive mid to late December. Will we have a winter eruption of Pine Siskin, Nuthatches even Crossbills or Snowy Owls? Only time will tell!



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Those of you with feeding stations will also notice a difference in the fall feeding habits of your birds. Usually in late September/early October the natural food sources become plentiful. Native flowers and grasses have gone to seed, berries are ripe, acorns and pecans start to ripen. Your birds will leave the feeding stations to feed on the natural food in your yard.

**BUT**, as I always say "there are no guarantees when dealing with children or Mother Nature". This year may be a different scenario because of our long, hot, summer drought some natives food sources may not have gone full cycle to produce food for our wildlife. Again, only time will tell!



Blue Jay

Fall is a good time to take your feeders down and give them a good cleaning. Clean up the areas under your feeding stations too! And don't forget to give your birdbaths a good scrub! Check the hardware on your systems and clean out the nest boxes. Put fresh cedar shavings in those Screech Owl boxes too as they will be looking for nice available rentals in October and November!

Get your yard ready.... [and sign up for Cornell's Project Feeder Watch!] for they are coming!!!

**Sue YOST**  
class of 2017



## Features cont'd

### Magical Fairy Rings Sue YOST Class of 2017

**W**ith the abundant rains of late...have you seen fairy rings popping up? The rings are a natural occurrence as fungus continues to grow underground. They are of folklore tales that talk of fairies, elves and pixies that come out to dance and play. In some cultures they are looked upon as being dangerous places for mere humans .. stay away from the evil magic!

Of course with us being Master Naturalist we have to talk about what they really are before getting back to the fun fictional facts!

They are mycelium growth which is an underground organism that produces a fruit we know as mushrooms. The mycelium starts in a single place and grows in a circular shape, continuing to push outward in an attempt to consume more nutrients. As it depletes the nutrients on the inside of the circle it will further widen looking for new nutrients to consume.



They don't grow just anywhere mind you. Soil types and condition, amount of nutrients in the soil, obstructions underground and dirt composition have to be just right. The soil needs to be even. That is why we often see them popping up in our lawns. The circular mycelium underground is always there and growing; we only see them when they produce mushrooms above ground. These mushrooms are of all different types and can be both edible and poisonous!

If you want to read more about fairy rings just google it!



## The Fairy Ring

—

O H, have you seen the fairies dance  
Upon a Summer's night?  
And watched the gnomes and pixies prance  
Whene'er the moon is bright?  
'Tis splendid fun to see them run  
As soon as it grows light.

☐ ☐ ☐

One evening sister May and I  
Went out soon after ten;  
The moon hung like a ball on high  
Above the fairy glen,  
And round and round upon the ground  
Danced fays and elfin men.

☐ ☐ ☐

And there, at dawn, they leave behind  
A ring of toadstools wee  
(Where they have danced you'll always find  
This mark for folks to see),  
Then off they fly into the sky  
Just as the clock strikes three.

EGENE THORNTON








Have you ever made a spore print? Pluck the cap off a mushroom. Put it spore side down on a plain piece of paper. Cover with a bowl or cup. Let it sit quietly overnight. Lift off the bowl and carefully lift the cap directly up and off the paper. Awesome, fun kid craft!

Now here are some more fun fairy ring facts [and fiction] I found:  
The rings continue to grow over time and can get up to 1,000' wide and 100's of years old.

In France, a ring was found that was about 2,000' wide and over 700 years old! Germans believe they mark the spot where witches gather and dance. Old Dutch superstitions believe the rings are where the Devil churns his milk. English and Celtic folklore warn against humans disrupting or joining in the fairies dances, lest they be punished.

Whether or not you believe in magic and fairies get out and take a closer look at the next fairy ring you come upon.... but do it ever so quietly..... you may just hear the music and laughter of dancing fairies!!!



# H o l d t h a t P o s e



Knock, knock—Carolina Wren from Dorothy Thetford



Giant Swallowtail butterfly caterpillar on my native Prickly Ash tree—Dorothy Thetford



From Dorothy Thetford—Here is my first fall-migrating Monarch butterfly to my native plant, Mistflower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*).



# Of Interest



**Elm Fork Education Center**

## Professional Development Workshop Schedule 2018/19

Saturday, September 22, 2018 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Project WILD

Cost: \$25

Includes NEW Project WILD 2018 curriculum guide, certification, 6 CEU's, and lunch



Saturday, February 9, 2019 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Growing Up WILD (3 hours)

Cost: \$15

Includes Growing Up WILD curriculum guide, certification, and 3 CEU's



Wednesday and Thursday, May 29-30, 2019

WET and WILD Summer Camp for Educators

Project WET, Aquatic WILD, Texas Aquatic Science (14 hours)

Cost: \$40

Includes 3 curriculum guides (2 hard copy, 1 digital), certifications, 14 CEU's, and lunch both days



If you are interested in any professional development workshop, please drop me an email at [marti.lathrop@unt.edu](mailto:marti.lathrop@unt.edu) .

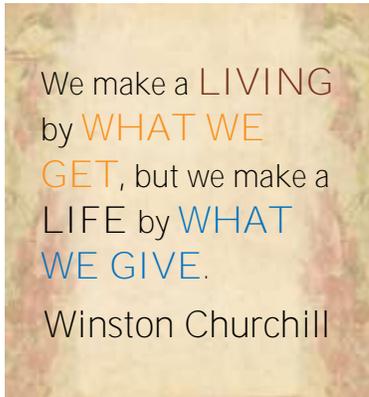
Hope to see all of you soon!

Marti Lathrop, Elm Fork Education Center



### North Texas Giving Day

*From Martha Peet*



We are registered for Giving Day. Our URL is <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/texas-master-naturalist-elm-fork-chapter>

If anyone wants a login, please let me know and I will create one for you.

#### People can schedule their donations before North Texas Giving Day!

Scheduling donations works like scheduling your bills. **Between September 10th and September 19th** go to <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/texas-master-naturalist-elm-fork-chapter> and schedule your donations to Elm Fork. **The donation will be processed on the morning of September 20th.**

You will receive a confirmation of your scheduled donations as soon as the donation is scheduled. You will receive a receipt for your donations on September 20th once your donations are processed.



The LLELA Bioblitz is looking for a few, well more than a few, volunteers to act as recording secretaries on the planned nature hikes and activities. There are over 20 different hikes and activities on the schedule. While not all of them need someone to keep track of what is ID'd most will. The job will be to keep a written list and/or post to iNat every species ID'd by the taxon leader. The dates are October 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

There is a morning tree survey with Suzanne Tuttle that will cover several areas on the preserve. Most things are scheduled for either the morning or afternoon on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the evenings of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Sam Kieschnick is spotlighting and black lighting insects from 8 PM 'til he collapses, usually around 2 AM. The evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> is open only to MN's. We could use a couple of shifts for his nights. We will need help setting out game cams during the week and retrieving them Thursday evening/Friday morning so we have time to review the captured images and get them ready to view on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Someone with good PowerPoint skills would be welcome.

If you are interested in helping out contact Scott at [skiester2@gmail.com](mailto:skiester2@gmail.com). The schedule is not yet completely final, but as soon as it is I will email it to interested members. Let us know what your preference is, and please pick a couple of activities because it'll be first come first served.

Thanks Folks.

Scott Kiester



Elm Fork Chapter  
LLELA Project Manager  
Cell: 281 380 6459





Of Interest

The Friends of LLELA  
present

# LLELA Bioblitz 2018

Wednesday, Oct. 10 through  
Saturday, Oct. 13

LLELA Nature Preserve is home to thousands of different species of flora and fauna. Spend a weekend with us as we search for, catalog, and learn about our local residents!

Visit [LLELA.org](http://LLELA.org) for a full list of events.





## Of Interest

### [Featherless e-Flyer for September 2018](#)

Check out the **NEW PRINTABLE EVENT SHEET** and **BUTTERFLY/BIRD CENSUS!**

In this edition:

Meet one of the refuge's most generous benefactors: Carlos Araoz, and learn about his latest donation  
The Bluebird Adopt-A-Nestbox results are in--the numbers are up!  
Recent Sightings in the Butterfly Garden  
Birding with Jack

We hope you enjoy our many activities this month, including:

A Guided Bird Walk led by Jack Chiles

Second Saturday Presentation: Plant and Insect Relationships by Loriann Garcia, Assistant Professor at Austin College

Refuge Rocks: Who Lives In A Pond? For ages 4-7 and 8-12, with separate, age-appropriate activities.

**See the Flyer for details and a Printable Event Sheet**

Want to Join our Team? We have many volunteer opportunities! Check out [Click Here](#) to learn more about volunteering at HNWR, or [www.friendsofhagerman.com/contact](http://www.friendsofhagerman.com/contact) to contact us.

Enjoy seeing photos from the Refuge? Check our [Facebook Page](#) and [Gallery](#).

New Friends are always welcome! Just click [Membership](#) for info.

See you at the Refuge.



### **DISD School Days at Clear Creek are Coming Soon - October 1- November 9** *From Elise Spain*

More than 2,000 fourth graders will visit Clear Creek this fall, and we hope to make the days more educational, engaging, and enjoyable for all! We have four stations planned: Art, Artifacts, Pelts, and Stream Trailers. All stations are in or near the building, so no hiking is required; but you are welcome to hike with the classes if you want to. Training for the stations will be provided at the SWAT meeting on September 27. You can also come without training to assist a Master Naturalist who is trained and in charge of each station.

Many service hours are available! Please send a note to Elise ([elisespain2@gmail.com](mailto:elisespain2@gmail.com)) or to Carolyn ([carolyntrvt@gmail.com](mailto:carolyntrvt@gmail.com)) to get the schedule of days and instructions for volunteering on SignUpGenius.

It takes many volunteers for this great project to work. We hope to see you at Clear Creek!





## O f I n t e r e s t

Join! Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project Feeder Watch 2018-2019 Starts Soon!

This year the Cornell Lab 2018–2019 Project FeederWatch season begins Saturday, November 10, 2018 and runs through early April 2019. New participants will be able to log into online data entry and set up their count site on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The project always starts on the second Saturday of November and runs for 21 weeks. You do not have to be a member of Cornell Lab to participate in Project Feeder Watch.

Participation in this project is approved for service hours by our Chapter. Project Number P-080214.

All you need to do to participate is:

SIGN UP ONLINE at <https://feederwatch.org> for new participants or to renew. Renewing? Please have your FeederWatch I.D. number handy, you use the same number each year.

-OR-

CALL 1- (800) 843-BIRD (2473) to join by phone. They do accept credit cards.

-OR-

PRINT and MAIL the form on the FeederWatch website to pay by check.

There is a participation fee of \$18 for non-members (\$15 if you are a Cornell Lab member) and you pay at the time you join Cornell Lab Project Feeder Watch.

New participants receive the Research New Participant kit and receive a Welcome Letter, Common Feeder Birds color poster, the *Feeder Watch Handbook and Instructions*, Bird Watching Days Calendar, to help you keep track of your count days, full access to the Project FeederWatch website and data entry, *Winter Bird Highlights* (the Feeder Watch annual summary, mailed in the fall) and an opportunity to sign up for the electronic newsletter and receive Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *Living Bird News*, a quarterly electronic newsletter with the latest news and discoveries from the Cornell Lab. You can still do all data entry paperless, but the starter kit is very helpful. Paper forms are also available on the website at <https://feederwatch.org>

When you register, you can choose to enter your hours and observations by paper or go paperless online. You will receive a Project Feeder Watch number you will use to submit data. If you participated last year, you use the same number to register and enter data this year. If your feeder locations have changed be sure to update your count location(s). You will also need to keep track of your count & data logging time and submit it for your service hours on this project on VMS.

This is a great project for anyone interested in birds. Lots of links and helpful information online.

If you have temporary health or mobility issues, this is a great project to participate in to get your service hours and retain active member status. Project FeederWatch begins in November and continues through spring into early April.

QUESTIONS? Visit <http://feederwatch.org> or contact me for additional information. Already renewed? Thank You!

WHEN YOU SIGN UP OR RENEW PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL TO LET ME KNOW YOU HAVE JOINED SO I CAN ADD YOU TO THE PROJECT FEEDER WATCH GROUP EMAIL LIST FOR THE CHAPTER SO YOU RECEIVE TIPS, REMINDERS AND BIRDING INFO.

REMEMBER, PROJECT FEEDER WATCH BEGINS IN NOVEMBER, SO THE TIME TO SIGN UP IS NOW!

### IT'S FUN AND EASY!

Join Project FeederWatch

Be sure to enter your feeder site(s) on Project FeederWatch

Put up your feeders

Count the birds that visit

Send the data to the Cornell scientists

Earn & record service hours!

You can contact me by email at [kmangum13@verizon.net](mailto:kmangum13@verizon.net) Look forward to hearing from you soon!

Karen Mangum, Project Manager

EFCMN Cornell Lab Project Feeder Watch

P-080214

NATURALIST NEWS, Texas Master Naturalist , Elm Fork Chapter—September 2018



Of Interest



Denton Parks and Rec | [www.dentonparks.com](http://www.dentonparks.com)

## Preschool Naturalist

Elm Fork Master Naturalists

T E X A S



**Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - noon**  
**Cross Timbers Park**  
**7112 Montecito Dr.**

**Ages 3-5, with an adult**  
**\$8 per child**

**Sept. 26, Prairies**  
**Oct. 17, Looking at Leaves**

**Elm Fork Master Naturalists invite kids and their adult companions for hands-on activities, arts and crafts, literature, and a nature hike to encourage kids to explore.**

**Register at [www.dentonparks.com](http://www.dentonparks.com).**

Denia Rec Center, 1001 Parvin St., (940) 349-8285



## O f I n t e r e s t



### **MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING AND ADVANCED TRAINING**

**DATE: THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 2018**

**TIME: 9:30 A.M.—11:30 A.M.**

**LOCATION: JOSEPH A. CARROLL BUILDING  
401 W. HICKORY ST., DENTON, ROOM 115**

**BUSINESS MEETING AT 9:30-10:30 A.M.**

**FOLLOWED BY ADVANCED TRAINING**

For more information, please contact Susan Kilpatrick or Marion Arndt at

[sciencewithattitude@gmail.com](mailto:sciencewithattitude@gmail.com) or visit our webpage:

[dcmga.com/all-about-dcmga/swat-science-with-attitude-educational-outreach/](http://dcmga.com/all-about-dcmga/swat-science-with-attitude-educational-outreach/)



### **DISD SCHOOL DAYS AT CLEAR CREEK**

Last spring, the Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists (EFCTMN) launched *DISD SCHOOL DAYS AT CLEAR CREEK*. Due to the wonderful support from everyone involved and the positive feedback from the students and educators, this has become an ongoing EFCTMN project.

Join us as we prepare for the fall program. More than 2,000 DISD fourth grade students, teachers and chaperones will visit Clear Creek.

- Program Dates: Weekdays, October 1st—November 9th
- Volunteer Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Ten or more volunteers a day are needed
- Advanced Training will include training for all four of the following stations, which are in or near the main building on site:
  - Art
  - Artifacts
  - Pelts
  - Stream Trailer



*Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center is a gateway to more than 2,900 acres of bottom-land hardwood forest, upland prairie, and diverse aquatic habitats located within Lake Lewisville's upper floodplain.*

Sign up is open now! Choose your days. Volunteer service available for MNs and MGs of all interests, skills, and abilities.

Contact Carolyn Trivette at 225-978-4252 or [carolyntrvtt@gmail.com](mailto:carolyntrvtt@gmail.com) or Elise Spain at 469-236-5850 or [elisespain2@gmail.com](mailto:elisespain2@gmail.com) for SignUpGenius instructions on how to volunteer.



# O f I n t e r e s t

**From Karen Mangum: Link to Audubon Climate Watch report on the impact climate change on birds.**

[https://action.audubon.org/sites/default/files/ClimateWatch2017ResultsReport\\_Final.pdf?ms=science\\_citizen-eng-email-ea-newsletter-20180829\\_american-birds\\_%5baudience%5d&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20180829\\_american-birds&utm\\_content=%5baudience%5d&emci=ec9d9fa4-ffaa-e811-bce7-000d3a12b800&emdi=2ba23772-a4ab-e811-bce7-000d3a1366c1&ceid=224252&smartlinkdata=JmZuPUthcmVuJmxuPU1hbmd1bSZIbT1rbWfUz3VtMTMINDB2ZXJpem9uLm5ldCZhZGQxPTEzODArQnJpZGxlK1BhdGgrUmQrJmNpPUFyZ3lsZSZzdD1UWCZwYz03NjlyNiZocD05NDAYNDEyMDg5JnA9TXJzLg%3d%3d](https://action.audubon.org/sites/default/files/ClimateWatch2017ResultsReport_Final.pdf?ms=science_citizen-eng-email-ea-newsletter-20180829_american-birds_%5baudience%5d&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20180829_american-birds&utm_content=%5baudience%5d&emci=ec9d9fa4-ffaa-e811-bce7-000d3a12b800&emdi=2ba23772-a4ab-e811-bce7-000d3a1366c1&ceid=224252&smartlinkdata=JmZuPUthcmVuJmxuPU1hbmd1bSZIbT1rbWfUz3VtMTMINDB2ZXJpem9uLm5ldCZhZGQxPTEzODArQnJpZGxlK1BhdGgrUmQrJmNpPUFyZ3lsZSZzdD1UWCZwYz03NjlyNiZocD05NDAYNDEyMDg5JnA9TXJzLg%3d%3d)

## “Overview”

“From January 15 – 30 and June 1 – 15, 2017, more than 600 volunteers from across the U.S. looked for bluebirds and nuthatches as part of Audubon’s Climate Watch program. Climate Watch is a community science program that integrates species’ climate-based range projections with community volunteers’ local knowledge to study how birds will respond to climate change. Volunteers collected data on seven target species: Eastern, Western, and Mountain bluebirds and White-breasted, Red-breasted, Brown-headed, and Pygmy nuthatches.”



(For full report, go to the link above)



AT approved—Butterflies: [https://nextdoor.com/events/tx/carrollton/all-about-butterflies-2367368?i=fymkkkkwhynxxwqgfjxs&utm\\_campaign=events&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=u-mobile-ios](https://nextdoor.com/events/tx/carrollton/all-about-butterflies-2367368?i=fymkkkkwhynxxwqgfjxs&utm_campaign=events&utm_source=email&utm_medium=u-mobile-ios)

## NOVEMBER 8, 7pm

What is a Prairie, Anyway?

Have you ever driven by The Flower Mound and wondered what that weedy-looking field was all about? Flower Mound Foundation board member and Master Naturalist Diane Wetherbee will present the sights of the Flower Mound prairie that you can’t notice going past at 45mph. She will explain the importance of the most endangered ecosystem in the U.S. and show you the grasses, flowers, and wildlife that make up the namesake for our town.





## **OLE! Texas: Child-friendly plant list coming soon**

Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE! Texas) is a pioneering statewide intervention. The project has received national attention, as an innovative approach for increasing childhood physical activity and building a connection with nature for young children at childcare centers.



When leading agencies in Texas come together, great things happen. Partners, such as, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Tech University, University of Texas School of Public Health, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - The University of Texas at Austin, Natural Learning Initiative in North Carolina, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Workforce Commission, Healthy Living Matters- Harris County Public Health, United Way for Greater Austin, and Texas Nursery & Landscape Association, have all committed to supporting OLE! Texas.

One successful project that has come from this initiative is a child-friendly plant list for childcare centers. The target audience for these plants are youth ages 5 and under. Plants were selected based on ten special characteristics of the plant; which include sensory, ability to be used as building materials, durability and maintenance, and seasonal variation. Plants that fit the most characteristics were voted on by the OLE! Texas leadership committee and approved. The top 25 child-friendly plants include: Annuals-Ornamental Kale/Cabbage, Bee Balm, Purslane; Perennials-Autumn Sage, Turk's Cap, Gregg's Mistflower, Mexican Bush Sage, Gold Star Esperanza, Coreopsis, Jerusalem Sage; Ornamental Grasses- Mexican Feathergrass, Inland Sea Oats, Lindheimer's Muhly, Little Bluestem; Vines/Groundcover- Frogfruit, Crossvine; Shrubs- Texas Sage, American Beautyberry, Red Yucca; Outdoor Tropicals- Hibiscus, Trees- Texas Persimmon, Little Gem Magnolia, Redbud, Mexican Plum, and Bur Oak

By the end of Fall a few projects will be completed for childcare centers and any person interested in planting an outdoor learning environment. All child-friendly eligible plants will be identified with a logo, shown below, in the TNLA Best of Texas Database. Another avenue to educate childcare centers is to develop a brochure that can be posted on partner websites as well as be distributed to centers implementing outdoor learning environments which will be developed by a University of Texas student enrolled in a class with Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Through the partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, a list of edible plants was developed for those interested in child-friendly gardening will also soon be distributed.

If you are interested in receiving OLE! Texas child-friendly plants information when it becomes available, please contact Melissa Alderson, TPWD Conservation Education Manager, at [melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:melissa.alderson@tpwd.texas.gov)

[Best of Texas: Texas Nursery & Landscape Association](#) ; [Department of State Health Services: OLE! Texas](#)



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

20TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS; 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

20 Years of TMN



This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Statewide Program, two decades of remarkable impact by thousands of Naturalists across the state.

Stories from Naturalists young and old can be found via our social media and website. We are so grateful to share the stories of Master Naturalists passionate about the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas in Texas. Learn more at: <https://txmn.org/20th-anniversary/>

Annual Meeting Agenda



Our 2018 Annual Meeting schedule has been posted! With a record-breaking 150+ sessions, this year's conference will be the best yet.

Make sure you are following us on Facebook and check "Going" on our event page for this year's Annual Meeting. There you will find links to our agenda, sponsor and contest information, and more: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistProgram/>

Annual Meeting Get Outside Guide



In addition to various sessions throughout the weekend, over 30 field sessions around Central Texas will occur during this year's Annual Meeting.

Some of these opportunities include chances for volunteer service hours or Advanced Training hours. Check out our "How to Get Outside" Guide and find more general information at this webpage: <https://txmn.org/2018-annual-meeting/>

FROM THE STATE OFFICE



20th Anniversary Gala



GALA CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

From the Texas Master Naturalist State Office

Over the course of our 20-year history, the Texas Master Naturalist Program has trained over 11,000 passionate individuals who have engaged in over 4 million hours of volunteer service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and areas across the state.

Michelle Haggerty, State Program Coordinator, summarizes the importance of our work, stating, "What makes the work of a Master Naturalist so important is that they are not only individuals who love nature and offer their time, but they are also trained naturalists with specialized knowledge of different ecosystems, species, habitats, and environmental demands. This training and skill is priceless when determining how to best manage natural resources."

To commemorate this significant achievement, and to share our impact with friends and those interested in the work of our program, our Texas Master Naturalist 20th Anniversary Gala will be hosted Thursday, October 25th at the Sheraton Georgetown. The festivities will include a live band, a variety of live and silent auction items, and a celebratory presentation by founding Texas Master Naturalists.

Proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment Fund. The mission of the Endowment is to further enhance the Texas Master Naturalist program, its chapters and volunteers, now and into the future, creating and improving natural resource education, conservation, and stewardship.

For information about sponsoring the Gala event, donating a silent auction item, donating to the TMN Endowment, or attendance: <https://masternaturalistendowment.org/20th-anniversary-gala/>



## **20TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS; 2018 ANNUAL MEETING**

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## Trail Guide Training Workshop Agenda Saturday, November 17, 9 am - 3 pm

Bring a refillable water bottle, a lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. We advise long pants and closed-toe shoes for protection from the sun and biting insects.

- 9:00—9:20 am: Introduction to LLELA
- 9:20—11:00 am: Introduction to nature interpretation and theme writing
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm: Cicada Trail interpretative hike (demonstration)
- 12:00—12:30 pm: Lunch (bring a sack lunch and drink)
- 12:30—2:30 pm: Blackjack Trail interpretative hike (demonstration)
- 2:30—3:00 pm: Trail Guide Handbook, volunteer paperwork

This workshop is for volunteers who are planning to lead hikes and educational programs at LLELA. For Texas Master Naturalists, this counts as 5 hours of advanced training.

**Please contact Lisa Cole  
at 469-635-5481 or  
lcole@cityoflewisville.com  
with questions.**





# Our Contributors this Month



w odum editor class 2005



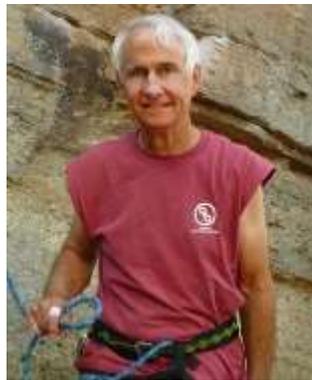
Rita Lokie class 2013



Judi Elliott class 2009



Martha Peet class 2012



Jonathan Reynolds  
class 2014



Elise Spain class 2017



Sue Yost class 2017



Denise Remfert  
class 2015

Dorothy Thetford  
class 2001



Van Elliott class 2009



## Mostly the Last Word

Cat, cat, cat!!—what cat?



### Ring-tailed cat

This mammal is not actually a cat, but rather a member of the Raccoon family, native to the southern parts of North America. They are said to make for affectionate pets who are also highly skilled at catching vermin. <http://www.ba-bamail.com>

*Send your idea for “Mostly the Last Word” to wanda odum, Naturalist News editor*

*Thank  
you*

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS. Remember, all can be one ~



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

940-349-2883

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT—Adelaide Bodnar  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—Don Fikes  
VICE-PRESIDENT—Brent Farler  
SECRETARY—John Williams  
TREASURER—Brenda Wellenreiter  
CLASS REPRESENTATIVE—Kathryn Wells &  
Robert McLaughlin  
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### COMMITTEES:

Communication: e-mail Donna Wolfe; website  
Martha Peet; Naturalist News Wanda Odum  
Opportunities/Projects: Diane Kohlhasse  
Publicity: Jan Deatherage  
Training: Jan Deatherage  
Programs & Field Trips: Rita Lokie  
Membership: Mary Morrow  
Hospitality: Linda Cox  
Resource Room: President

### ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent  
TPWD—Ricardo Torres



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.”*

**We're on the web!**

[www.txmn.org/elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)

Western  
meadowlark  
—w odum



### 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 is September 20, 2018— Scott Kiester presents: *“So what is a Bioblitz anyway?”*

September meeting at: Southwest Government Bldg, 6200 Canyon Falls Dr., Flower Mound, TX

### Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met September 13, 2018.

Next monthly Board meeting is October 11, 2018.

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.