

NATURALIST NEWS

Publication of Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter
October 2018, Volume 19 Issue 10



Cattails (*T. angustifolia*) on North Lakes Pond — Jonathan Reynolds

On Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
TexasMasterNaturalistElm-
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On the web:
www.txmn.org/elmfork

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Barred Owl at Clear Creek comes
courtesy Chuck Swatske

Barred Owls roost quietly in forest trees during the day, though they can occasionally be heard calling in daylight hours. At night they hunt small animals, especially rodents, and give an instantly recognizable "Who cooks for you?" call. www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/id

this issue

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The Barred Owl

A poem by the Bard Owl

From my perch oh so high
With a hoot, not a sigh
With wings spread, I arise from
my nest,
When the shroud of the night
Coats the day's warmth and light
'Tis the time that this owl likes the
best.

Yet I'm a peculiar old bird
Which perhaps you have heard
For the hunting of mice, I forsook.
But I'm a scholar astute
(Though I happen to hoot)
Who prefers poems or a really
good book.

I speak only in rhyme
Yes, all of the time
And for the brain of a bird that is
hard
But I've managed the game
And it's brought me some fame
And now everyone calls me The
Bard.

Up Front—September Recognitions

Photos from Denise Remfert



Norvel Tomlinson

Initial Certification: Norvel Tomlinson

Re-certifications:

Becky Bertoni; Larry Brennan; Janet Gershenfeld;
Danny Prins; Renee Province; Becky Bertoni,

250 Hour Milestone: Kathryn Wells

500 Hour Milestone: Nancy Waldo



Becky Bertoni, Danny Prins, Susan Tartaglino



Nancy Waldo



Kathryn Wells, Adelaide Bodner, President



Scott Kiester presented program:

“What is a Bioblitz?”

October speaker is Daniel Cunningham.

From Rita Lokie

Daniel Cunningham, Horticulturist of Texas A&M AgriLife's Water University program, reaches professionals and the public with the most current sustainability information about landscape water use, including design, plant selection, and water-conserving landscape management practices. His primary focus is a holistic approach to landscaping and food production systems. Cunningham specializes in Texas native plants and trees, vegetable gardening, edible landscaping, and rainwater harvesting. He is also passionate about utilizing landscapes as habitat for beneficial wildlife. He focuses on the edible value of common landscape plants and is known in the public arena for leading courses on foraging and engaging in the practice as a source of his own food.

Keep up with Daniel by following his @TXPlantGuy social media pages and by catching his latest articles in the Dallas Morning News. Also watch Daniel's latest segments on NBC channel 5 and listen in on radio station 95.3 the Range for tips on how to get the most out of your lawn, landscape, or vegetable garden.

The Urban Harvest: Foraging in the City

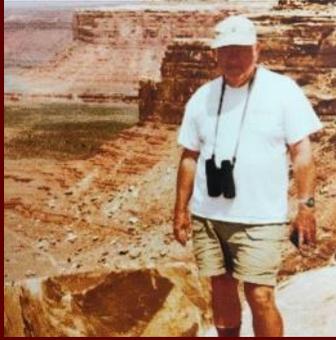
You can eat that? The city is full of food ripe for the picking. Learn how to identify more traditional foods like edible fruits, nuts and naturalized vegetables, as well as wild edibles, edible flowers and even edible weeds that are well adapted to our extreme climate and commonly found in North Texas neighborhoods. Get back to nature as we look at the many uses of plants you walk by every day. Come prepared: bring a hat, bug spray, a camera, and wear your hiking shoes! A guided urban nature walk is included.

Coming Up

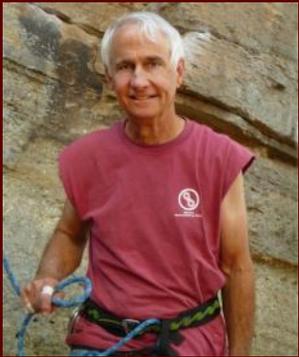




Chuck Swatskke, class 2018



Bob James. transfer/refresher with 2017 class



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Judi Elliott class 2009

Marilyn Blanton class 1999



Denise Remfert class 2015



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Editor's workspace (wodum class 2005)



Don Fikes class 2013



Rita Lokie class 2013



Dorothy Thetford class 2001

Hold That Pose



Wary Cottontail Rabbit—from Jonathan Reynolds

EXTINCTION – A WAY OF LIFE

By Bob James

Just read the Panamanian Golden Frog (*Atelopus zeteki*) has now been declared extinct. This means there are no more Panamanian Golden Frogs in the wild. Apparently, there are a few specimens in a Laboratory in Panama but they cannot be re-introduced into their habitat because of a man-induced fungus that has raged through their numbers. Hopefully, the scientists protecting them can find some means to thwart the fungus. Man has caused the possible extinction but has also stepped in to forestall the loss of a species.



Wikipedia

That has not always been the case. In the 18th and 19th centuries man decimated the Audubon's Great Auk (*Pinguinus impennis*) to the point of extinction. The great birds could not fly, were easily killed and made a good meal when slow cooked over a hot fire.

Wikipedia



A team from the National Geographic and Audubon Societies chased down the last of the Imperial Woodpeckers (*Campephilus imperialis*) in the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains in Mexico. There were reports of a male bird in one valley and they finally found the man who had shot it and eaten it. He described it perfectly and replied, “La carne no es bueno por nada”. The Imperial Woodpecker is now gone. The Ivory Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) called lovingly “The God Bird” is probably gone too. There have been unconfirmed sightings several years ago in the bayous of southeastern Arkansas but none in the past ten years.

The whole idea of extinction was developed by a French Scientist Naturalist – Georges Cuvier (1769 – 1832). He was interested in elephants and was given large fossilized bones from Siberia. He found the bones were not from an elephant but were from an animal that no longer existed. He called it a Mastodon. Later, he was given other fossils that were not mastodon or elephant bones and he called these animals Mammoths, which also no longer exist. From this he theorized that when a species completely died out the species became ‘Extinct’ which comes from the Latin word *extinctus* to extinguish a flame. He further theorized that there were, in the course of geologic time, ‘Catastrophic Extinctions’ or extinctions where large numbers of species died off in one event even though the event might last thousands or even million of years. Cuvier did not believe in Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory. Because of this almost every Anthropologist and Paleontologist in Europe rejected Cuvier’s Catastrophic Extinction Theory.



Wikipedia

In the mid-twentieth century Walter Alvarez, the anthropologist son of Louis Alvarez, the Nobel Laureate Physicist, discovered a one inch thick layer of sediment near Gubbio, Italy, that dated back 65 million years and contained no fossils. In its earliest level this sediment contained high concentrations of Iridium. Iridium is a metal rarely found on earth. It is, however, found in meteors. Walter subsequently found Iridium in the same stratum worldwide. In 1980, he and his father then theorized that a large meteor had struck the earth and destroyed all or most of the life on earth. Carl Sagan and his associates theorized that a nuclear winter had occurred and it lasted for several million years. The scientific community also rejected these ideas until several years later the impact crater was found off the coast of Yucatan near Chicxulub,

EXTINCTION – A WAY OF LIFE - cont'd

Mexico. The crater is almost 120 miles in diameter and the meteor or bolide has been described as being between 6 and 9 miles in diameter. It struck the earth from the South-southwest traveling approximately 45,000 miles per hour. The resulting impact and explosion created worldwide firestorms, a nuclear winter and almost every creature on earth was destroyed. This is now the fifth catastrophic extinction. All the great reptiles and about 85 percent of all life were destroyed in this event. Mankind, of course, is the beneficiary of this – the Cretaceous Tertiary or Kt extinction.

Man has also played a role in the extinction of several species that are not catastrophic. The California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) is on a knife-edge because of lead poisoning. This problem could be alleviated if hunters would just bury the gut pile after killing a deer or an elk. The Attwater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus attwateri*) will be gone in a decade or so from loss of habitat. The endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus borealis*) will probably suffer the same fate.

In the 19th century hunters flocked onto the plains of North America and proceeded to kill over 50 million American Bison (*Bison bison*). The hide was tanned and used for belting that drove the industrial revolution. In tanning the hide to make the leather belting, tanners used the leaves of Chestnut trees, which are very high in tannin. Chestnut trees almost disappeared from North America and in the process destroyed the habitat of a very beautiful bird – the



Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*). The Passenger Pigeon was the most abundant bird in North America, numbering 3 to 5 billion and loss of habitat and hunters eliminated the species. People on the East coast just loved roasted Pigeon Under Glass and their beautiful feathers in dressy hats.

The last Passenger Pigeon was a small female named Martha. She lived in the Cincinnati Zoo and was lovingly cared for until September 1, 1914. At her death all her attendants wept.

Is mankind now, perhaps, the prime mover for the Sixth and final extinction?

The Second Coming

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction,
While the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

W.B. Yeats

From Marilyn Blanton

Gregg's Mistflower and Butterflies



Gregg's Mistflower, *Conoclinium greggi*, is a native perennial that was named in honor of Josiah Gregg who traveled through Texas in the 1840's. Gregg's Mistflower grows in full sun to part shade. It usually grows 1.5 to 2 feet tall and may spread to 3 feet by rhizomes (underground stems). It has palmate leaves that are deeply divided into 3 lobes

and then pinnately divided again. It blooms off and on from spring to fall with the peak time being in September and October. The flower heads are made up of small

lavender blue flowers clustered together. The flowers are great for attracting butterflies

and make an excellent choice for Monarch Way Stations. Monarchs, *Danaus plexippus*, and Queens, *Danaus gilippus*, are often seen on Gregg's mistflower in the fall. Fluttering orange butterflies swirling around the lovely little

puffy lavender blue flowers make a memorable sight.



"A fallen blossom
returning to the bough, I thought --
But no, a butterfly."

— Arakida Moritake, *Traditional Japanese Poetry: An Anthology*



In the Know—Master Naturalists Share Their Knowledge



Photo from Don Fikes

What Do We Have Here?

Don Fikes stated that he was looking for neither his golf ball nor a lost water tower, but there it was! Well, maybe that's a bit tongue in cheek but worth further investigation nevertheless. After a bit of research it looks to be among the genera of Puffball mushrooms. The most common are the earth star and the puff ball proper (*Lycoperdon* and *Cavatia*). The name is apropos since at the ripe stage a puffball releases clouds of brown dust-like spores and has the appearance of smoke coming from a chimney—the spores “puff” or pour out. So it looks like Don made a “hole in one” on this Fore! *w. odum*

Referenced from: www.mushroomsources.com/puffball-mushrooms



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
-Dorothy Thetford

While enjoying the abundance of Queens, Sulfurs, Gulf Fritillaries and Skippers recently, my garden suddenly was host to one of North America's largest butterflies, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*). I've read that the wingspan varies from 3.5 to 6.5 inches wide, and my guest appeared to be about 5" wide. It was camera-shy but was impressive enough to me to encourage my stumbling among tomato cages and raised beds in an attempt to get a picture or two. Don't miss the unique designs and colors on both top side and bottom side.

Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
(underside) - Dorothy Thetford

How do I know if it's really a monarch?



Monarch butterflies are an iconic pollinator, but they can often be confused with look-alike species. Below are a few distinguishing marks that will make identification easier.

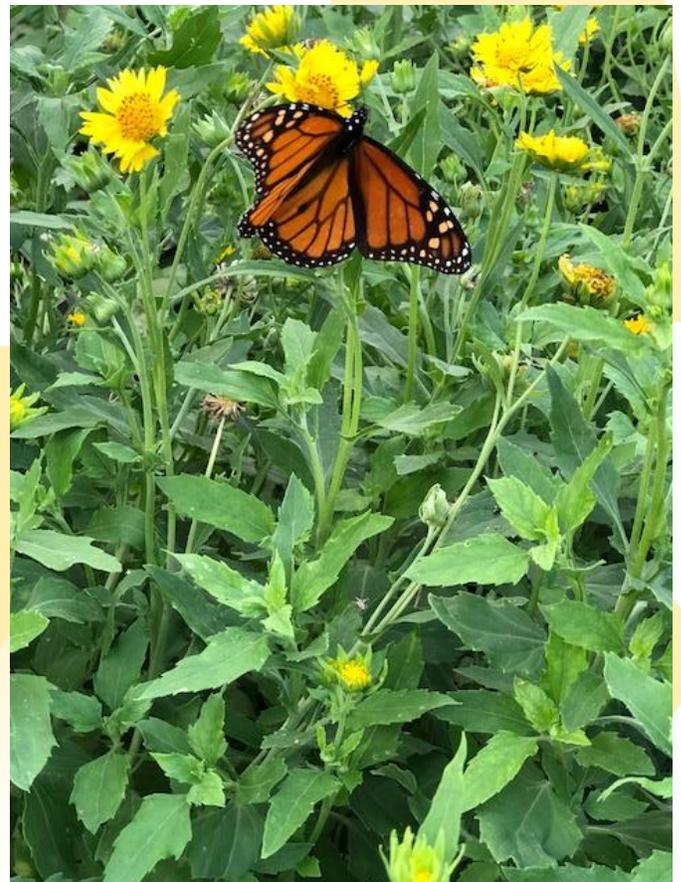
Monarchs butterflies are one of the most familiar butterflies in North America, with a striking orange, black, and white pattern.

Viceroy butterflies have a solid black line on the hindwings, compared to the jagged line on monarchs.

Queen and Soldier butterflies lack a black outline on the inside of the fore-wing and have unique patterns of white spots.

Read more about [monarch ID](#), including information on the egg and caterpillar stages.

Monarch on Liatris Dorothy Thetford



Monarch on Cowpen Daisy — Dorothy Thetford

FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS



From Don Fikes—His Family of Mississippi Kites Grows

A place to showcase your photos of flora and fauna.
Send to wanda odum, editor of Naturalist News

Do Not Miss Out

MASTER NATURALIST CONFERENCE

As you know, registration for the 20th Annual Master Naturalist conference closed on October 3 but don't forget the 20th Anniversary Fundraising Gala benefitting the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment/Capital Fund. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 25—the evening before the start of the annual meeting at the Sheraton Georgetown. For more information see: [TMN 20th Anniversary Gala Tickets and Information](#)

The deadline for purchasing Gala Tickets is October 15 at 11:59 p.m.

This comes from Becky Bertoni with the comment “plant natives”: Scientists thought they had created the perfect tree, but it became a nightmare. Read about it at:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/how-we-turned-the-bradford-pear-into-a-monster/2018/09/14/f29c8f68-91b6-11e8-b769-e3fff17f0689_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.66af3c1ca66d

**The Friends of LLELA
present
Saturday Lectures @ LLELA**

Saturday, Oct. 20 10am-Noon

Featuring

**Susan Pohlen on the
Ecology of North Central Texas**

Did you know that North Central Texas is one of the richest places in North America when it comes to species diversity, and that it's more threatened than ever? If your curiosity is piqued then this presentation by Master Naturalist Susan Pohlen on the ecology of North Central Texas is for you.

Free with admission to the park. Registration required. Use the QR code below or call 469.635.5482

cityoflewisville.com LLELA.org



AT

On October 27, 2018 from 1:00 p.m.--2:30 p.m., Dr. Amol Khedgikar will be speaking on Wildlife Conservation at Bob Jones Nature Center, at the Bob Jones Nature Center, 55 E. Bob Jones Rd, Southlake, TX 76092. The cost is \$5.

Attendees of this lecture will benefit from Dr. Amol's vast experiences in learning how they can contribute to protecting and conserving their native wildlife. Dr. Amol is a trained Wildlife Veterinary Surgeon and Herpetologist who has devoted an entire lifetime to wildlife conservation. He formed 'BushCraft', a nonprofit organization to help with the grave problems caused by human-wildlife conflict in the deep jungles where critically endangered species inhabit along with humans.

He currently acts as an expert advisor to many wildlife rescue / rehabilitation groups all over the world. He also runs a wildlife rescue and rehab network in the DFW and surrounding area. For more information: <http://bjnc.org/things-to-do-at-bjnc/lectures/>

Do Not Miss Out

AT

Dear Texas Master Naturalists,

We are excited once again to offer the Prairie Restoration Roundup on Friday, October 19 from 9 am – 3 pm. As you know, there is a lot of enthusiasm regionally around the restoration of our valuable and vulnerable coastal prairies both in the countryside and in even the heart of the city. Prairie Restoration Roundup brings together the best prairie practitioners to discuss what's working now and what still needs to be done. This year we are excited to return to the Texas City Prairie Preserve where innovative prairie restoration techniques are being pioneered. In addition to great talks about projects around the region, we'll have a grass id mini-lab and a tour of the prairie seed grow out facility at Texas City Prairie Preserve.

We know that Texas Master Naturalists are playing a key role in the restoration of our local prairies. That's why we are offering a discounted rate of \$25 for TMNs wishing to get this advanced training. Please help us spread the word! Please see the attached flyer for details.
Thank you,

Jaime Gonzalez
The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Coastal Prairie Partnership
(281) 660-6683 cell

The mission of the Coastal Prairie Partnership is to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of coastal prairie ecosystems.

Visit us at PrairiePartner.org

Great Blue Heron at North Lakes
— Jonathan Reynolds



Corrections from September:

From Sue Yost's article, bird pictures are mislabeled. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were switched.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Jonathan Reynolds's photo for "Field Notes in Focus" is a Western Rat Snake, not a Water Snake.



Editor apologizes for these errors — "Journalism is literature in a hurry." - Matthew Arnold (www.brainyquote.com/topics/journalism)

Almost the Last Word



“And which of you is here to represent the environment?”



Thank you to all who took the time and made the effort to help make up this issue of Naturalist News! Remember that your time is countable volunteer hours.

When there is nothing left to say, lift your head up high, smile, and walk away like you own the world.



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 Denton, TX 76201—9026
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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."

BOARD

- 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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- Training: Jan Deatherage
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- Membership: Mary Morrow
- Hospitality: Linda Cox
- Resource Room: President
- ADVISORS:**
- Janet Laminack, Extension Agent
- TPWD—Ricardo Torres

From Colorado, photo by Alex Lieban (EFC friend/ex-member)



"Today I found this guy, an eight point buck, who should be getting ready for the seasonal rut. It looks as though he has already paid some dues this spring if his antlers are any indication." Alex



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 on October 18, 2018: Daniel Cunningham will speak on "The Urban Harvest: Foraging in the City"
 October 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 October 11, 2018. Next monthly Board meeting is November 8, 2018.
 Monthly Board meetings are open to members.