

Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

# NATURALIST NEWS

JULY 2019

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 7



*w. odum*

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*Pileated woodpecker from Dale Meyer*

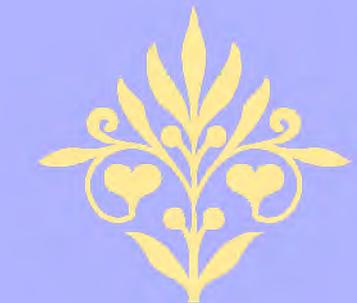


**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ Highlights of Open House
- ◆ Opportunities for AT
- ◆ Buy 20th Anniversary t-shirt—only \$20!
- ◆ Enjoy this month’s “Meet a Master” interview by Sue Yost

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*What's Next—Speaker for July Chapter Meeting*

**M**arilyn Neal will present “Bee Guardians” at our July 18, 2019 Chapter meeting. Marilyn’s presentation will focus on the importance of sustaining a healthy honeybee population. She will share the knowledge she has gleaned from her experience in bee keeping.

Marilyn became interested in bees prior to her retirement from the corporate world. Once retired, she placed two hives at her home in Florida as a hobby. At present, she personally manages over 100 hives.

**From Rita Lokie**

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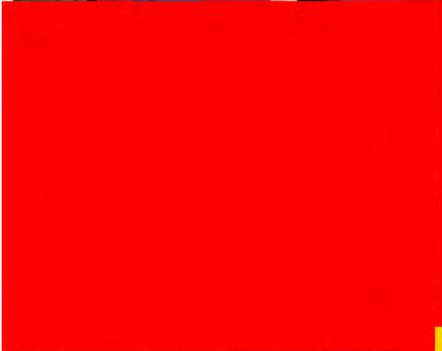
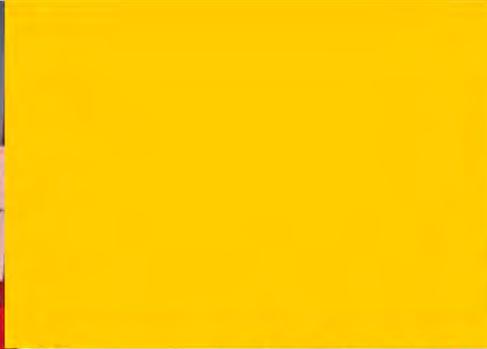
*An unexpected pleasure—Photo courtesy Denise Remfert*





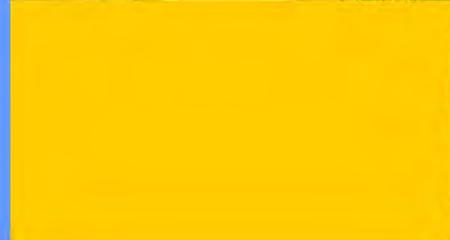
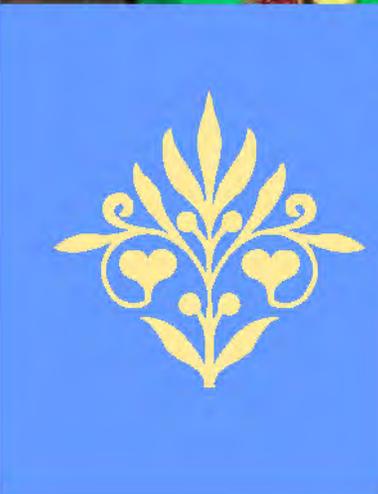
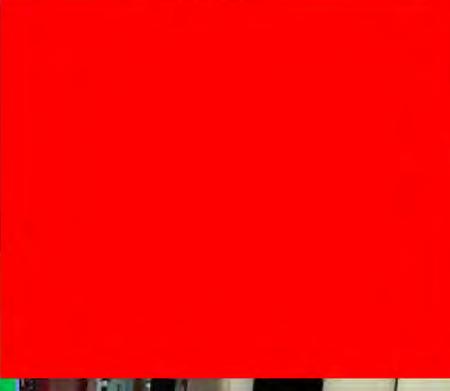
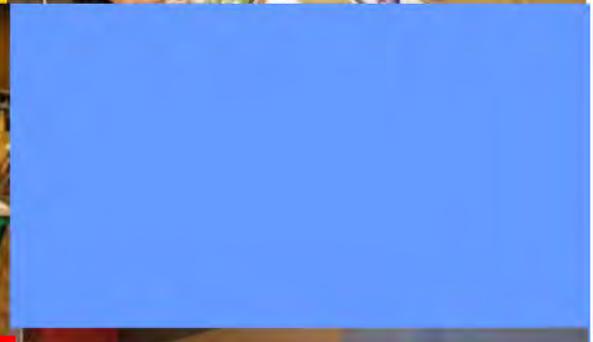
Photos courtesy Denise Remfert

*Open House June 2019 Highlights*





*Open House June 2019 Highlights*





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## Features

### A Lesson From the Geese

A Lesson from the Geese was written in 1972 by Dr. Robert McNeish of Baltimore. Dr. McNeish, for many years a science teacher before he became involved in school administration, had been intrigued with observing geese for years and first wrote the piece for a sermon he delivered in his church.

*Shared by Sue YOST class of 2017*

1. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates “uplift” for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction & sense of community can get where they are going quicker & easier because they’re traveling on the thrust of one another.

FACT: Geese and some other species of birds migrate in distinctive “V” or “U” formations or in lines. By taking advantage of the wing tip vortex of the bird in front, each bird can save energy by reducing drag. The energy savings in flight can be as much as 50%.

2. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the “lifting power” of the bird immediately in front.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

FACT: Geese have very keen eyesight and keep themselves in formation by focusing on the butt end of the goose in front of them.

3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks, and sharing leadership with people, as with geese, interdependent with each other. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

FACT: the geese shift their relative positions frequently during the flight.

4. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON: We need to make sure our “honking” from behind is encouraging; not something less helpful.

FACT: Migrating geese make loud, honking noises, called contact calls, to help them stay together.

5. When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow him down to protect and help him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation or to catch up with the flock.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as the geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

FACT: Families of geese do not break up after the breeding season, but form strong family units that migrate and winter together until they return to their breeding ground. Family members will be flying with each other and since they are closely knit, if one drops out, the others in the family will follow him/her and stay with the injured goose, re-forming their own formation or joining another formation when the injured goose gets well or dies.

Elm Fork Master Naturalists are a lot like geese, aren't we!!



## *Take time to read*

Jeanne Erickson recommended this book to Betty Zajac

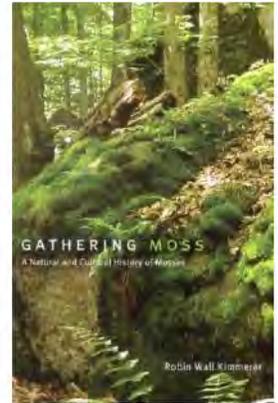
### **Gathering Moss**

By Robin Wall Kimmerer

This book won The John Burroughs Medal Award for Natural History Writing

“Drawing on her diverse experiences as a scientist, mother, teacher, and writer of Native American heritage, Kimmerer explains the stories of mosses in scientific terms as well as in the framework of indigenous ways of knowing. In her book, the natural history and cultural relationships of mosses become a powerful metaphor for ways of living in the world.”

[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)



## *Opportunities*

Jeanne Erickson

[fossilhillwj@gmail.com](mailto:fossilhillwj@gmail.com)

Approved for AT

**RE: Project P070308: LBJ Grasslands** (Specific volunteer activity: Lichen Collections with Mary Curry)

**Subject: Upcoming OAKTABLE Lichen Workshop**

**Date: September 6 – 8, 2019 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)**

The Southern Great Plains Regional Workshop for Lichenology is to be held in the Texas Hill Country at Bamberger Ranch Preserve, a privately owned 5500 acre property that, over the last 50 years, has become one of the largest habitat restoration projects in the state. It is located in Blanco County, just a few miles outside of Johnson City and 60 miles from Austin.

Meeting topics will possibly include a demonstration by Sheila Strawn on a revised TLC procedure for amateur lichenologists (developed by Stephanie Skiles, a chemist at UCO and her student, Kim Bowers). Also scheduled will be a presentation by Claire Curry on how to navigate the OSF Open Science Framework website that OAKTABLE can use to communicate projects and events to everyone. Field trips and a social will be planned as time allows. Bring your own lab equipment, scopes, and extension cords.

The living facility is a conference hall, kitchen included, with separate dormitory wings on each end (can house up to 48 people)...attendees will need to supply their own linen. Internet access is not available and cell phone service, other than Verizon, is spotty. Total cost for the 3 days is only \$700 plus food; so the more people that attend, the less the cost per person.

Please try and let me know in the next 30 days if you plan to attend.

You don't have to say for sure, we just need an idea of how many to plan for.

Bob Harris





## Opportunities



Due to your past interest in our Adult Education Department's learning opportunities, we would like to extend a special invitation to you to join us at our second annual **Native Plant Symposium!** The symposium will be held **Saturday, July 27, 2019 from 9am – 4pm (includes box lunch).**

### Did you know Texas has TEN different eco regions?

Depending on where you are in Texas, the term native could mean very different plants! Join us at Texas Discovery Gardens on July 27th, as we bring together native experts from across the state and nation for a series of lectures. We are thrilled to start our day with **Doug Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. Our day continues with experts from near (Blackland Prairie conservationist **Brandon Belcher**) and far (landscape designer **Jim Martinez** from west Texas). Our own staff joins the day for Garden Tours and a special final chat from Entomologist **John Watts** that will help you identify what's growing and going on in your garden at home!

**This class is open to all who are interested, and is \$50 for non-members or \$40 for members.**

You can register online at this link: <https://txdg.org/workshops/native-plants-symposium>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to discovering with you!

### Approved for AT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2019

Doug Tallamy, Professor and author of the acclaimed book *Bringing Nature Home*, is one of four renowned speakers scheduled to make presentations July 27 at the Native Plant Symposium hosted by Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park in Dallas. The University of Delaware professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology has authored 90-plus research articles and has taught Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, Humans and Nature, and other courses for 32 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

*Bringing Nature Home* was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writer's Association. Tallamy has also been awarded the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence in 2013.

His subject for the symposium is *Nestoring the Little Things that Run the World*. The ecosystems that support us are run by insects, yet insects are declining everywhere. For our own good, we must rebuild insect populations as fast as possible. Tallamy will tell how to do this.

Joining Tallamy as presenters are John Watts, Entomologist at Texas Discovery Gardens; Jim Martinez, a Landscape Architect with extensive native plant interest and experience in the Trans Pecos Region of Texas; and, The Nature Conservancy's North Texas Preserves Manager, Brandon Belcher.

Watts, who presides over the Butterfly House and Insectarium at Texas Discovery Gardens, will talk about identifying local insects based on the plants in your wild spaces.

The subject of Martinez' presentation is the use of native plant materials and how site considerations, like soil type, reflect the plant selections.

Belcher will share his extensive knowledge of the Blackland Prairie Eco-region of Texas.

Cost of the symposium is \$50, \$40 for Members of Texas Discovery Gardens and includes lunch. Several publications written by the speakers will be available for sale, and symposium participants receive a discount! Doors open at 9 am, with the Keynote Speech from Doug Tallamy starting at 9:30 am. Guests will have access to the Butterfly House and 7.5 acres of organic gardens featuring native and adapted plants. Continuing education credits are also available.

For more information or to register, visit <https://txdg.org/workshops/native-plants-symposium>

Erin Shields  
Director of Education  
Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park  
[eshields@txdg.org](mailto:eshields@txdg.org)



Approved for AT 2nd Saturdays classes/lectures approved for AT at Hagerman NWR



## Opportunities

Approved for AT

From Sharon Miggans

### Plateau Summer Webinars

Each summer Plateau offers and presents free webinars for anyone with an interest in Texas land & stewardship. Register for your favorites today! Space is limited and filling up fast.

- [July 17 at noon: Know Your Plants: Native plant identification for common grasses, forbs and wildflowers](#)
- [July 24 at noon: Wildlife Management Valuation Midyear Check In](#)
- [August 7 at noon: Butterflies, Wasps & Bees, Oh My! How to manage for native pollinators on your property](#)
- [August 28 at noon: Five Tools of Wildlife Management: The basic tools necessary for successful wildlife management](#)

See [plateauwildlife.com](http://plateauwildlife.com) The seminars are about 2/3 of the way down the page:

### MENTORS NEEDED FOR 2019 TRAINING CLASS



The 2019 Class of 36 Members-in-Training will begin on August 27, and you are invited to work with us.

Chapter members are being sought to serve as Mentors during the 2019 Training Course to help welcome, encourage, connect with, and guide the Members-in-Training. The Mentor Program, being led by Dale Meyer, is a sub-function of the overall Elm Fork Chapter Training Committee. It's designed and intended to add to the overall value of the Master Naturalist class environment.

The Members-in-Training are all adults of varying ages, backgrounds, skills, knowledge and interests in the world of nature and conservation. They are entering the Master Naturalist program to learn and become involved with activities that will stimulate, broaden and enhance their interests.

The Mentor Program was established to provide a point of contact for the Members-in-Training for the duration of the training period and through their journey to Certification. The Mentor role is very important in assisting the Member-in-Training through the transition from the class setting to the everyday life as a Master Naturalist and should be conducted in a very non-intrusive manner.

Six Mentors are being sought, with each Mentor serving as the point of contact for six trainees. Mentors will be provided a Mentor Guide and short training prior to being assigned their trainees. All Mentors will be expected to attend, at a minimum, the first and second days of training on Tuesdays, August 27 and September 3, both from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Global Spheres, as well as the final day of training, November 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Joseph A. Carroll Building. Mentors need to be available as our new Members-in-Training make the move to Project oriented work.

Mentors will receive Service Hours as part of the Training Committee.

For more information and to sign up as a Mentor, please contact **Dale Meyer, Class of 2011**, at [dale.texas@yahoo.com](mailto:dale.texas@yahoo.com).

From Fran Witte & Dale Meyer





## Opportunities

From Van Elliott

We're offering training for volunteer trail guides who want to lead hikes at LLELA on Saturday, September 21 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The training will be led by Trail Guide Extraordinaire Clyde Camp. An agenda is attached. Folks who want to sign up can contact me. Please help us spread the word in the MN chapters. Thank you!

### Lisa Cole

Education Coordinator

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

City of Lewisville Parks & Recreation Department

469-635-5481

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



## Trail Guide Training Workshop Agenda Saturday, September 21, 9 am - 3:30 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—10:15 am:    | Introduction to nature interpretation and guiding                             |
| 10:15—11:00 am:   | The trails, one by one  |
| 11:00 am—1:30 pm: | Lunch and Blackjack Trail interpretive hike<br>(bring a sack lunch and drink) |
| 1:30—3:00 pm:     | Cicada Trail interpretive hike  |
| 3:00—3:30 pm:     | Volunteer paperwork   |
| 3:30—4:30 pm      | Optional back-40 tour   |

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 [lcoble@cityoflewisville.com](mailto:lcoble@cityoflewisville.com) with questions.





*Advanced Training*



**Welder Wildlife Foundation and  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

# BIRDS IN THE CLASSROOM

**Educator Workshop**

**JULY 29-31, 2019**



**19 CPE/AT credits!\***

**\$185**

meals, lodging,  
instruction materials,  
and a field guide to keep

Check-in:  
Mon. July 29, 8:00 am

Dismiss:  
Weds. July 29, noon



To register, call:  
361-364-2643  
by July 22

*TEKS-aligned lesson plans  
for Grades 8 and up!*

- Bird identification
- Wildlife habitat
- Conservation
- Sustainable agriculture

Guest speakers from  
Texas A&M AgriLife,  
Welder Wildlife Refuge,  
Texas Wildlife Association,  
and private ranches

*\*Credits are based on participation in  
required lessons. Optional activities will  
be available to earn additional credits.*



*Celebration is in the Air*

Mary Morrow





*Celebration is in the Air*

Mary Morrow

# Elm Fork Chapter EFCTMN DIRECTORY 2009-2011

*BEVERLY LYTAKER - 2009*

*RICHARD JOHNSON - 2009*

*DOUGLAS CHADWICK - 2009*

*HILTON DICKERSON - 2009*

*JUDI ELLIOTT - 2009*

*VAN ELLIOTT - 2009*

*SUSAN TARTAGLINO - 2009*



*CHUCK THETFORD - 2011*

*DALE MEYERS - 2011*

*FAITH FIELDER - 2011*

*JAN DEATHERAGE - 2011*

*NORMA WILKERSON - 2011*

*VIN MERRILL - 2011*

*VAL BEARDSLEY - 2011*

*DEBORAH ESTES - 2010*

*CARL PATRICK - 2010*

*MIKE HAGAN - 2010*



*Stay tune for JULY'S Chapter Meeting highlighting 2012-2014*



From Mary Morrow

*October is Coming!*

~ ~ ~ 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION T-SHIRT ~ ~ ~

Fork Cha



EFC 20th Anniversary T-Shirts

Order Today \$20

**Orders will be taken at the July and August Chapter Meetings**  
Men's and Women's sizes available  
Cash, Check or Charge - V/MC  
If you are not able to attend a Chapter meeting, please contact, Mary Morrow, [hawkilitle@aol.com](mailto:hawkilitle@aol.com).  
We would like everyone to be wearing one at the  
**BIG 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
in October for our EFC group drone photo

1999 - 2019



From Mary Morrow

*October is Coming!*

~ ~ ~ 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION T-SHIRT ~ ~ ~

EFC 20th Anniversary T-Shirts



RUSHORDER  
TEES

**Order Today \$20**

**T-SHIRTS will be distributed at the September Chapter Meeting.**  
We will also be available at the Extension Office for those not able to come to the September Chapter Meeting.

We would like everyone to be wearing one at the  
**BIG 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
in October for our EFC group drone photo

*Telling Our Story*

1999 - 2019



*Meet a Master—Interview by Sue Yost*

## **M**eet a Master: Michele Rawleigh

**Where are you from?** Hometown is Baltimore MD. Prior to being relocated to Texas in 2000, I lived in NJ for 16 years in the "garden" part of the Garden State.

**Marital status?** Single

**Kids, Grandkids:** none

**Pets:** Romeo, is a rescue dog that I've had going on 3 years. His doggy DNA test says he is 63% chihuahua, 12.5% standard poodle, and 12.5% miniature schnauzer. Chihuahua is the only part I believe, although he's on the beefy side and his markings are unusual so clearly something else is mixed in.

**Work history:** My first job after college was as a Hydrogeologist for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection working on groundwater permits and contamination investigations. From there I went into developing environmental regulations and then moved to the industry side doing environmental compliance management. I was a Regional Compliance Manager for UPS for 25 years in the areas of Environmental, Facility Safety, and Hazardous Materials. I took early retirement in 2018 and now work part time at Wild Birds Unlimited in between volunteering and other creative interests.

**Schooling:** University of Delaware, Geology B.S. My course work and research interest was beach erosion.

**How long a Master Naturalist? What class year?** Class of 2018 so I have been a Master Naturalist less than a year.

**Favorite pastime:** Lots of hobbies and interests including gardening, genealogy, reading, and observing nature. Currently trying to turn crafting into a viable business since I have enough supplies already to open a Michael's store.

**Favorite food:** Dessert!

**Favorite place to visit:** I like any place warm with a nice beach.

**Favorite animal:** It's hard to pick one, probably dogs and cats.

**Favorite Master Naturalist volunteer opportunity:** Just getting started but the Mothing Night last fall at LLELA was pretty interesting.

**Share a funny story or antidote about being a Master Naturalist.** I can't think of one yet.

**Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you.** Some people know that I'm also a Master Gardener but ... I can't grow houseplants. Bringing a plant inside my house is the kiss of death.





*Field Notes in Focus*



Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)  
courtesy Dorothy Thetford



*Contributors*



Editor wanda odum  
class 2005



Proofer Judi Elliott class 2009



Photographer, Denise  
Remfert class 2015



Fran Witte class 2017



Betty Zajac class 2003



Dale Meyer class 2011 (with  
Deborah 2012)



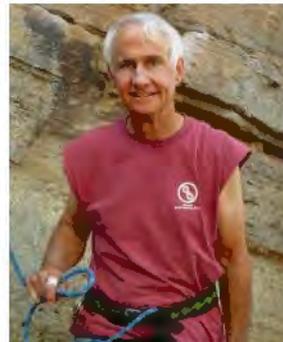
Sue Yost class 2017



Dorothy Thetford class  
2001



Van Elliott class 2009



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Jeanne Erickson class 1998



Mary Morrow 2014



Rita Lokie class 2013

Sharon Miggins class 2017  
- photo unavailable



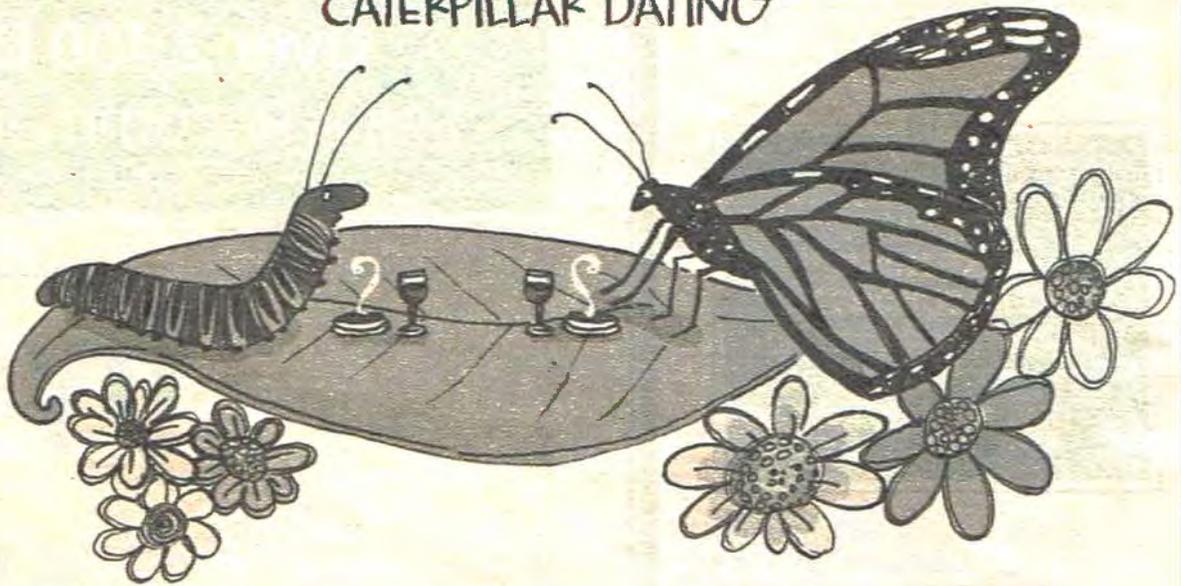


*Almost the Last Word*



**Cartoon Parade**

CATERPILLAR DATING



"I get the feeling it's been a while since you updated your profile pic."

**TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER**



Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension  
Joseph A. Carroll Building  
401 W. Hickory Street  
Denton, TX 76201—9026  
940-349-2883

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."



**OFFICERS OF THE BOARD:**

- PRESIDENT—Adelaide Bodnar
- VICE-PRESIDENT/PROJECTS—Robert McLaughlin
- SECRETARY—Kathryn Wells
- TREASURER—Brenda Wellenreiter
- MEMBER-at-LARGE—Harriet Powell
- CLASS REPRESENTATIVES—Tim Trosper, Jody Springer

**ADVISORS:**

- Janet Laminack, Extension Agent
- TPWD—Ricardo Torres

**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 will be July 18, 2019 at Elections Bldg, 701 Kimberly Dr. Denton TX 76201

**Board Meetings**

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met July 11, 2019. Next monthly Board meeting is August 8, 2019

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
**WWW.TXMN.ORG/**  
**ELMFORK**

*Thank you to all contributors this month! Hope to see you again next month. Good Bye!*



At the greenbelt from Jonathan Reynolds



Summer tanager—w odum