

Naturalist News

Texas Master Naturalist,
Elm Fork Chapter

Volume 20, Issue 9
September 2019

Autumn Landscape, 1885 by Vincent Van Gogh



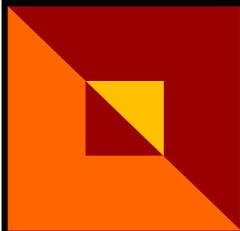
Autumn's Caress—John Keats

the calm brush of a breeze
with the scent of home fires burning,
inviting, the spell of leaves falling
in a swirl, they touch your face
And provoke a smile.

the gentle caress of autumn
steals the sultry heat of summer
precludes the melancholy of winter;
a careful lover, he whispers in your ear
promises of evenings spent
enthralled within his arms
as he teases you with nature's kisses.

within the change of seasons
comes the promise of his visit
and within his embrace, the promise
your heart will be kept warm
and your soul lulled into rest
before the chill of winter steals
his caress away from you.





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Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)—from Dorothy Thetford



Inside this issue:

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Special points of interest:

- Speaker for next meeting
- What's a mason bee?
- Numerous training activities
- Who contributes to the Naturalist News?



Those who contributed to this issue of Naturalist News—Thank you!



Editor, wanda odum, class 2005



Van Elliott class 2009



Rita Lokie class 2013

Sue Yost class 2017



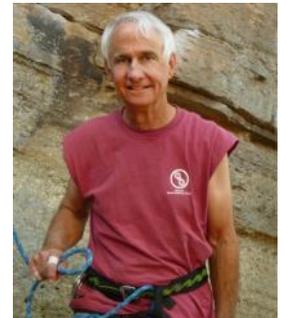
Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Dale Meyer class 2011 with Deborah class 2012



Marilyn Blanton class 1999



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Judi Elliott class 2009



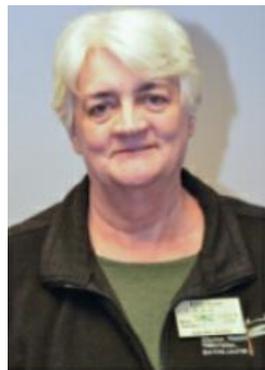
Mary Morrow class 2014



Kathryn Wells class 2017



Judy Riley class 2014



Betty Zajac class 2003



Diane Wetherbee class 2000

What Happened Last



Recertifications:

Barbara Beane 2018; Sharon Clark 2014; Diana Hatch 2007; Jan Hodson 2002; Richard Johnson 2009; Clarie Kamego 2012; Marian Kester 2007; Jan Marie LaPine 2007; Abigail Miller 2003; Steve Romaine 2018; Mary Thompson 2015; Tim Trosper 2018

What Happens Next

From Rita Lokie—September Chapter Meeting Speaker will be Amy Martin

13 Things You Need to Know About the Poison Ivy Rash

In this subversively funny and yet deeply informative talk, learn why soap is terrible for removing the allergen urushiol from the skin. Discover poison ivy barrier creams that actually work. You'll hear how humans are the only animal allergic to poison ivy, why your immunity to poison ivy can change at any time, and that you respond to its allergen depends on a number of factors. It's an entertaining talk that will leave you itching for more.

Over her varied journalism career of more than four decades, Amy Martin has covered petroleum science and environmental issues, written trail reviews of parks and preserves, and penned a book on herbology. During their 12 years of managing a private nature preserve, Martin and her husband Scooter Smith engaged in regular battle with poison ivy. All these come together in her book *Itchy Business: How to Treat the Poison Ivy and Poison Oak Rash, Prevent Exposure and Eradicate the Plant*. Complete details are at Itchy.biz.

Be Aware

Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2019

The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2019 is underway! We have 21 of Denton's elementary schools participating! Think of all the fourth graders that will be introduced to native plants as they create their artwork and all the fun we'll have judging it and setting up displays. For more information or to join our volunteer team, contact Marilyn Blanton -- marilynblanton42@gmail.com





Reminder

DON'T FORGET! Our EFCTMN 20th Anniversary Celebration

October 17, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Ben E Keith Beverages, Denton

Please update your RSVP by October 1. If you didn't received an EVITE to our celebration please email Mary hawkilittle@aol.com ASAP!

This will be a catered lunch and we want to make sure we order plenty of good food for everyone!
I hope all can join us! We are planning a little fun, good food and fabulous friends to catch up with!

Thank you everyone!!!

Mary

Features

From Judy Riley class 2014

Today I saw the most amazing thing.

I walked by a rose bush that had some dried roses on it and saw what I thought was a Mason bee, *Osmia lignaria*. I had bought some year before last so I am always looking to see if I can find any.

There was what I thought was a Mason bee on a very small petal. I was thinking.....

Wow, why are you on a dried up flower?

While I was looking and wondering he took that petal and flew off with it. It was about the same size he was. Couldn't believe what I saw. Came in and started searching the internet.

This is what I found.



When we think of bee nests, we often think of a giant hive, buzzing with social activity, worker bees and honey. But scientists recently discovered a rare, solitary type of bee that makes tiny nests by plastering together flower petals.

Each nest is a multicolored, textured little cocoon -- a papier-mache husk surrounding a single

egg, protecting it while it develops into an adult bee.

"It's not common for bees to use parts of plants for nests," says Dr. Jerome Rozen of the American Museum of Natural History of the unexpected find. His team stumbled across the nests of the *Osmia (Ozbekosima) avoseta* bee in Turkey.

So. My question. Is this bee here?

Do you know?



Features

Landscape Maintenance is for the Birds

Thoughtful Seasonal Garden Care for Bees, Birds, Butterflies, and Beyond

by Kathryn Wells

A familiar seasonal rhythm accompanies gardening, and, as summer gives way to autumn, a gardener shifts into maintenance mode, tidying up spent remains and tending to triple-digit temperature survivors while delighting in a milder season that refreshes both the garden and the gardener.

For a gardener who tends the landscape with a holistic and sustainable perspective, however, plants are just part of the picture, for an entire ecosystem exists right in one's own back—and front—yard. With flora and fauna interconnected and interdependent, thoughtful garden maintenance is key to creating and protecting habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, and all other species of native wildlife.

To satisfy both conventional aesthetic appeal and beneficial wildlife welfare, consider these practices:

Avoid “ides”

Chemical pesticides, herbicides, fungicides mostly treat “problems” in isolation with native plants and wildlife suffering collateral damage. A landscape filled with endemic plants will attract and support endemic organisms, which, in turn, develop a healthy ecosystem and functioning food chain of indigenous predators and prey, establishing a natural integrated pest management system. Allowed to grow and prosper, native plants also help crowd out weedy invasives.

Be a stalker

Several native species of bees in the Megachilidae family including Leafcutters and Masons nest in tunnels—dwelling and overwintering in the hollow or pithy stalks of herbaceous plants and grasses. As the plants decline, it's beneficial to leave some stalks standing while clipping a few ends for species that don't excavate their own holes. Supporting native plant species include Bee Balm/Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*). Fittingly, the Latin *fistula* means “long, narrow pipe; tubular; hollow; porous; ulcerous”, so if you see a form of that word in a plant's botanical name, chances are it's a safe bet for tunnel nesters. Birds will also appreciate noshing on seed heads, and, as a bonus, bare stalks are a preferred perch for dragonflies, voracious mosquito eaters who can consume about 300 of the blood-sucking pests per day. Wait until late spring before removing old stalks, and, even then, protect any remaining bee larvae by breaking stems into small pieces and scattering them under existing shrubs in the landscape.



Underplanted with *Datura wrightii* and backed by Cherry Laurels (*Prunus caroliniana*), Yaupon Hollies (*Ilex vomitoria*), Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), and Shumard Oaks (*Quercus shumardii*), Lemon Bee Balm (*Monarda citriodora*) offers architectural interest to the garden even after its blooms have serviced the pollinators. While *Monarda citriodora* doesn't have the completely hollow stems of its relative, Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), the dried “nutlet fruit” heads support many seed-eating birds including Sparrows and wintering Goldfinches.



Features cont'd

Branch out

Snags (dead trees) and stumps harbor a lot of life in their dead and dying states. Native cavity-nesting birds including (but not limited to) Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*), and Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), make their homes in safety and shelter of dead wood. Many native bees such as Carpenters (*Xylocopa*)—excellent pollinators for many flowers and vegetables—nest alone in wood tunnels. Suitable habitat may save them from choosing to live in your fence post. Even small landscapes can support a fallen limb or artfully arranged branch pile to provide habitat for dead-wood nesters and shelter for other little creatures. Of course, human safety and governing regulations prevail, so use caution and wisdom in determining what stays and what goes on residential and commercial property, especially with regards to large canopy trees.

Grin and bare it

Ground-nesting bees represent 70% of Texas native bees; they seek sunny, well-drained patches of bare ground to establish entries to their underground homes, so it's important to leave some small areas of our landscape unmulched and unplanted for their use. Solitary and placid, ground-nesting bees include Mining bees (*Andrenidae* family), which are first responders of spring, making them important pollinators for early blooming fruit trees and other flowering trees and shrubs. Native American Bumblebees (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) are opportunistic below-ground nesters, often utilizing abandoned rodent burrows, wood pile bottoms, or clumps of herbaceous vegetation for their small colonies. These large, non-aggressive bees are premier pollinators of edible crops such as tomatoes, potatoes, and blueberries. They particularly love to nectar on Texas native Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*), so consider adding that to your landscape, if you don't already have it.

Leave the leaves

Leaves provide shelter for numerous small species including bumblebees, lizards, toads, and overwintering butterfly pupae. Banded Hairstreaks (*Satyrium calanus*) and Red-Banded Hairstreaks (*Calycopis cecrops*), for example, lay their eggs on fallen leaves under Sumacs (*Rhus* spp.), Wax Myrtles (*Morella cerifera*), and several Oaks (*Quercus* spp.); removing the leaves from the ground underneath them destroys the pupating life. Additionally, leaf litter protects plant roots and adds structure and nutrients to the soil as it decomposes, nurturing new plant growth and feeding organisms that thrive in its decay, including invertebrates—vital to the food web. Almost all terrestrial North American birds feed insects to their young, even if the adults themselves are mostly berry and seed eaters. A Carolina Chickadee, for example, weighs less than ½ ounce but requires up to 9000 caterpillars to raise one brood. And, in the “For What It's Worth” category, Oak trees support more than 500 species of lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) caterpillars—significantly more than any other native tree or plant.



The Red-Banded Hairstreak (*Calycopis cecrops*) nectaring here on Shrubby Boneset (*Ageratina havanensis*) lays its eggs on the fallen leaves of native trees including Sumac, Wax Myrtle, and several Oak species.



Features cont'd

Power down

Commonly used maintenance tools like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and weed whackers may be convenient for humans, but they're terribly detrimental to the little critters living in our landscapes. A leaf blower in a little wildlife habitat could be likened to a tornado ripping through a residential neighborhood, wreaking destruction mere seconds. Not only can the force of those tools destroy dwelling and nesting sites, but the creatures themselves may be maimed or killed. So, don't blow their cover. Sweeping and raking does far less damage and (bonus!) saves the gardener a trip to the gym. For little creatures who have successfully evaded predation, death by weed whacker is a particularly sad end. And, even pulling weeds by

the roots may disturb native ground-nesting bees and other small creatures existing in the vegetation. Cutting weeds by hand (with pruners or scissors, depending on the scope) prevents and removes weedy seed heads while protecting the surrounding soil. Reel mowers are a more humane and earth-friendly option to gas-powered mowers, but if they aren't practical for the size of your space, give the wildlife a chance to temporarily evacuate the area by mowing from the inside out, so they can move to the outer edges instead of being trapped in the middle of the work area. For isolated islands of turf, walk the area before mowing, and let the mower run for a few minutes before beginning to cut; the sound and vibration may encourage small ones in hiding to seek temporary shelter elsewhere.



Dragonflies like this Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*) are voracious consumers of pests such as mosquitoes and prefer to perch for their prey on spent stalks, stems, and twigs.

This autumn, don't fall for the conventional view that a perfectly manicured garden is the only good garden. Clean may look tidy, but it's pretty sterile. Healthy and productive life is a little messy sometimes! So be mindful of the little creatures seeking refuge under your stewardship, and welcome them to the wonderful world of your wildscaped garden.

Recommended Reading:

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants (Douglas W. Tallamy)

Gardening with Nature in Texas (Karen M. Breneman)

Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife (Noreen Damude and Kelly Conrad Bender)

The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife (Nancy Lawson)

Box turtle—Jonathan Reynolds**Home alone!**

Here are five interesting facts about them:

1. They get their name from their shell which has a hinge, enabling it to close completely, protecting the turtle from predators.
2. These little guys grow to only 22 cm long. It's hard to tell the males from the females, but one way is to look at their eyes. Most males have red or dark orange eyes, while the females have yellowish-brown eyes.
3. In hot weather, they use saliva to keep their head and front legs cool and wee on their back legs to keep them cool.

Disgusting!

4. They are the official reptile of three U.S. states, North Carolina, Tennessee and Missouri. There are six sub-species of common box turtles, living throughout the U.S. and Mexico. They were once widespread and considered common, but are now vulnerable to extinction due to habitat loss, getting run over by cars and being illegally collected for the pet trade.

<https://haydensanimalfacts.com/2014/08/22/5-interesting-facts-about-common-box-turtles/>

Where do I go from here?

COMMON NAME: Raccoon

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Procyon lotor*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Omnivore

GROUP NAME: Nursery

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 2 to 3 years

SIZE: 23.75 to 37.5 inches

WEIGHT: 4 to 23 pounds

SIZE RELATIVE TO A 6-FT MAN:



Raccoon — from Dale Meyer



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/r/raccoon/>



Field Notes in Focus



Blooms August-September

Snow-on-the-Prairie (*Euphorbia bicolor*)—
from gallery of Dorothy Thetford



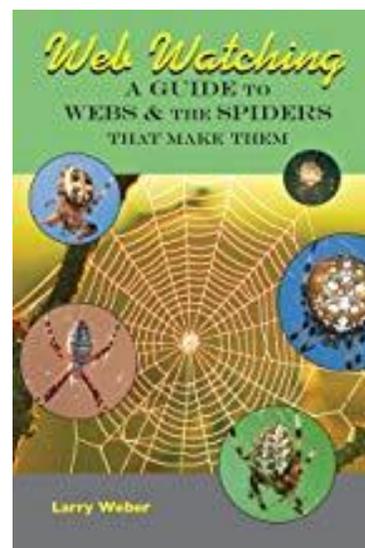
Book Watch

Suggestion comes from Betty Zajac

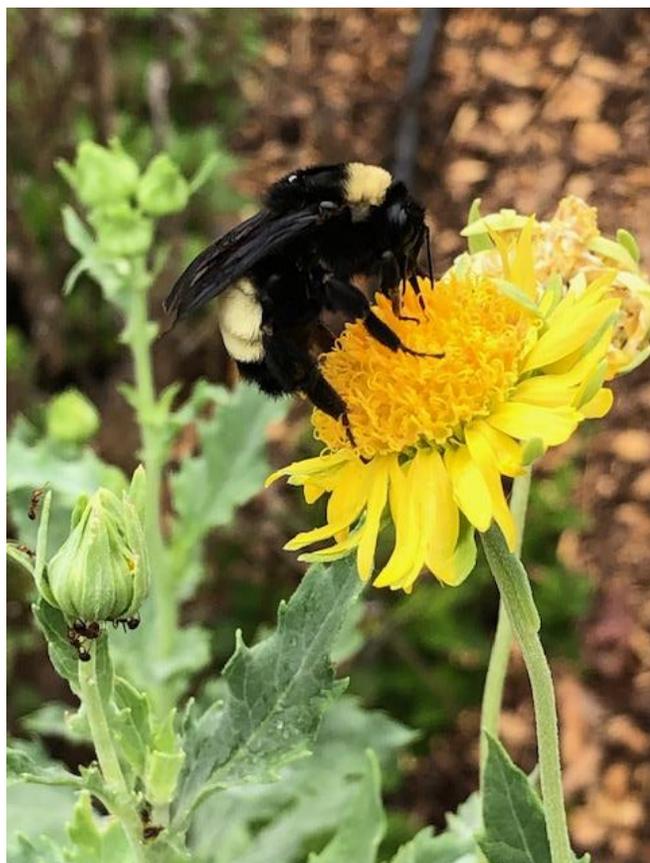
Web Watching ***A guide to webs & spiders that make them.***

By Larry Weber

“We see webs everywhere, but do you know which spider made each web? And for what purpose? This user-friendly guide by award-winning science teacher and lifelong spider watcher Larry Weber helps you untangle the mystery of spider webs and demystify the many purposes of silk. Did you know that spiders have up to seven silk glands and that each produces a different type of silk? The complex process of building a giant orb web is explained in detail. Over 40 species of spiders and their webs are discussed here in detail, with over 200 color photos and 50 illustrations.” Amazon.com



Cover from barnesandnoble.com



American Bumble Bee
(*Bombus pensylvanicus*)
on native wildflower:
Golden crownbeard/Cowpen daisy
(*Verbesina encelioides*)

Photo and ID from Dorothy Thetford

Active from early spring through late fall, bumble bees need access to a variety of nectar and pollen producing flowers so food will be available throughout all stages of the insects' life cycle. Native plants are best because they have coevolved with indigenous bumble bees.

From: <https://blog.nwf.org/2014/04/5-facts-about-bumble-bees-and-how-to-help-them/>

Need a guide?

[Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide](#) (Princeton Field Guides) by Paul H. Williams, Robbin W. Thorp, et al. | Mar 30, 2014



Meet a Master

Interview by Sue Yost

Meet Nick Makarenko

Where are you from? Originally from Rockland County, NY along the Hudson River just north west of Manhattan

Marital status? Married to my high school sweetheart for 19 years

Kids, Grandkids: 1 son named Josh which we just sent off to college

Pets: an Australian/German Shepherd Mix named Max

Work history: out of college spent 3 years conducting epilepsy research in a neuroscience lab on rats, worked for several companies as facilities assistant, taught 7th grade science for 3 years in Lewisville ISD, recently celebrated 3rd year as Environmental Educator at LLELA and I have now moved to City of Lewisville PARD maintenance.

Schooling: Bachelors in Psychology from Pace University, Masters of Environmental Science from SMU, secondary education certification from UNT

How long a MN? Not yet a year trying to earn hours to be certified

What class year? 2018/2019

Favorite pastime: Working on my grandparents farm in NY picking peaches and eating them right off the tree

Favorite food: Bacon!!

Favorite place to visit: Sandia Mountains, NM

Favorite animal: Antrozous pallidus Pallid Bat

Favorite MN volunteer opportunity: Having Scott Keister take me out turtle tracking at LLELA and crawling around amongst the greenbriar until I found a tagged turtle (hoping I'll have more free time to do it again)!

Share a funny story or antidote about being a MN: I went to rent tools from my city and when I mentioned I was becoming a master Naturalist, he started asking advice on ideas to increase native wildlife presence on our trails and what education programs I'd be willing to share with Boy Scouts and public. I couldn't have felt prouder to be used as a resource.

Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you: I love coffee so much and been roasting my own coffee beans for over 10 years, but finally started a small home based business called TC Lakeside Roasters. I like to experiment since I'm a scientist at heart and roasting coffee provides a way for me to test different coffees from around the world and manipulate temperatures, times, and blending. Facebook:

@TCLAKESIDEROASTERS





Opportunities for Training

AT approved

Ongoing AT Opportunities

- [2019 Monarch Conservation Webinar Series](#)
- [Cornell Lab Bird Academy](#)
- [Raptor Rapture Online Course](#)
- Any of the [Native Landscape Certification Program](#) Classes and most of their programs offered by the Native Plant Society of Texas
- The Citizen Forester Class
- Skywarn class
- [NOLS Wilderness First Aid classes](#)
- Second Saturday Events at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge-Saturday, August 10 6465Refuge Rd, Sherman, 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Free & open to public. Presentation, slides and possible field trip within the Refuge. Topics which are geared to 11 years – adult interest vary monthly. For more information 903-786-2826.
- SWAt Meetings – Fourth Thursdays 9:30 am
- Friends of Furneaux Creek Nature Trail – Fourth Monday 7 pm
- Bird and nature walks offered by nature centers, such as LLELA and Clear Creek

Pre-approved webinars

- o Habitat Restoration Fundamentals: Time-tested approaches and new advancements in creating monarch butterfly habitat (Eric Lee-Mäder, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation) – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gij_gjCsGHQ&feature=youtu.be&list=PLZb5DyVcCk955KQKL4J_Ca7aVmzBbM7pr
- o On the Wings of Monarchs: A 10,000 foot view of species conservation – <https://fws.rev.vbrick.com/#/videos/fc559008-1640-457e-933c-90d868147dfa>
- o Meadow Establishment in the East (Larry Weaner, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates; Ann Aldrich, Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy) <https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-conservation-webinar-series> – (No direct link, but it is on the page towards the bottom.)
- o Learn to transcribe for BRIT – <https://fccdl.in/4be45lpu7j>

**AT approved**

Opportunities for Training

Van Elliott

**Course Title:** Wilderness Safety Training with NOLS**Course details:****Length:** 2 days (Sat-Sun)**Hours:** 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (with 1 hour break for lunch)**Minimum age:** 18**Group size:** 20**Instructor:** NOLS Expedition Instructor**Cost to Participant:** \$245 (REI members), \$275 (non-members)**Course description:**

You're ready to go deeper into the outdoors, but you need more than luck to get back home. Risks can't be eliminated from the wilderness, but they can be managed. This 2-day classroom course with NOLS covers trip planning, hazard identification, decision-making, emergency response, and post-trip learning.

In this 2-day classroom course, a NOLS instructor will teach you the necessary skills for trip planning, identifying life-threatening hazards, outdoor leadership and decision-making, emergency response, and how to make the most of post-trip learning opportunities.

Talking points:

Appropriate for all experience levels, this course is relevant for outdoor enthusiasts, guides, and trip leaders who may venture beyond the reach of traditional emergency services (places with unreliable cell service, poorly maintained roads... or none at all, etc.).



Opportunities for Training



AGENDA DAY 1

- Introduction, Goals, and Objectives
- Risk Tolerance Self-Assessment and Exercise
- Objective and Subjective Risk Factors
- Things That Can Kill You: Identifying Key Wilderness Hazards
- Evacuations: Why People Go Home Early
- Cascade of Errors: Compounding Risk Factors
- Risk Assessment and Decision-Making, Part 1: Likelihood-Consequence Model
- What Information Should I Share? Pre-Trip Meetings and Briefings
- Planning for Disaster: Creating Trip Emergency Plans
- Communication is a Risk Management Tool
- Learning from Experience (Or, Hindsight is 20/20 if You Use It!)
- Closing
 - Preview tomorrow, submit questions from today
 - Opportunity for one-on-one conversations with the instructor
 - Networking with fellow adventurers

AGENDA DAY 2

- Welcome Back
 - Answers to questions from day 1
 - Overview of day 2
- Going Solo: How Risks and Risk Management May Change
- Everyone is Responsible for Safety: Getting Buy-In from Your Team
- Should You Hire a Guide? Choosing your Experts Wisely
- Decision-Making, Part 2:
 - Group decision making
 - How individuals make good and bad decisions
 - Decision-making traps
- Emergency Response Scenario
 - Incident Exercise, part 1: Initial response
 - Incident Exercise, part 2: That's not what I thought would happen
 - Wrap up and take-aways
- Guided Action Planning for Your Next Adventure
- Wrap-up and Evaluations



Opportunities for Training

AT approved

Prairie Ecology will be presented October 19, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, 3310 Collins Road, Denton TX 76208.

North American prairies once made up the continents largest and most diverse continuous ecosystem, ranging from Texas to Saskatchewan. North Texas is home to the Grand prairie and Blackland prairie. Learn about the interaction of soils, plants, and animals and the threats they face in these amazing environments. Will be taught by Clear Creek staff member, Brand Richter.

Classes are free and open to the public! If you have any questions please contact clearcreek@cityofdenton.com.
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egimqxyk09fdd990&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Mushroom Workshop will be presented October 19, 2019 at 3 p.m. at Tree Folks Farm, 2570 White Rock Road 76208, Denton, TX

Learn how to mushrooms at this workshop taught by Tree Fold Farm. These local experts will help you deepen your understanding of fungi and teach you how you can start growing your own mushrooms at home.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egjmtm5gf62f40f3&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Bats! will be presented October 26, 2019 at 12 p.m. at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, 3310 Collins Road, Denton TX 76208.

Are you interested in learning more about bats? Join us for this class where you can learn more about the habitats and characteristics of bats. We will also be discussing bat safety and how you can support these local pollinators. The class will be taught by Texas Master Naturalist and expert on all animals that fly, Scott Kiester.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egimsrqk7a2064fb&oseq=&c=&ch=>

View a sampling of highlighted courses, programs and resources offered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Check back often to view new additions to this list.

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/#courses>

Opportunities for Training

AT approved

Plant Identification Part II: *Cool Season*

Thursday October 24, 2019
5:00pm-6:30pm
Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center
3310 Collins Rd, Denton, TX 76208

Speaker: Dr. Barron Rector
Texas A&M Associate Professor &
Extension Range Specialist

Cost: \$20.00
Refreshments will be provided
This class will be outdoors. Please dress
accordingly.

**This program will help you identify plants
for whatever interest you have. We will
identify cool season grasses and forbs.
Come out and test your knowledge, we
will have an ID contest!**

**Call 940-349-2894 or email
robin.hill@dentoncounty.com
to sign up today!**

Space is limited to first 50 registrants.

This program is Coordinated by The Denton County Ag Committee

Educational programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Denton County Agrilife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.





Opportunities for Training

AT approved

From Diane Wetherbee

Screech Owls in Our Neighborhood

Tuesday, September 24, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Flower Mound Library, 3030 Broadmoor Ln., Flower Mound

Learn all about screech owls in the next “Wild About Flower Mound” event (sponsored by The Flower Mound Foundation) on Tuesday, September 24 at 7 p.m. at the Library. Local owl enthusiast Jim Simpkins will explain how to build a screech box, where to purchase one, and the best place for it in your neighborhood. To register, please email fmpl@flower-mound.com or call 972.874.6165.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/672377963275370/>

Snakes, Alive!

Tuesday, October 22, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Flower Mound Library, 3030 Broadmoor Ln., Flower Mound

Brandi and Mario Nickerson from Nature's Edge Wildlife and Reptile Rescue will talk about one of the most misunderstood creatures living in our neighborhood - snakes. Whether you're afraid of snakes or fascinated by them, Brandi and Mario will help you understand how to live with them in the world we share. The talk will focus on conservation, life history, habitat, adaptations and identification of the snakes in our area. It will also provide information on minimizing conflicts between humans and snakes. Nature's Edge Wildlife and Reptile Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit wildlife rehabilitation facility and reptile rescue. They are state and federally permitted wildlife rehabilitators who rehab all native reptiles, bats, birds of prey and mammals on a limited basis. To register, please email fmpl@flower-mound.com or call 972.874.6165.

(I don't have an event set up for this one yet, because the library does it, and they haven't set it up yet.)

From Diane Wetherbee:

Prairie restoration project right here in Denton County:

Skip Barnett Ranch, Denton County Field Trip on 10/12/2019 at 9:00 a.m. Description at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skip-barnett-ranch-field-trip-denton-county-tickets-66123967567>

<http://connemaraconservancy.org/wordpress/profile-barnett-ranch/>

Website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skip-barnett-ranch-field-trip-denton-county-tickets-66123967567>



Almost the Last Word



**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

We're on the Web
[www.txmn.org/
elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)

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."

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 September 19, 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 September 12, 2019. Next monthly Board meeting is October 10, 2019.

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.

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 Trospen, Jody Springer

ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent

TPWD—Ricardo Torres



Rufous (ballpoint)

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