



INDIAN TRAIL MARKER

Apr./May 2017

News, events & calendar of the Indian Trail Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists...Serving Ellis and Navarro Counties

701 S. I-35E, Suite 3, Waxahachie, TX 75165 | Office: 972-825-5175 | Visit our website at <http://txmn.org/indiantrail>

From the Desk of the **PRESIDENT**

Donald Happ, President, Indian Trail Chapter

Get ready for a busy spring! We have many opportunities for volunteer hours and advanced training in the next two months. The most important task we have as Nature Nerds is outreach, and spring is a prime season for carrying our message of protecting Texas' native "wild things" to the next generation. Our schools and television can only do so much to show the wonders outside. You can talk about a crawfish in a class, or watch a film, but you do not know a mudbug until you have held one in your hand.

Our message to the next generation is that wild things and wild places are not to be feared but respected and enjoyed. (I can't remember the last time I was eaten by a bobcat or strangled by an anaconda!)

Thanks to all of you for the many hours volunteering, and remember that our first duty to ourselves is to have some fun. When people see that we are enjoying ourselves, it becomes contagious. So, pass it on!



Snowberry Clearwing Moth © JimWest

Meeting 4th Monday (*usually*) of each month at 6 p.m., program at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Waxahachie

★ AWARDS ★

Congratulations to chapter members who received certification and recognition pins for their achievements in volunteer service. In January and February 2017, the following individuals were celebrated:



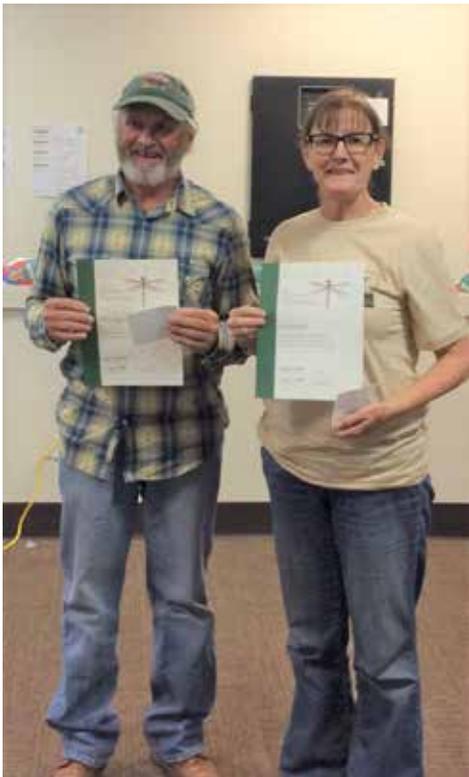
New Certification: Sam Largent, Stephen Largent, Sue Frary, Joan Mahony, Don Wheeler, Pam Wheeler



250 Hours: Jim West



2016 Recertification: Carolyn Ross, Jim West, Chris Cook

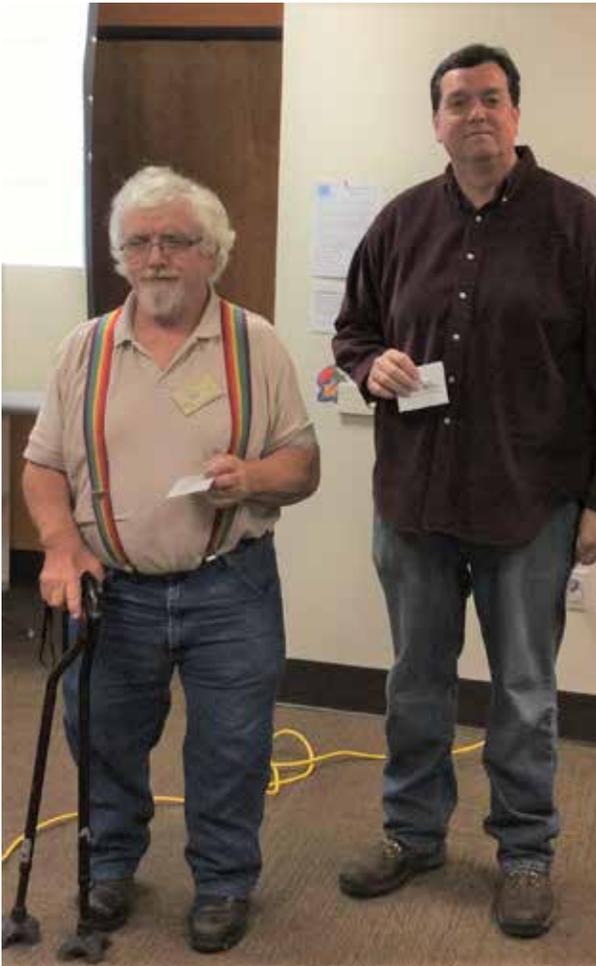


New Certification: Terry Jeffcoat, Rena Sutphin



500 Hours: Jim West, Sandy Ashbrook

★ AWARDS ★



2016 Recertification: George Lawton, Travis Edwards

2017 Recertification: Don Happ, Charlie Grindstaff



500 Hours – Patty Ozga, Elaine Ruby



250 Hours: Karen Lawton



NOTEWORTHY



TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The Texas Master Naturalist™ program began as a statewide initiative during 1998. The program is jointly sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and is supported by more than 416 additional partnerships through local chapters statewide.

CERF BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Our chapter volunteers have been busy pruning and planting to make a pollinator-perfect garden at the Ennis Library. Wine cups, sages, and bluebonnets were in bloom at the time of publication.



NEW WILDFLOWER WALK LEADERS

We had a terrific turnout for our Wildflower Walk training on March 11 at Mockingbird Nature Park in Midlothian, just in time for the first of our monthly Wildflower Walks at the park. Volunteers are needed to lead walks April-June at Mockingbird Nature Park as well as at Kachina Prairie and Bullard Heights.

INDIAN TRAIL CHAPTER RECOGNITION

Our members were thanked for their many volunteer hours by both the City of Midlothian and Texas Wildlife Authority L.A.N.D.S. program.



NOTEWORTHY

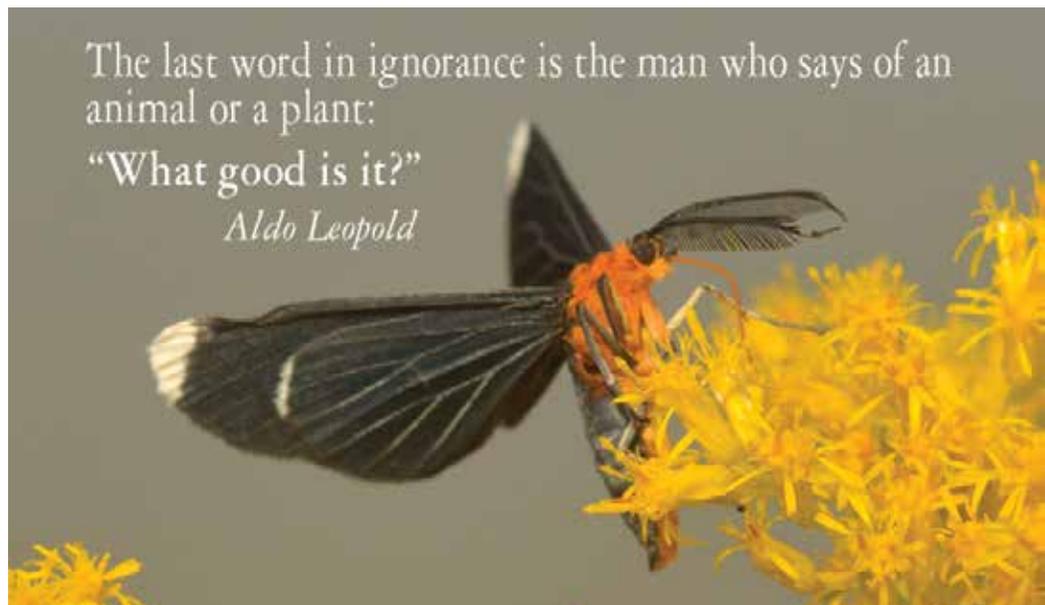


MOON WATCH & MOON PIES

Indian Trail chapter volunteers pulled off a last-minute fun event at Mockingbird Nature Park to observe the penumbral lunar eclipse on February 10, 2017 and enjoy a stroll through the park by the light of the full moon. Volunteers brought telescopes, read stories about the moon and handed out ever-popular moonpies. With 45 in attendance, including many children, members were surprised to see how much the kids already knew about the moon and the penumbral eclipse. (This editor had to look it up.) According to EarthSky.com, “In a lunar eclipse, Earth’s shadow falls on the moon. If the moon passes through the dark central shadow of Earth – the umbra – a partial or total lunar eclipse takes place. If the moon only passes through the outer part of the shadow (the penumbra), a subtle penumbral eclipse occurs.”

CHAPTER SCRAPBOOK

Our Historian, Carol Adams, is excited to see the many pictures being submitted by chapter volunteers. Our scrapbooks are a visual testament to the wide variety of outreach events and field work we do. She has asked all members to please keep those photos of volunteers at work coming!



NOTEWORTHY

CONSTRUCTION ZONE: SCREECH OWL NESTING BOXES

Nancy Quin (Indian Trail Chapter) and Tom Willard (North Texas Chapter) conducted a “Building A



Screech Owl Nesting Box” event at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center this

past February where they demonstrated the buildout, discussed placement and hosting tips. They are planning to repeat this very popular class in the fall.

Photo © Sue Frary



Familiar Nature Quotables – Can You Un-Translate?

By Chris Cook

Let’s have some fun and see who can be the first to decode my garbled translations of famous nature quotes and poems. Email your guess to our editor, Anne Marie Gross (annetgross@gmail.com). Good luck! (Answers will be printed in the next issue of Indian Trail Marker.)

1. “Master Naturalists like to be with other Master Naturalists.”
2. “The forward tumbling of a solid mineral object is not compromised by the accretion of the verdure of a specific class of bryophytes.”
3. “To visualize a macrocosm from a single miniscule selection of eroded mineral sediments, and to see glory within the reproductive structure of an angiosperm uncompromised by human tinkering...”
4. “In my mind, it would be impossible to compare in equality or visual glory the highest product from an angiosperm or gymnosperm seed with the highest artistic utterances from a homo sapiens...”
5. “Meandering similar to the accretion of gaseous dihydrogen oxide in the firmament, solo...”

MEMBER P | R | O | F | I | L | E

In this issue, we introduce you to two members who recently transferred to our chapter from the North Texas chapter - Madeline Kelley and Dawn Tarpley. Be sure to extend a warm welcome when you see them at meetings or volunteer events!

Madeline Kelley received her training in 2011 and loves all things plant-related. She volunteers mostly at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center and enjoys spending her free time there as well. She's active with her city board and volunteers with the local National Alliance on Mental Illness as well. When she's not volunteering, Madeline enjoys gardening to encourage native pollinators, participating in book clubs, writing, and traveling.



Dawn Tarpley completed training in 2013 and has enjoyed her role as an eco-educator at the Trinity River Audubon Center. Since transferring to our chapter, she has quickly made herself at home, joining the Plant Family Study Group and Wildflower Walk training at Mockingbird Nature Park. In her spare time, she enjoys the Cedar Ridge Preserve and fondly recalls spending time there with her husband, kids and “various dogs.” At home, she removed all the non-native plants and has started replacing them with Texas natives. She enjoys reading, creating soft sculptures of birds and forest

animals made from scraps of felt and wool, as well as “anything connected with permaculture and homesteading.”



Mayor's Winter Walk

Once again, our chapter members hosted a wonderful Mayor's Winter Walk at Mockingbird Nature Park. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's walk so educational and entertaining!

Photos contributed by Aaron Gritzmaker, Carolyn Gritzmaker, and Jean Kastanek



Walkin' in the Mayor's wonderland: Annual Mayor's Winter Walk showcases natural beauty and unity within the community

MIDLOTHIAN — As the sun rose on a crisp, blue-sky morning, and locals gathered to enjoy a beautiful display of nature, Midlothian Mayor Bill Houston welcomed the growing crowd to his annual Mayor's Winter Walk at Mockingbird Nature Park.

"We do this event every year, and I love it. It's wonderful, and I look forward to this walk every year," Mayor Houston said as he complimented the success of the Winter Walk that took place last Saturday, Feb. 25. Sponsored by Methodist Mansfield Medical Center and ACE Hardware store, more than 100 people congregated for the occasion, relishing in the opportunity to learn and embrace nature with their community.

"It's a mile, and you walk through, and they identify the grasses and flowers, it's just neat. People come out here and bird watch, jog the trails, and it's all natural," Houston explained. "When I first came out here, of course, I don't know a lot about that stuff, but I looked at it and thought, 'It's just weeds.' But it's not, they've identified it as natural grass, flowers, and later on in the spring and they start to bloom, and it's just beautiful."

In collaboration with Midlothian's Parks and

Recreation Department, the Indian Trail Master Naturalists of the Texas Master Naturalists is leading the conservation effort at Mockingbird Park, preserving and protecting the organic state found within the 62-acre property since 2010.

"We've built benches, bird blinds, and these benches were actually the back deck of my house," chuckled Aaron Gritzmaker, of the Indian Trail Master Naturalists, explaining the repurposed value added to the park. "I put in a new patio at home, so we took all of the old wood and built benches out of them out here."

Although the park shines with environmental wonderment today, the beginning stages of its cultivated transformation needed a plan by the experts.

"When we first got this land, it was donated to the city by Holcim Cement, and we were looking at it, and I thought, 'What are we going to do with this land,'" Mayor Houston recalled. "And we didn't really know what we were going to do, and then the Master Nationalists came out here and started identifying the grasses

and flowers. A few years ago they showed me how they attracted butterflies to this area, and now it's my favorite park and it's going to get better and better."

Billy King, Manager of Midlothian's Parks and Recreation, explained,



Midlothian Mayor Bill Houston and Indian Trail Chapter member Aaron Gritzmaker welcome attendees. Photo courtesy of the Midlothian Mirror

"Everyone loves it, and from the city side, we have to give 90 percent of the credit to the

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MIDLOTHIAN

Master Naturalists. These are the guys that take care of it more than we do. Everything you see, or that's done is what they do. We're very fortunate to have them."

Partnering efforts of many volunteers and generous organizations, the community park was built and maintained by those who saw value in keeping Midlothian's raw beauty intact. From Holcim Cement Company donating the land in 2008, to building projects of the Boy and Girl Scouts of America since 2011, and the support of the city — the entire community can enjoy nature at its finest.

"The park itself is 62 acres, and it's a one-mile trail with a part that goes back through the forest bit. It's a good place to run," Gritzmaker included. "The kiosks were an Eagle Scout project, so the Eagle Scouts have worked out here a lot, and the Girl Scouts built the blue birdhouses, so we have

quite a nest of bluebirds back there."

"They initiate everything for the most part, and we help out," King extolled the conservation group for their hard work.

Among the park's charitable accessories, the Indian Trail Master Nationalists also planted a butterfly garden, grass beds, and provided brush clean up around the property.

"The community can benefit from exercise, enjoying nature, I mean, there's so many things out here to see. The butterfly garden is great in the spring, and then when the wildflowers do come in, they're so beautiful," King smiled.

"The bluebonnets are thick out here. It's really nice in the spring and summer. We conduct wildflower walks, moth nights, and much more," Gritzmaker added.

As far as the community is concerned, the park provides a chance to educate those about the Texas environment while fusing 21st-century locals with their wildlife roots through a

leisurely stroll through the park.

"The Mayor, Bill Houston, comes out every year for this walk. It just gets people out and about. Sometimes they don't know about it, but they'll come out and walk, especially since it's a beautiful day," Gritzmaker remarked.

"This is one of the unsung parks in Midlothian. It's gradually gotten more and more people. The mayor is a big support of this park, so we're very fortunate," King acknowledged.

Walking the mile-long trail with Mayor Houston, families investigated the wildlife on display, while dog owners, bird watchers, and nature admirers soaked up the sun and took the time to stop and smell the flowers.

By Chelsea Groomer, Midlothian Mirror, SPECIAL to Indian Trail Marker. Contact Chelsea Groomer at (469)517-1450, cgroomer@waxahachietx.com

History of the Bluebird Trail at Mockingbird Nature Park

By Deborah Rayfield

After our chapter was first organized in 2010, we had the good fortune of working with the City of Midlothian on the concept of a nature park located on 64 acres of land off Onward Road. This land was donated to the city by Holcim (US) Inc., the cement facility off Midlothian Parkway. After meeting with the city planner and the parks department supervisor, we came up with tentative ideas on how to keep the park as natural as possible and provide activities for visitors.



Deborah and Dan Rayfield continue to monitor and maintain the boxes at Mockingbird Nature Park.

In the fall of 2010, a few of us met with a troop of Girl Scouts from the Waxahachie area, who were interested in establishing a bluebird trail to work on as part of their merit badge activities. After teaching them the "basics of bluebirds", the girls and their parents went to work constructing 5 nestboxes to be placed along a newly established walking trail at Mockingbird Nature Park. A father of one of the girls was a finish carpenter, so the boxes were prime examples of the plans followed to the specifications of the Texas Bluebird Society. The parks department provided and installed the metal poles in concrete, and built baffles for the poles.

On a very cold afternoon in February 2011, the boxes were attached to the poles. Indian Trail chapter members, girl scouts, and their families attended the exciting event. All during that season, the girls monitored the boxes, recording the nesting, egg laying, and eventual fledging of the bluebirds. To actually have successful nesting the first year of the installation was very exciting for everyone involved.

We are now into our seventh year of the bluebird trail.



Eastern Bluebird © Jack Dunaway



Girl Scouts helped build and install the nesting boxes in 2011.

Those twelve-year-old girls have become young women. The boxes are more productive than ever, with every box being used this past season. Often, a wren nest will be found in one of the boxes. That's fine, as all cavity nesters are welcome.

Visitors to the park can watch the activities of the bluebirds as they work to build their nests during the spring and summer. Once the babies hatch, the bluebird parents work tirelessly to feed the brood, providing more entertainment for trail walkers who take the time to pause along the trail and watch the action. Then of course, there is always the uplifting cheerful song of the bluebirds to accompany them along the trail.

Useful Herbs for the ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

By Don Happ

I don't watch enough television to know the science behind it, but my grandchildren assured me that zombies are coming to take over the world. I gather from what they tell me that in a world overrun with the undead, there will be no such thing as a "quick trip" to Walgreens or CVS for those over-the-counter medications on which many of us have come to rely.

Not to worry. Mother Nature can provide us with all the basics – all growing, no doubt, within easy walking distance.

I GET A HEADACHE just thinking about it, but that's OK. Along any stream, we can find the black willow tree (*Salix nigra*). Make a tea by boiling some of its bark containing salicin – which forms acetylsalicylic acid, commonly referred to as aspirin.

Alas, there will be no restaurants, which means I will be stuck with my own cooking and inevitable stomach distress.

Nature to the rescue once again. You know that lovely weed in



the yard known as the dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)? A tea made from dried, powdered root can aid with constipation.

HAVE A COLD? Get some Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) and make another tea. Mullein acts as an expectorant to make coughing more effective. Even more important the dried leaves can be used as a remarkably soft toilet paper.

TOOTHACHE? Get some of the under-appreciated Hercules Club (*Zanthoxylem clava-herculis*) bark and chew

on it. It will numb the gums and relieve the pain. Thus, the name toothache tree or tickle tongue.

So while I may not know much about an impending zombie apocalypse, I know I can turn to our "wild pharmacy" for home remedies – proving once again that this grand-dad still knows a thing or two.

GOOD RESOURCES for more information about edible plants



and home remedies include *Nature World*, *Mother Earth News*, *Eat the Weeds* and many others. Just remember that it's important to correctly identify the plants mentioned, and be aware that many home remedies using plants harvested from the wild may have side effects and should be used with caution.

All photos © Carolyn Gritzmaker



Notable NATURE

Mason Bees

By Carolyn Gritzmaker

Megachilidae (meg-uh-KIL-li-die) This family includes the Mason, Leafcutter and Resin bees. Most bees in this family carry pollen in scopae on their abdomen and are extremely efficient pollinators due to their collection method and the high number of flowers they visit. Megachilid bees are solitary bees and nest in many different places, including hollow stems, bee boards and sometimes in old beetle burrows in the ground. Their nest cavity is divided into brood cells, placed end to end.

This is a Mason Bee, *Osmia* (Pronounced OZ-me-yuh). These are about 10 mm in length. They are bulky bees with large round heads, and are sometimes mistaken for flies. They're blue, green or a metallic color. They are most commonly seen in the spring.

These Mason bees usually don't line their brood cells with leaves like the leafcutter bees, but just place their pollen and nectar bee bread in the tubular nesting cavity and partition it off with a wall of soil particles mixed with saliva. The female will mark the entrance to her nest with a lemony scent that allows her to distinguish her nest entrance from those of other *Osmia* nesting nearby.

This *Osmia* was a bright metallic blue, a male, in our plum tree earlier this month. Look at the size of the bee in relation to the size of the blowfly (who also had a bright metallic blue abdomen).



Species Profile

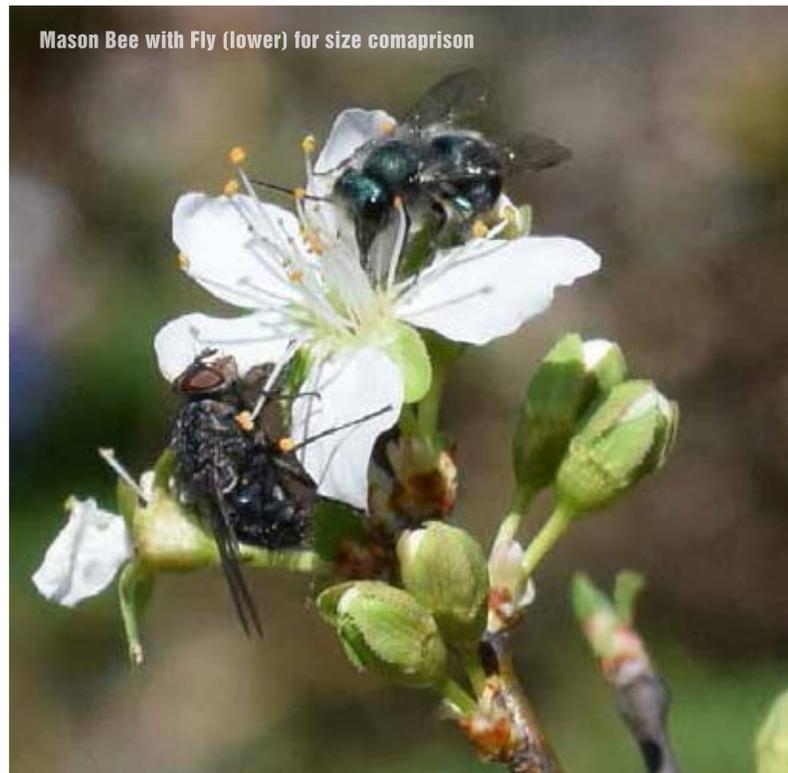
Common Name: *Mason Bee*

Genus: *Osmia*

Family: *Megachilidae*

Order: *Hymenoptera*

Size: The ones in the photos are about 10mm"



Material for this article was gathered from the following sources:

- *The Bees in Your Backyard* by Wilson and Messinger Carril
- *Bees, Wasps and Ants: The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens* by Eric Grissell
- *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide* by Heather Holm
- *Pollinators of Native Plants Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants* by Heather Holm
- *Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide, Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies* by The Xerces Society

Photos © 2017 Carolyn Gritzmaker

Which Texas City is the Wildest?

Go to www.tpwd.texas.gov/naturechallenge

There's Texas pride, and then there's city pride. Do you want to help Dallas/Fort Worth beat out Austin and Houston in documenting the most species of wildlife?

These three cities will compete against each other as well as cities across the nation in the City Nature Challenge, April 14–18. Indian Trail Chapter members will be joined by Sam Kieschnick to kick-off this fun challenge at Moth Night on Friday, April 14 in Midlothian's Mockingbird Nature Park (see inset for details).

It's easy to participate by joining the Moth Night event or just making observations on your own using the iNaturalist app. Just take a picture of a plant or animal at any time during the challenge, post it to our designated City Wide project page for DFW on iNaturalist, and the online community will help you accurately identify the species.

Any observation in the greater metropolitan area of each city will count during the five-day chal-

lenge. You can explore the life in your backyard, in your local park or on a field trip with your local group or club.

We encourage you to share the information with your friends, family, and neighbors.

to watch the leaderboards (tracking will begin on April 14) or learn more about how to participate. (Note that only observations in designated counties will count for this challenge, which include Ellis but not Navarro.)

Moth Night



Mockingbird Nature Park

(1361 Onward Road ~ Midlothian, TX)

Friday, April 14 7–10pm

As part of the city-nature citizen science challenge, we will be documenting some of the critters that live at Mockingbird Nature Park. Learn how to use the citizen science tool and app, iNaturalist. We will also have special moth lights set up to attract, photograph, and identify the moths in the park.



It's easy, fun and free!

Stay only as long as you would like and dress according to the weather.



Bring a flashlight and camera/smart phone to document what we find.
In case of rain, the walking event is cancelled.

For more information <http://tpwd.texas.gov/naturechallenge>



The View From My GARDEN CHAIR

By Chris Cook

“Inevitably, a life of hurry can become superficial. When we rush, we skim the surface and fail to make real connections with the world...” - Carl Honore,
In Praise of Slowness, 2004

So here I sit today to slow down. Yesterday I gave an audible sigh of recognition and agreement in an empty house when I read Honore’s words, because I relate them to today’s idea to skim, especially in education, so much so that in doing so we think we have learned it all and are not encouraged, or forced, to dig deeper.

I think this quote not only applies to our obsession with speed but also to a view of nature—its living and non-living parts, processes, and networks—as separate from people. But that’s why we as master naturalists are drawn to each other, and to the soil, the skies, the plants and animals, the prairies, mountains, woods and waters, in whole and in detail. We thirst to

learn more, can get giddy when we hear or read a nature connection new to us, and still retain that sense of wonder we must have had as kids. We’re now just older kids!

Today I sit in my garden chair with kitty Lizzie on the ledge of the bird bath, flipping her tail (my granddaughter tried to teach me to do that, but I neither twerk nor tweet). Although we have already had a day of 90-degree warmth, this midmorning is still chilly; but a cozy jacket and a cup of coffee make me comfy. I’m going to attempt to ignore the multitude of cone-flowers and spiderwort babies, the spread of chickweed and I-Hate-You weed and goose grass that I’m sure are welcome somewhere else as beneficial. Across the driveway from my perch are the birdfeeders, and Lizzie and I delight in being still (well, not her tail) to watch who comes to eat, who hogs all, who is sloppy, who is a bully, who is shy—kinda like a school cafeteria—remember?

There seem to be more robins this year, but they are not feeder visitors; they prefer to scuff and peck and probe on the garden floor which (shhhhh, don’t tell) is still covered with autumn’s leaves. Cardinals, finches, juncos, titmice, and jays have been by on a regular basis. However, the consistent locals are the often-touted undesirables of many birders: English sparrows and white-winged doves. They seem to co-exist well at the feeders, and each kind has protection nearby. The big galumps head for the pear tree in the next yard, and the little guys hang out in the photinia.



I sit with iPhone in hand, trolling Safari, and I see these headings for English sparrows (*Passer domesticus*): invasive, hunting, recipes, song ... oh my! I’m familiar with 3 of these, but recipe does not surprise me. Hey, just 2 bites (all of 2 bites) is close to half the daily protein amount for us! As with many invasives, the English (house) sparrow was purposefully brought to America in the 1850’s and 60’s to eat the larva of a ‘pest’—the Geometrid moth. Apparently, many were against introducing them and predicted the birds would not solve the problem. They were correct, but many more birds were brought in successive installments and eventually were happy and very fruitful, becoming a scourge across the USA and Canada. We are a scourge to the land also, but we are only fruitful
continued

GARDEN CHAIR

once-a-year-ish whereas English sparrows have 3-5 broods a year with 5-6 birdies in a two-week egg lay-to-fledging period. They are a generalist species, fit into most birdhouse hole sizes, and eat most types of seeds as well as insects. Therefore, they vie for the same niches in habitats that many of our 'more loved' song-birds need, even at feeders like mine. They are not the opera stars of birdom, but their chatter and song I find cheerful and welcoming. Let's face it, they are on the hit list because they are successful!

The big white-winged doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) come to my feeders usually in groups (like 8-15 birds), some waiting on branches while others feed and then switch places. Often they occupy 2 strata with those on the ground scarfing up the seeds that those on the feeders seemingly intentionally flick off with their feet. Like the English sparrow, the doves are successful in numbers because they make use of urban as well as other habitats—woodland, scrub, and desert. We help feed them when we put out corn to attract deer. Their populations have moved



ever northward from Mexico, even into Canada. Easy to spot because of chunky size and white wing edges, their soft gray-brown surface has a visual texture that makes me think of how baby skin feels. They are definitely the feeder hogs but will defer to blue jays—who doesn't?—and cardinals. They make more sound flying and flapping than 'singing'. However, they do garble while pecking together under the feeders and make a soft drawn-out cooing that I find comforting.

This garden chair musing is way too long, and if you have read this far you have procrastinated as long as I have! Lizzie left a long time ago. That means we have both slowed down (tee hee - my English teacher would be proud that I just connected my ending to my beginning) long enough to reflect on some facet of nature. Although being successful in nature may cause control issues for humans, these two species have attributes I can notice and enjoy.

Make it a good day; slow down and hear the birdies sing, tra-la, even the English sparrows and white-winged doves.

All photos © 2017 Chris Cook

Events, Projects, Meetings & Volunteer Opportunities

APRIL

- 1 BRIT Work Day (9am-12pm)
- 6 Plant Family Study Group (6:30pm)
- 7-9 Bluebonnet Trails Festival, Ennis (*times vary*)
- 9 TMN Regional Conference
- 14 Moth Night, Mockingbird Nature Park (7-10pm)
- 14-18 City Wide Citizen Science Challenge (iNaturalist)
- 15 Wildflower Walk, Mockingbird Nature Park (9am)
- 16 Easter
- 20 Plant Family Study Group (6:30pm)
- 21 Kachina Prairie Workday (9am-12pm)
- 24 Indian Trail Chapter Monthly Meeting (6pm); Program (7pm)
- 29 Kachina Prairie Workday (9am-12pm)

MAY

- 4 Plant Family Study Group (6:30pm)
- 6 BRIT Work Day (9am-12pm)
- 13 Waxahachie Farmers Market Children's Activity Day
- 14 Mother's Day
- 18 Plant Family Study Group (6:30pm)
- 19 Kachina Prairie Workday (9am-12pm)
- 20 Wildflower Walk, Mockingbird Nature Park (9am)
- 22 Indian Trail Chapter Monthly Meeting (6pm); Program (7pm)
- 27 Kachina Prairie Workday (9am-12pm)
- 29 Memorial Day (*observed*)



MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM MISSION: To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

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Bullard Heights Neighborhood Park: Don Happ..... donnahapp.happ@gmail.com
Cerf Park Butterfly Garden: Linda Almes almesli@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY LIAISONS

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John Bunker Sands Wetland Center: Maureen Nitkowski..... maunitka@att.net

The mission of this newsletter is to inform, educate and entertain Texas Master Naturalists and their circle of friends.



Monday – April 24, 2017

“FOREST TYPES OF NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS”

**Location: First United Methodist Church
505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie, TX
Family Life Center - Gathering Room**

Indian Trail Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

- **6:00 PM - Business Meeting**
- **7:00 PM - Program by Suzanne Tuttle – Plant Ecologist at Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (retired)**

Suzanne Tuttle is a plant ecologist who recently retired after a 23 year career at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from UT Arlington and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Horticulture from Tarrant County Junior College (now TCC). She is currently serving on the Boards of Directors for the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Fort Worth Chapter of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute located in Fort Davis, TX.

Suzanne's presentation, "Forest Types of North Central Texas", will cover the Eastern and Western Cross Timbers, forested riparian areas of the Blackland and Fort Worth Prairies and Urban Forests.

Indian Trail Chapter is part of the statewide Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Program of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

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

This program is part of a series of "no cost" "open to the public" Master Naturalist programs offered the fourth Monday (generally) of each month, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Please bring a friend! For more information, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension at 972-825-5175 or email: information@itmnc.com

Wildflower Walks at Mockingbird Nature Park

1361 Onward Road (off Mockingbird Lane), Midlothian, TX

What: 1-mile stroll identifying native wildflowers.

Members of the Indian Trail Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program will be guiding Wildflower Walks on the 3rd Saturday of each month April – September. (N/A July, August)

When: 9 am (will last 1hr-1.5hr)

April 15th



May 20th



June 17th



September 16th



Everyone is invited to join our stroll. **There is no charge.** We do ask that you come prepared with water, closed-toes shoes, comfortable outdoor clothing, and insect repellent if needed.

Walks will be canceled in the event of rain.

Serving Ellis and Navarro Counties

Visit <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> Email information@itmnc.com

