

## Carolyn Dutton – Bio



I was born and raised in Hamilton County in Central Texas, at the top of the beautiful hill country, where I spent many hours exploring the outdoors. My dad was an avid hunter and fisherman and I accompanied him on many of his outdoor adventures. I have one younger sister and no brothers. Our neighborhood was at the edge of town with four other kids about my age. We rode our bikes and horses, played baseball and basketball, and explored the pastures, trees, and creek behind our homes. About the only time we went inside was when our moms called us to dinner. In the summer we were outside playing until dark (and sometimes afterwards), or until I heard my dad's loud whistle!

After graduating highschool I went to Tarleton State University in Stephenville and majored in Education with a minor in English. It was there I met my future husband, Ron, who was a Biology and Chemistry major. We married my Junior year and both completed our Bachelor's degrees at TSU. Then we moved to Denton and Ron entered graduate school at North Texas State University. I taught fifth grade while he completed his Master's degree in Biology and Environmental Science. A job offer in Amarillo for Ron with the Texas Water Quality Board is what brought us to the panhandle. We loved the climate and cooler summers in Amarillo, as well as the size of the city, so this has been our home ever since. We were blessed with two children, a daughter and son. After they were in elementary school, I entered graduate school at West Texas State A&M University, where I received my Master's degree in Education and Language Arts, and Reading Specialist certification. I taught at Lawndale Elementary for several years, then transferred to Paramount Terrace Elementary where I taught until I retired.

We have four wonderful grandchildren (three grandsons, and one granddaughter) ranging in age from 18 to 7, who all love the outdoors. We have tried to instill in them the love of nature and conservation, and the importance of taking care of our environment.

I have been a member of Texas Master Naturalists since 2015 and love doing volunteer work with the panhandle chapter of TMN. I am on the Education Team at Amarillo Botanical Gardens, where we teach nature lessons and give guided tours through the gardens to students from all over the panhandle. I also volunteer at Fostering Hope, a ministry of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, which provides clothing, bedding, books, and toys to children who are in need of foster care.

Even though I have been retired for several years, I stay busy doing the things I love....enjoying nature and sharing it with others, spending time with family and friends, and doing things that I feel are beneficial to the community.