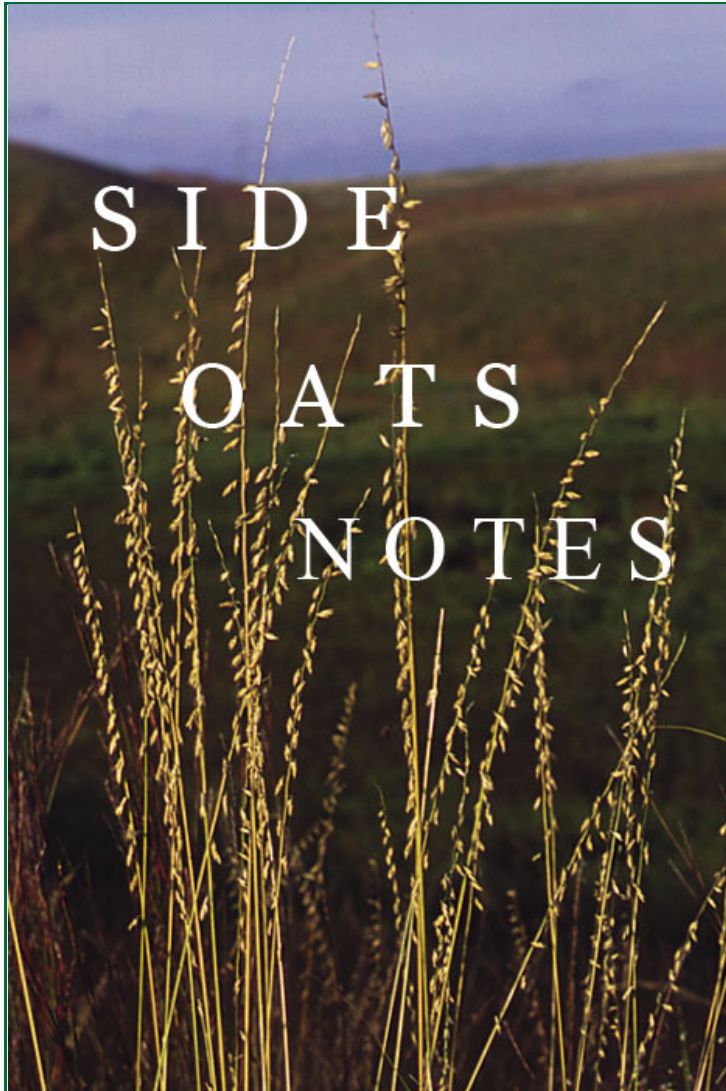


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**A newsletter by the  
Prairie Oaks  
Chapter of  
the Texas Master  
Naturalist program**

Volume 5 Issue 4  
Fall 2023

Providing education,  
outreach, and service  
dedicated to the  
beneficial management  
of natural resources and  
natural areas within our  
communities and the  
State of Texas

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Nature Fest 2023 is just around the corner, and we'd love to have you join us for a day of celebrating the beauty of Texas's natural resources. It's an event where you can soak in the scenery of our pollinator garden, while enjoying crafts, activities, and games teaching adults and kids alike about the amazing ecosystems of our communities and state.

To keep up with all the latest updates and connect with our community, follow our Facebook event. It's a simple click away:

👉 [Nature Fest 2023 on Facebook](#) 👉

We look forward to seeing you at Nature Fest 2023, where our shared love for nature takes center stage!



# NATURE FEST 2023

October 7 @ the Bosque River Trail Nature Center

Stephenville, TX



[Read about the program's impact and the 25th anniversary Storytelling project.](#)

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## Full Calendar of Events and Speakers

### [Notes from the President: Fall 2023](#)

By: Katie Moses One day this summer, I walked out onto my front porch and spotted a small snake hiding behind my cat's water dish. My first reaction was excitement... [Read More →](#)

### [Advanced Training Program SWAP with Big Country Chapter](#)

Article by: Marsha Stephens The Backstory June and July of 2023 marked a new activity for our chapter and a special adventure for the three of us who undertook our... [Read More →](#)

### [Visit a piece of the Cast Iron Forest](#)

By: Peggy Tolboom A visit to Donna and Steve Clark, class of 2019, is a visit to a small piece of the Cast Iron Forest. Invitations are extended to TXMN... [Read More →](#)

### [Cool Facts on a Hot Day](#)

By Linda Wood On a hot July afternoon, a group of children and adults gathered in the cool Stephenville Library basement to learn cool facts about raccoons. We began with... [Read More →](#)

### [The Overstory, a novel by Richard Powers: Book Review by Bill Hopkins](#)

By: Bill Hopkins Richard Powers was awarded the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for The Overstory. I am just now getting around to reading it. Neelay, a character in the... [Read More →](#)

### [Building Bluebird Boxes and Building Friendships](#)

By: Peggy Tolboom One of my favorite parts of being a TXMN is making new friends and sharing experiences together. I've known Judy and Paul Warner mostly from church and... [Read More →](#)

### [Thank you to our sponsors of Nature Fest 2023!](#)

Nature Fest wouldn't be the wonderful celebration of nature without the support of our sponsors. We appreciate your for joining us in our mission to provide education, outreach, and service... [Read More →](#)

### [Caring for the Pollinator Garden at Dublin Public Library.](#)

On the morning of September 1, Prairie Oaks Chapter Members gathered at the Dublin Public Library to weed and maintain the native plants and the pollinator garden. Photos by Paul... [Read More →](#)

### [Thank You to the Big Country Chapter!](#)

The Big Country Chapter joined us on Thursday, July 20, to present about their chapter, its history, and their diverse ecoregions and habitats. We also learned about their accomplishments as... [Read More →](#)

### [Upcoming Events: Summer & Fall 2023](#)

Learn more about our speakers and activities throughout the year. July Thursday, July 20, 2023, 7 PM – 8 PM Presentation by the Big Country Chapter Members of the Big... [Read More →](#)

### [Kudos! Fall 2023](#)

Kudos for our members who reached milestones from May 16 – September 12, 2023. Initial Certifications: Recertifications: Milestones:



## A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

*Albert Einstein*



Follow us for more nature news



Visit the Prairie Oaks Chapter Website

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## **Our Mission**

The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission is 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 for the State of Texas.

## **2023 Officers of the Prairie Oaks Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program**

President: Katie Moses

Vice President: Dayna Inbody

Secretary: Bill Hopkins

Treasurer: James Gray

## **2023 Leadership Team of the Prairie Oaks Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program**

New Training Class Director: Dr. Lynn Wood

Tarleton Instructor & Immediate Past President: Karen Aho

New Training Class Rep: Janet Dawson

Membership Director/VMS Administrator: Barbara Lever-Salter

Advanced Training Director: Doris Hasten

Volunteer Service Director: Stephanie Keith

Communication Director: Layne Cassidy

Outreach & Training Class Assistant: Dr. Linda Wood

Education: Jan Rogers

Hospitality: Peggy Tolboom

Nature Center: Meghan Peoples

Historian: Gail Bradshaw

Advisor: Dr. Adam Mitchell (Tarleton State University)

Advisor: Devin Erxeleben (Texas Parks & Wildlife)

Advisor: Dr. Sonja Swiger (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)

## **Statewide Sponsors of the Texas Master Naturalist program**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email Layne Cassidy, at [emilylaynecassidy@gmail.com](mailto:emilylaynecassidy@gmail.com).

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