

Naturalist News

Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter

July 2021
Volume 21, Issue 7



Currently blooming—Silver-leaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)—courtesy Dorothy Thetford

Naturalist News

Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter

July 2021
Volume 21, Issue 7



Monarch—courtesy Kesa Clingman



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What happened last	3
What happens next	4
Meet a master	5
Features.....	6
A little extra	11
Field notes in focus.....	12
This month's contributors	13
Almost the last word.....	14
Who we are	15

We're on the Web: www.txmn.org/elmfork

Facebook: facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/

What Happened Last

From Mary Morrow



From Rita Lokie

JULY 15 MEETING SPEAKER

Ben Jones will be the guest speaker at the July 15, 2021 Elm Fork Texas Master Naturalist Meeting. Ben will present "Garden for Wildlife".

Ben will discuss how habitat loss and degradation are the major threats to wildlife today. As their populations decline, animals of all kinds need our help to restore their homes and improve the land. He will explain how you can welcome wildlife back into your neighborhood by creating habitat to support birds, butterflies, bees, frogs and other creatures. Like us, they need food, clean water, shelter and safe places to raise their young. With some simple steps, and a commitment to conservation, everyone can help wildlife at home.

BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Jones grew up in southeast Texas spending much of his childhood happily lost in the Big Thicket's pine forests and along the marshes and beaches of the Gulf coast.

He graduated from Texas A&M University with bachelors and master's degrees in the sciences then worked for Arthur Andersen as a business analyst. Ben served the National Audubon Society in multiple roles including Texas state director of education and center director of the Trinity River Audubon Center. He served the Dallas Zoo for 15 years in various capacities including senior director of conservation where he was responsible for the strategic direction of Dallas Zoo's work saving wildlife locally, across the state, and around the world.

Ben joined the Texas Conservation Alliance, state program of the National Wildlife Federation – our country's largest wildlife organization – as executive director in 2020. He leads TCA's work to protect Texas wildlife and their habitats across the state.

Interested in science, education, and conservation, especially as they intersect; Ben is passionate about nature as a context for life-long learning, stronger communities, and enriched life.



Please register with the following link:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvcumqqzkoGtxLDebR_gwwbjakTyqLgsvD

MEET A MASTER: DIANE STULTS

By Sue Yost , class of 2017

Where are you from? - born and raised in Dallas - fifth generation Texan.

Marital status? Married over thirty years.

Kids, Grandkids - No, but I have some really great nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and another grand-something arriving in May. (They're old fashioned and wait until the baby is born to find out whether it is a boy or a girl.)



Pets - Shorty - he is elderly now, about 14. He is a Chorky we rescued in 2010. Our lives revolve around him.

Work history - I am retired after almost fifty years in the work force. I like being retired much better than working.

Schooling - Graduated from Highland Park High School in 1972. Received a BS in Social Science and a BA in Anthropology from SMU in 1977. Tried some graduate school but it did not take.

How long a MN? a little over six months if you count training

What class year? 2020 Zoombees!

Favorite pastime - sleeping

Favorite food - ice cream

Favorite place to visit - historical locations, especially ones in South Texas

Favorite animal - Shorty

Favorite MN volunteer opportunity - Pratt Nature Preserve at Hickory Creek (of course)

Have a funny story or antidote about being a MN. - I was out at Green Acres one day when someone discovered coyote scat. Everyone got all excited and examined it to try to figure out what the little guy had been eating. I announced to the group how great it was to be with other people who like this kind of stuff. When I got home and told my husband about it, he had a completely different reaction - and not a good one. But we are still married, so it's okay

Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you. - I was a pretty decent dancer back in the disco days!



Black wasp on yarrow—photo courtesy Kesa Clingman

What is a **black wasp** with **white stripes**? The bald-faced [hornet](#) (*Dolichovespula maculata*) is a large, black and white colored, social wasp that is found throughout North America. The bald-faced hornet has a black, relatively hairless body with white patches on its face and thorax and three distinctive **white stripes** around the end of its abdomen. From [Bing.com](#)



...View from Coffee Pot and Notebook ...

The program in June on Slow Birding brought to mind a passage I have cherished since I read *A Sand County Almanac*, some forty years ago. It is in "July," page 42 of 226 in my Kindle edition.



“This daily ceremony, contrary to what you might suppose, begins with the utmost decorum. Who originally laid down its protocols I do not know. At 3: 30 a.m., with such dignity as I can muster of a July morning, I step from my cabin door, bearing in either hand my emblems of sovereignty, a coffee pot and notebook. I seat myself on a bench, facing the white wake of the morning star. I set the pot beside me. I extract a cup from my shirt front, hoping none will notice its informal mode of transport. I get out my watch, pour coffee, and lay notebook on knee. This is the cue for the proclamations to begin. At 3: 35 the nearest field sparrow avows, in a clear tenor chant, that he holds the jackpine copse north to the river-bank, and south to the old wagon track. One by one all the other field sparrows within earshot recite their respective holdings. There are no disputes, at least at this hour, so I just listen, hoping inwardly that their womenfolk acquiesce in this happy accord over the status quo ante. Before the field sparrows have quite gone the rounds, the robin in the big elm warbles loudly his claim to the crotch where the icestorm tore off a limb, and all appurtenances pertaining thereto (meaning, in his case, all the angleworms in the not-very-spacious subjacent lawn). The robin’s insistent caroling awakens the oriole, who now tells the world of orioles that the pendant branch of the elm belongs to him, together with all fiber-bearing milkweed stalks near by, all loose strings in the garden, and the exclusive right to flash like a burst of fire from one of these to another. My watch says 3: 50. The indigo bunting on the hill asserts title to the dead oak limb left by the 1936 drought, and to divers near-by bugs and bushes. He does not claim, but I think he implies, the right to out-blue all bluebirds, and all spiderworts that have turned their faces to the dawn. Next the wren—the one who discovered the knothole in the eave of the cabin—explodes into song. Half a dozen other wrens give voice, and now all is bedlam. Grosbeaks, thrashers, yellow warblers, bluebirds, vireos, towhees, cardinals—all are at it. My solemn list of performers, in their order and time of first song, hesitates, wavers, ceases, for my ear can no longer filter out priorities. Besides, the pot is empty and the sun is about to rise. I must inspect my domain before my title runs out.”

— *A Sand County Almanac: With Other Essays on Conservation from Round River* (Galaxy Books) by Aldo Leopold

Abigail Miller

Features

Nature Photos on Display

From Elise Spain

At the beginning of 2020 we invited nature photographers in the chapter to send photos to Denise Remfert who would select some for a Nature Photo Display. Denise selected 25 wonderful photos provided by Marilyn Blanton, Sharon Clark, Janice Goetz, and Denver Kramer. We planned to have the first display at our 2020 Open House, but you know what happened to all our meeting plans last year. Recently we decided to display the photos in the entryway of the Carroll Building, and we hope you will stop in to see them there.

This was all just for fun; it is not an approved project and no service hours applied. But like it says on a sign with the photos, "We invite you to let these photos inspire your own exploration of our natural world, and we hope that will increase your desire to be a good steward of all our natural resources."

We have received nice comments already from building employees and visitors, and a couple of the photographers have stopped by!



Marilyn Blanton



Denver and Dena Kramer

Things to Know

Vacancy: Communications Director position



There is a **vacancy on the Board for a Communications Director**. If you are interested in assuming this position, please send an email to President@efctn.org. Jerry Betty will get back with you with more information. Duties of the Communication Director are below.

1. Oversee the Communications Committee. The Committee consists of the Newsletter, Publicity, Social Media, Plan Your Week, and the Chapter Website.
2. Establish Guidelines for TMN-EFC data retention to be approved by the Board.
3. Provide support for TMM-EFC Project Managers and Committees as needed.
4. Ensure incoming e-mail is answered and distributed in a timely manner.

Note from current director wanda odum: This position does not require any particular training or expertise. Each current committee chair as a member of the communications group has exceptional talents in the various assignments and takes seriously expectations to fulfill the duties required of them. You will, also, be supported by various other members who work with the committee namely: outreach chair, programs chair, open house chair, chapter emails monitor and any other specially invited persons concerned with communications. The committee meets periodically to assess needs and accomplishments, to address concerns and to compare notes. In addition, you will be expected to participate in each monthly board meeting as a voting member of the board. Again, this a congenial group of talented individuals working hard behind the scene to manage the “nuts and bolts” of the chapter. Your contributions will be welcomed and valued.

TxDOT's Historic Preservation Program for a Roadside Chat Webinar

Date: July 21, 2021

Time: 10:am CST till 12 pm

Coordinator: TxDOT Laura Cruzada

Public Involvement Specialist and Tribal Liaison

Environmental Affairs Division

Description: For years, Texans have traveled across miles of bridges throughout the state. These bridges connect communities, feature one of a kind designs, and even provide shelter for some unique critters. TxDOT is on a mission to bridge these gaps in history. Join us on July 21st at 10 am CT to hear stories from Texas bridges, such as the rehabilitation of a unique historic bridge, and how bridges shelter Texas critters. We will discuss TxDOT's historic bridge program and the importance of our bridges across the state!

Link: <https://txdot.webex.com/txdot/onstage/g.php?MTID=eef15eb3cc8401e54473a34f850ee0eb6>

Features

From: Amy Martin author, [Wild Dallas-Fort Worth: Explore the Amazing Nature of North Texas](#) (Timber Press: 2022)
North Texas Wild columnist, [Green Source DFW](#) author, [Itchy Business](#)

I want to share with the Elm Fork chapter my gratitude of the “loan” of several Elm Fork naturalists for the Adventures section of *Wild Dallas-Fort Worth: Explore the Amazing Nature of North Texas* [<https://bit.ly/3nKBrHm>], to be released by Timber Press (Doug Tallamy’s publisher) in summer 2022. There is a LOT of EFMN in the book!

For the LLELA chapter, I’d hiked the Blackjack Trail many times, but seeing it through Scott Keister’s eyes brought depth to it I’d never known. It was an amazing experience and I don’t use that term lightly. Laura Kimberly pointed out insect activity I would have never noticed. My first time on the Bittern Marsh Trail was brought alive by Denver Kramer’s fine eye for wildlife and Rita Lokie’s good humor and plant knowledge. Though not EFMNs, Erin Piper kept up a constant dialogue of naturalist nuggets on the Bittern hike that was beyond superb, and the prairie section is all about Richard Freiheit.

For the Clear Creek chapter, Diane Wetherbee and Clay Thurmond gave me a tour I will remember forever. Highly adventurous—and wet! I was super impressed with how well Clay knows every square yard of the preserve and learned an eclectic variety of things from Diane, including fish and fire ants. For the Ray Roberts Lake State Park chapter, my ultra capable guides for Isle du Bois were Denise Thompson and Susan Pohlen. I’d visited the park before and was flummoxed on where to go or what to look for. Their trail suggestions were magnificent, as was their naturalist knowledge so graciously shared.

Astounding photos for the book by Scott Ausburn Carson, Denver Kramer, Diane Wetherbee, and Angilee Wilkerson. (Still need some more photos from the Blackjack Trail.) Here are a few examples.



Scott Ausburn Carson — Ray Roberts



Angilee Wilkerson — Ray Roberts



Daniel Koglin —
LLELA Bittern Marsh

Features



Diane Wetherbee — Clear Creek



Diane Wetherbee — Clear Creek



Scott Ausburn Carson — Ray Roberts



Diane Wetherbee — Clear Creek



Daniel Koglin — LLELA Bittern Marsh



Angilee Wilkerson

A Little Extra Viewing Pleasure



Prime time! Green Milkweed
(*Asclepias viridis*) - courtesy
Dorothy Thetford

Pink moth on yarrow
— courtesy Kesa
Clingman



FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS



From the gallery of Jonathan Reynolds

Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

This Month's Contributors



wanda odum editor
class 2005



Sue Yost class 2017



Rita Lokie class 2013



Mary Morrow
class 2014

Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Dorothy Thetford
class 2001



Abigail Miller
class 2003



Kara Clingman
class 2017



Judi Elliott class
2009

Elise Spain class 2017

Advice From a Tree

Stand tall and proud

Go out on a limb

Remember your roots

Drink plenty of water

Be content with your natural beauty

Enjoy the view



Sunrise at Hagerman—courtesy Jonathan Reynolds

WHO WE ARE

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."



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT—Jerry Betty

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—Brenda Wellenreiter

VICE-PRESIDENT/PROJECTS—Kathryn Wells

SECRETARY—Barbara Bean

TREASURER—Tim Thomann

MEMBER-at-LARGE—Mary Cissell

CLASS 2019 REPRESENTATIVE— Amy Crook

ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent

TPWD—Daniel Rios

Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m. when in person meetings resume. Chapter meetings are open to the public. Next meeting July 15, 2021 via Zoom.

Ben Jones will present "Garden for Wildlife"

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met July 14, 2021. Next monthly Board meeting August 12, 2021

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.

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.

