

January 2022

Naturalist News

Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

—Spread the News—



Bee on a Cosmos—from
Deborah Meyer

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

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/](https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/)

January 2022

Naturalist News

Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter

—Spread the News—



Inside this issue:

Message from the President	3
What's Next?	4
Projects in and around the community	6
Meet a Master	7
Let's Read	8
What's Happening?	9
NN Contributors	14
Field Notes in Focus	15
Almost the Last Word	16
Who We Are	17



On the Greenbelt from Jonathan Reynolds

From coverage: *Cosmos bipinnatus*, commonly just called cosmos, is native to Mexico. It is a popular, low-maintenance, late-blooming, showy annual that typically grows 2-4' tall on erect stems clad with pinnatisect, medium green leaves that are deeply cut into thread-like segments.

Message From the President—Jan Deatherage

There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”

Zora Neale Hurston

Happy 2022! It’s certainly been a wild ride these past couple of years. But you’ve met the questions and challenges with agility, creativity, patience, hard work and perseverance. And these answers have paved the way for Elm Fork Chapter members to hang on, to maintain some sense of connection to our mission and to each other.

Our next few chapter meetings will most likely be hybrid (in-person as well as on Zoom) until people are more comfortable being “together” (in our beautiful new meeting room at the Denton County Courthouse).

We all long to return to our happy place with each other and to enjoy the camaraderie of our like-mindedness and shared love of nature. This year offers a glimmer of hope in the not-too-distant future as well as a solid infrastructure to accommodate our objectives.

Optimism is our friend.

Our volunteer time has outpaced that of each of the other Denton County AgriLife organizations.

We have success stories with our projects and our knowledgeable members to tell others.

We have new members who are ready and willing to step in and contribute.

We are a passionate group with a talent for collaboration.

We make a difference.

Some questions could be answered.

How can we reignite the spark of camaraderie in volunteering and knowledge sharing?

How can we ground our connection in each of our local communities?

How can we maintain a common sense of purpose within our organization’s complexity?

How can we inspire others to respect the natural world?

The answer is “we’re working on it”. Hang in there. We’ll get there together.

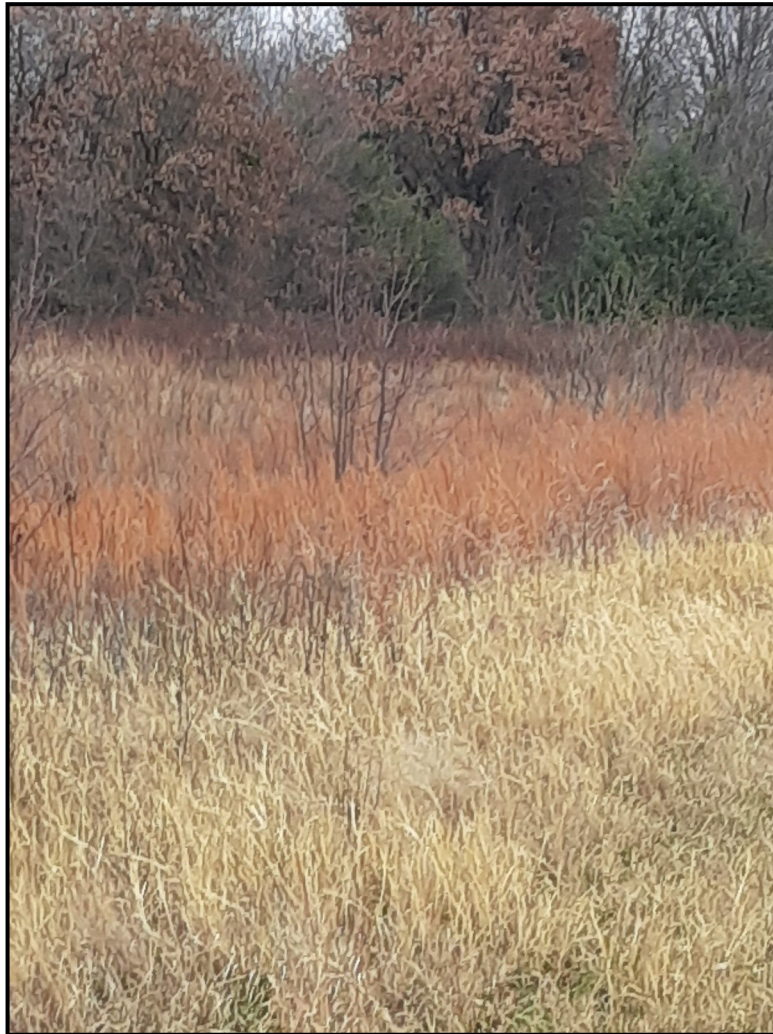
What happens next

From Rita Lokie

Gwen Eishen will present **Who Scat That** at the January 20, 2022 Elm Fork Master Naturalist meeting. She will explore a variety of local animal scat and tracks. In addition, she will dive into more detailed ways to decipher scat, such as vigilance, latrines and seasonal changes.

Gwen Eishen is a Texas native, growing up in Duncanville and South Dallas. Currently pursuing her Master degree from Texas A & M University-Commerce in Wildlife Conservation, studying urban wildlife. Since 2012 she has worked as an outdoor educator for many local natural resource organizations. She is currently an educator for the Texas Wildlife Association for the DFW area. She is an ambitious gardener, animal rescuer, hiker and fellow Master Naturalist.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdOuvrTMiGdQ4SUUmM7g1TNskD1dMIOhF>



*Becky Bertoni shares a
"Winter Rainbow"*

Projects in and around the community

From Marilyn Blanton, project manager

Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition

Artwork from the Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition has been displayed at the Denton Senior Center and will be displayed at the TWU Blagg-Huey Library during December and January. One best-of-show entry was selected from each school.

Here's a few of the best-of-show entries.



Projects in and around the community



Meet a Master

Meet a Master, Pam Bennett

Sue Yost class of 2017

Where are you from? Originally from Tulsa, OK. I've lived in TX for almost 40 yrs.

Marital status? M

Kids, Grandkids: Two daughters, one granddaughter (9 months old)

Pets: No pets at present, but I love dogs

Work history: RN in inpatient and outpatient settings, administration, and in healthcare compliance until retirement

Schooling: BS in Nursing, MS in mental health nursing

How long a MN? What class year? Class of 2019

Favorite pastime: reading, especially spy thrillers

Favorite food: Mexican, of course

Favorite place to visit: National parks, the Caribbean, and looking forward to travels to Europe and Africa once pandemic has ceased

Favorite animal: No one favorite, but I do love elephants, giraffes, and lions

Favorite MN volunteer opportunity: I love the people and experiences at LLELA. If the work is normal, it's the people; if the work is interesting, it's the work.

Share a funny story or anecdote about being a MN? The most enjoyable thing this time of year is seeing all the deer that come very close to the nursery in the late afternoons. Today, we were closely watched by a buck who had no fear of us.

Tell us something we'd be surprised to know about you. I love to watch professional bull riding live or on TV.



The oldest task in human history is to live on a piece of land without spoiling it. Aldo Leopold

Let's Read

From Alex Lieban former Elm Fork Chapter member and a past president now living in Colorado



I would like to pass on a recommendation to the Elm Fork chapter a book you might enjoy. It is written by Nick Offerman and is entitled "Where The Deer And The Antelope Play". Offerman is the actor and humorist who played Ron Swanson on Parks And Recreation TV show. He is a big proponent of the teachings of Aldo Leopoldo and Wendell Berry. It is chock full of valuable naturalist values and humor.

My sincere wishes for a most peaceful and peaceful new year.

Alex

alex-lieban.pixels.com



A flash of red against the muted winter colors—courtesy Dorothy Thetford

From Sue Yost

What's Happening

What is New at LLELA!

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Friends of LLELA



Friends of LLELA
present

January 2022

*January's
Indoor
Environmental
Event

Includes a Self-
Guided
Walk in the
Thrive
Nature Preserve.

Come and Enjoy
this new
Lewisville
Multigeneration
Facility.*

Making Way for Wildlife

January 22, 2022 10 am to 3 pm

Held at **Thrive** located at

1950 S. Valley Parkway, Lewisville, TX 75067

Thrive's phone number (469) 635-5300

Cost: \$30 per person (includes boxed lunch and snacks)

Registration required: click [LINK](#) or (http://llefriends.org/online_store.aspx)***Program****9:30—Check-in & Coffee**10:00–10:50 am: Ben Jones, Texas Conservation Alliance**"How to Certify your Backyard
with the National Wildlife Federation"**11:00-11:50 pm: Sue Yost**"Attracting the 'Wild' to your Backyard
with Food, Water and Nesting"**Noon—Boxed Lunch, Self-guided Walk in Thrive Nature Preserve**1:00-1:50 pm: Studio Outside**"Native Wildscaping"**2:00-2:50 pm: "Guided Walking Tour of THRIVE"**Speakers: 40 minutes; Questions and Answers: 10 minutes*

Friends of LLELA 500 E. Jones St. Lewisville, TX 75057

Send comments and submissions to hsmunro@verizon.net

From Mary Morrow

What's Happening



Become a Citizen Forester

~Learn about trees!

~Volunteer to improve our urban forest!

Application deadline - February 12, 2022.

The **Citizen Forester** program is sponsored by the **Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council**, a non-profit organization, focused on publicly owned trees.

Trained volunteers work in public areas including city parks, along streets, in school yards, etc. We also provide public education through presentations and booth events. Our goal is to help communities reap the benefits of trees in the urban environment in a responsible manner.

The program consists of 60 hours of training from mid-March through mid-December.

The training will consist of in-classroom and field training. Locations will be announced at a later date.

*In-classroom training may be virtual depending on current circumstances.

Certified Arborists and Foresters will conduct the training which includes tree identification, propagation, planting, pruning, pest and tree diseases and hazard assessment.

You will never look at a tree the same way again!

Go to <http://ctufc.org/citizen-forester/> to learn more about the Citizen Forester Program and click on **“Apply to become a Citizen Forester”** for the application.

If you have any questions feel free to contact our Volunteer Help at citforhelp@gmail.com or call 469-882-7703.

What's Happening

We are now accepting 2022 Online Dues Payments! Payments can be made by credit or debit card, paypal or venmo.

<https://txmn.org/elmfork/2022-dues/>

If paying by check, please follow the instructions on the 2022 Dues page

Beulah Acres Agroforest Workday

January 12 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join Us for Volunteer Work days, every Wednesday.

Winter workday hours, December 1 through February 23rd, 9am – 12pm

We are going to reduce the available number of slots down to 10 for the winter months and will reevaluate before the spring season begins.

Link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA5AE29A3F9C07-volunteer>

Organizer: Daniel Arenas, agroforest@beulahacres.org

Suggestion Box

Any ideas that you would like presented to the Elm Fork Chapter Board. If you would like a reply to your suggestion, please include your name.

[Chapter Suggestions \(txmn.org\)](https://txmn.org)

There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter. —Rachel Carson

What's Happening

From Sharon Clark

Don't Forget about Nest Watch volunteer opportunities! A Cornell University Lab of Ornithology Project Elm Fork Chapter Volunteer Approved Project # P171207

Yes, it's that time of year again for preparing to find and to observe the nesting activity of birds.

*Go to **NESTWATCH.org***

*If you are **already a Cornell Ornithology participant** (Feeder Watch, ornithology courses, etc), you can use your current user name and password to access Nestwatch site and read instructions.*

*If you are **new to the project**, follow the 'how to participate' instructions.*

Follow the instructions as to observation guidelines, noting the location of the nest(s), the specie of bird, and the progress of the nesting activity.

Birds nesting in boxes (e.g., Eastern Bluebirds, ducks, etc.) can also be followed.

If the nest or nesting box is located at one of the other EFCMN approved project sites (LLELA, Clear Creek, Green Acres, etc., for example), please contact that project's director for guidance as to possible preexisting practices for observing nests and uploading data for that project.

Volunteer activity for this project is approved for observing, identifying, and uploaded data. Making nest boxes is not approved as volunteer activity for this particular project.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sharon Clark, EFC Nest-watch Project Manager at seclarkdomph@att.net

Come One—Come All

Green Acres project resumed operations on January 4, 2022, with a new time of 12-3 pm. New volunteers are welcome in the new year--and anytime!

Becky Bertoni, project manager

Approved AT

Description: The talk will look at the role of climate change in making extra weather like Hurricane Harvey, the 2011 drought, and the February 2021 winter weather and how much change we can expect in the future.

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tfu2spzlsGdJmFKXpzSG2nvRI9Qv5uCYR>

What's Happening

There are Lots of Volunteer Opportunities at LLELA these days. If you are interested in helping, send emails to:

Scott Kiester (Master Naturalist Project Manager) at skiester2@gmail.com

Richard Freiheit (LLELA Restoration Manager) at freiheit@unt.edu

Tiara Chapman (Recreation Supervisor LLELA)

at tchapman@cityoflewisville.com

Volunteer Opportunities include, but are not limited to, those listed below.

Monday morning mayhem - Monday's 9am - 12pm

Trailhead Tuesdays - Tuesdays 9am - 12pm

Richard's Wednesday Workday - Wednesdays 9am - 12pm

Visitor's Center - Saturdays and Sunday afternoon

Cabin at LLELA - Third Saturday of the month

The Furneaux Creek Nature Trail is open every day of the week during daylight hours. Trail tours will be arranged for anyone or group interested. Volunteer work with service hours can be scheduled for any day of the week. Call Richard Johnson at 469-877-0695 for more information.

Calling Volunteers!

The Nature Center at Ray Roberts Lake, Isle Du Bois unit and the new Johnson Branch Nature Center.

If you are not already a volunteer at the lake, we welcome you! If you are interested but have not attended orientations and training for the Nature Centers, we will be glad provide it with the State Park Interpretive Rangers, Tara Hartford and Johnson Branch and Mindt Mindy Shumate.

Please contact me if you are not on the Signup Genius list I send out and I will add you and forward your name to one of the Interpretive Rangers to schedule some training and approval.

Chuck Thetford

cthetfordathome@gmail.com

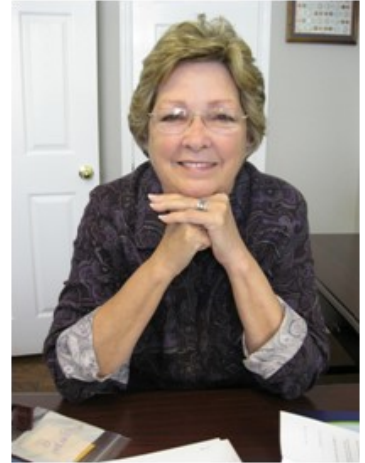


Your host wanda odum
editor class 2005

Contributors this Month



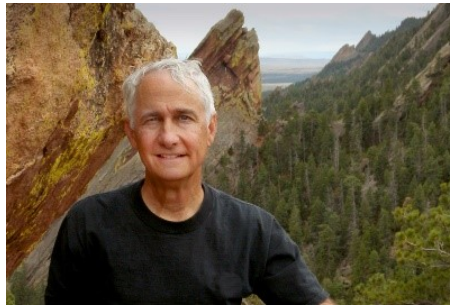
Sue Yost class 2017



Judi Elliott class 2009



Mary Morrow class 2014



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Dorothy Thetford class 2001



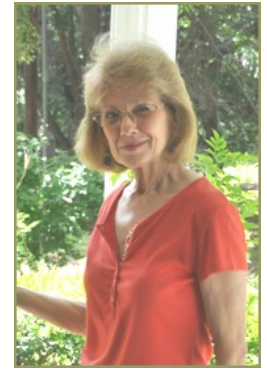
Rita Lokie class 2013



Chuck Thetford class 2011



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Marilyn Blanton class
1999



Sharon Clark
class 2014



Dale & Deborah Meyer
classes 2011, 2012

Guest contributor
Alex Lieban



FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS



From the gallery of Deborah Meyer—Deer at Kerr Wildlife Management Area

Almost the Last Word

Arctic Terns are the long-distance champions of migration. Thanks to satellite transmitters and geolocators, we know that some Arctic Terns travel more than 50,000 miles annually! Scott Weidensaul, naturalist and author of *Living on the Wind*, says these technology tools “make the issue of bird migration all the more wonderful and awe-inspiring . . . and almost literally unbelievable.”



<https://www.birdnote.org/>

Clip art



Clip art



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

We're on the web
<https://txmn.org/elmfork>

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT—Jan Deatherage
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—Jerry Betty
 VICE-PRESIDENT/PROJECTS—Kathy Webb
 SECRETARY—Barbara Bean
 TREASURER—Ray Kreutzfeld
 MEMBER-at-LARGE— Harriet Powell
 CLASS 2021 REPRESENTATIVE— Karen DeVinney 2021

ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent
 TPWD—Daniel Rios



Crow—w odum

Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings

Meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m. Chapter meetings are open to the public. Next meeting January 20 2022

Hybrid link p. 4

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met January 13, 2022. Next monthly Board meeting February 10, 2022

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.