

**Volume 22 Issue 5
May 2022**

**NATURALIST NEWS
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER**



**Spotted towhee—courtesy
Jonathan Reynolds**

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Lake Ray Roberts—courtesy Jonathan Reynolds

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Special points of interest:

- Successful Open House
- Who remembers the LLELA bison?
- City Nature Challenge results
- Sweet Tweets

Go for the Gold - 2021 Annual Awards Ceremony

by Mary Morrow

by Mary Morrow

Go for the Gold - 2021 Annual Awards Ceremony

*Message from Jerry Betty
2021 President
Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists*



2021 was a challenging time for the chapter membership due to the Covid pandemic. We persevered through masks, forms, zoom, and restricted activities. I am still amazed that our 227 Active Members were able to accrue 25,831 hours last year. 47 of our members managed to earn 200+ hours each during 2021.

Can you believe the Chapter now has thirteen 20 year Veterans? Thank you Carolyn and Jan and to all the 20 year Veterans for your contributions to the Chapter.

11 Certificates of Appreciation were awarded for 2021 Annual Awards in the areas of Natural Resource Service, Enhancing Education and Outreach, Public Understanding, and Volunteer Network. We appreciate all you do.

Again, thank you to those who were recognized for their efforts in 2021 as well as the entire Chapter membership for what was accomplished. I am looking forward to 2022.

TMN-EFC ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

WELCOME

2021 ANNUAL TMN-EFC AWARDS MEETING

February 17, 2022

227 ACTIVE MEMBERS
160 CERTIFIED IN 2021
25,831 SERVICE HOURS
3,425 ADVANCED TRAINING

➤ Chapter Achievements

Class of 2002

20 Year Veterans

Carolyn Norgaard

a few EFC contributions:
 Project Feeder Watch
 TX Hummingbird Watch
 Old Alton Bridge

Carolyn Norgaard
 TEXAS 20 Year Volunteer
 Master Naturalist Class of 2002
 ELM FORK CHAPTER

Jan Hodson

a few EFC contributions:
 Growing Up Wild
 Trophy Club
 Community Presentations
 Ray Roberts
 EFC Past President

Jan Hodson
 TEXAS 20 Year Volunteer
 Master Naturalist Class of 2002
 ELM FORK CHAPTER



TMN-EFC ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

Most Hours - Intern 2020

303.75
Hours

- Class Representative - Class of 2020
- Clear Creek Nature Center
- Lake Ray Roberts



Amy Crook

Most Hours - Veteran

653.25
Hours

- Membership - Committee Chair, iNaturalist - Project Leader
- Thrive Park
- LLELA - Turtle Moms and a Dad
- Trees and Forest Management



Mary Morrow

TMN-EFC 200+ HOURS CLUB 2021

200+ Hours Club



200+ Hours Club



200+ Hours Club



TMN-EFC ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

Certificates of Appreciation

Natural Resource Service

Helping preserve, restore and make accessible natural resources in our community. Includes activities like prairie restoration, native plant cultivation and trail maintenance.



Michele Rawleigh

Certificates of Appreciation

Natural Resource Service

Helping preserve, restore and make accessible natural resources in our community. Includes activities like prairie restoration, native plant cultivation and trail maintenance.



Project Feeder Watch

Karen Mangum-Project Leader

Certificates of Appreciation

Enhancing Education and Outreach

Educating Master Naturalists and the public about our natural environment. Citizen Science supporting research and educational resources, conducting seminars and classes, helping local schools educate students through field trips and other means.



Sharon Betty

Certificates of Appreciation

Enhancing Education and Outreach

Educating Master Naturalists and the public about our natural environment. Citizen Science supporting research and educational resources, conducting seminars and classes, helping local schools educate students through field trips and other means.



Fran Witte

Certificates of Appreciation

Enhancing Education and Outreach

Educating Master Naturalists and the public about our natural environment. Citizen Science supporting research and educational resources, conducting seminars and classes, helping local schools educate students through field trips and other means.



DISD Virtual Field Trips at Clear Creek

Sharon Betty-Project Leader

TMN-EFC ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

Certificates of Appreciation

Public Understanding

Helping the public understand the importance of our natural environment through public speaking and education.



Thrive Nature Park

Michele Rawlins-Project Leader

Certificates of Appreciation

Public Understanding

Helping the public understand the importance of our natural environment through public speaking and education.



Jim Gerber

Certificates of Appreciation

Volunteer Network

Building a strong volunteer network is important to accomplishing the mission of Texas Master Naturalists, by recruiting new members, helping to educate them, leadership of projects, leading supporting functions that make the chapter successful.



Clay Thurmond

Certificates of Appreciation

Volunteer Network

Building a strong volunteer network is important to accomplishing the mission of Texas Master Naturalists, by recruiting new members, helping to educate them, leadership of projects, leading supporting functions that make the chapter successful.



Becky Bertoni

Certificates of Appreciation

Volunteer Network

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Awards Delivery Team

Mary Morrow-Committee Chair

Certificates of Appreciation

Volunteer Network

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Gale Bacon












TMN-EFC ANNUAL AWARDS 2021



2022 JANUARY AWARDS RECOGNITION

EFC members accomplished the following as of **JANUARY 2022**

Re-certifications

 Kenneth Saintonge, Class of 2018*	 Becky Bertoni, Class of 2015
 Pat Bragg, Class of 2021	 Mary Cissell, Class of 2015
 Linda Cox, Class of 2005	 Hilton Dickerson, Class of 2009
 Karen DeVinney, Class of 2021	 Scott Kiester, Class of 2003
 Sandy LaQuey, Class of 2019	 Mary Morrow, Class of 2014
 Carl Patrick, Class of 2010	 Sue Yost, Class of 2017

*Re-certification for 2021



2022
RE-CERTIFICATION
PIN
'LIGHTNING WELK'

2022 JANUARY AWARDS RECOGNITION

EFC members accomplished the following
as of JANUARY 2022

	<u>250 Milestone Hours</u>	
Chryl Prestemon, Class of 2020		Bryan Lewis, Class of 2020
	<u>500 Milestone Hours</u>	
	Dale Denton, Class of 2019	
	<u>1,000 Milestone Hours</u>	
	Allen York, Class of 2017	
	<u>1,500 Milestone Hours</u>	
	Sue Yost, Class of 2017	



What Happened Last?

By Jan Deatherage, president



I've never been an avid follower of superheroes or action figures, but *Riddle Me This Batman*:

How is it that our 2022 Open House was such a success?



It had to be that the 2020 Room at the new courthouse was the perfect venue.

Or perhaps it was because it was scheduled in April rather than July.

Maybe it's because so many new people have relocated into Denton County and surrounding areas.

Aren't a lot of younger folks retiring early and looking for something to do?

I'd like to think that more and more people are finally becoming more conservation-focused and appreciative of the natural world.



My guess is that all these possible answers could be correct.

But superheroes don't just guess.

In reality, the answer lies in this one amazing fact: **Our members are SUPERHEROES.**



From set up to take down, we were an example of amazing collaboration in action.

Everyone prepared their project presentations, knew their stuff and were genuinely enthusiastic.

We had a great story to tell and 50+ visitors were interested in hearing it.

Our 30 projects demonstrated breadth and depth.



The message we delivered was one of passion for nature and conviction for protecting it.

The Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists has set a new benchmark for excellence.

We've come such a long way in our 22 years. A lot of us remember those days, and with fondness for the people that we knew and now miss. How many times collectively did we have to explain "what is a master naturalist"?



Jan Deatherage

What Happened Last?

OK, maybe today we still must define ourselves, but we do it with such pride and confidence because we know we are doing great things. Powerful things. Things that make a difference in our communities.



And with that I close with this:



To paraphrase Batman, "It's not who we are underneath, but what we do that defines us."



Projects Around the Community

Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition



The Appreciation Reception for the Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition was held on April 20, at the Denton ISD Professional Development Center. It was wonderful to see the art teachers and the fourth grade artists with their families enjoying the artwork. We had almost 700 pictures displayed and close to 450 attending! There were lots of happy students with big smiles as they showed off the pictures they had made of Texas native plants!

Courtesy Jerry Hamby

Projects Around the Community



I'd like to thank everyone that has supported this project all through the school year. I really appreciate the great volunteers that judged artwork, hung artwork for displays, transported artwork, and set up everything for the reception as well as being there for the reception and dismantling the displays afterward. It was all fun! The project ends with the school year. All of the artwork has all been returned to the schools but we'll start again in the fall with the new school year!

Thank you,

Marilyn Blanton



The teachers participating in this project—thank you!

Projects Around the Community

From Jan Deatherage

LISDOLA on FIRE – (the good kind of fire)

If it's been a while since you've visited LISDOLA, you might want to take a look at the weekly progress being made there. Here's a quick summary in a friendly Email.



EMAIL TO: Craig Brazier, Troy Dale, Dale Denton, Hilton Dickerson, Deborah Estes,

High Franks, Ray Kreutzfeld, Jean McMeans, Dale Meyer, Lili Mullins, Kere Post, Skip Warren, Susan Warren, Shirley Wells, Dan Lemons

FROM: Regina Dale

APRIL 22, 2022

Hello LISDOLA Work Crew,

The weather forecast for Monday is looking pretty wet and there is not enough inside work right now to keep us busy (and out of trouble). So, we are canceling Monday's workday.

Here is a look back at what we have accomplished over the last couple of months:

1. Installed new Greenhouse cover and spruced up the surrounding area
2. Repaired bridges, benches and picnic tables
3. Repaired chessboards
4. Repaired stream trailer system
5. Started art project using parts from downed wind turbine
6. Made one of two turtle enclosures habitable for Sheldon and Shelby
7. Prepared and installed new signage on trails
8. Cleared, treated and reseeded areas for pollinator plants
9. Organized and assembled student kits

I am sure I forgot a few things, but when you look at the list you can see just how much difference we are making at LISDOLA for all the school children that visit! And that was only 5 workdays!

Thank you for showing up and doing all the fine work! See you May 2!

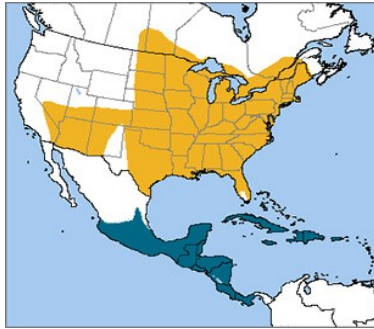


Tweet of the Month

Sue Yost class of 2017

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Singing from atop a tree, the male Indigo Bunting in breeding plumage is a glorious symphony of electric blues, turquoises, and purples. But these beautiful colors are illusory: Like the iridescence of hummingbirds and the blue plumage of other species such as Eastern Bluebird, the male Indigo Bunting owes its glorious appearance to an optical trick — the diffraction of light through its feathers. In poor lighting, the bunting's glorious colors disappear, and it becomes a plain, dark-colored finch. Only males have blue plumage, and then only during their breeding season. Females, juveniles, and males in winter plumage are an unassuming tawny brown.



Indigo Buntings migrate across most of Texas. Some will stay in our area and nest. The males arrive first to claim the best territory before the females arrive. Perching high in a tree top the male sings a loud "sweet-sweet, swee-swee, here-here, see it-see-it" song, over and over. Male Indigo Buntings are persistent singers. Even on the hottest summer days, they can be spotted warbling their sweet song from treetops, telephone wires, and other elevated perches.



Once paired up they will seek out brushy pastures and woodland edges in which to build a nest. The female makes the nest in the shape of a cup with dried leaves, grasses, and stems in the crotch of a tree. She sometimes decorates the finished nest with snakeskin. She will lay 3-4 tiny pale blue eggs. Unfortunately, her nest is a frequent victim of the parasitic Cowbird. BUT this bird has a strategy defense.... she will construct a new floor in the nest to bury the intruder's egg and prevent them from hatching! Her eggs hatch in about 12-13 days. Being fed a steady diet of insects they grow fast and are ready to leave the nest

after about 10 days. Once fledged, the female Indigo will start preparing for a second brood.

Indigo Buntings, like their close relative the **Painted Buntings**, alter their diet seasonally. They feast on spiders and small insects during the summer, getting the extra protein they need for successful nesting, then eat seeds, [millet in a tube feeder] buds, and berries during migration and in winter. The buntings can be beneficial to farmers and home gardeners, as they eat many insect pests and weed seeds.

Although the Indigo Bunting still appears to be abundant throughout its range, **Partners in Flight** surveys show population decreases. A major culprit is **habitat loss** on both breeding and wintering grounds. They are night migrators so window kills are also playing a role in their decreased numbers. {Lights Out! During migrations!}

Want to see an Indigo Bunting? Indigo Buntings along with their cousin the Painted Bunting are common summer birds at LLELA along the Cottonwood trail.

Go check 'em out, you won't be disappointed!

SWEET-SWEET!

Features

By Mary Morrow

City Nature Challenge 2022

April 29–May 2



COLLABORATIVE RESULTS

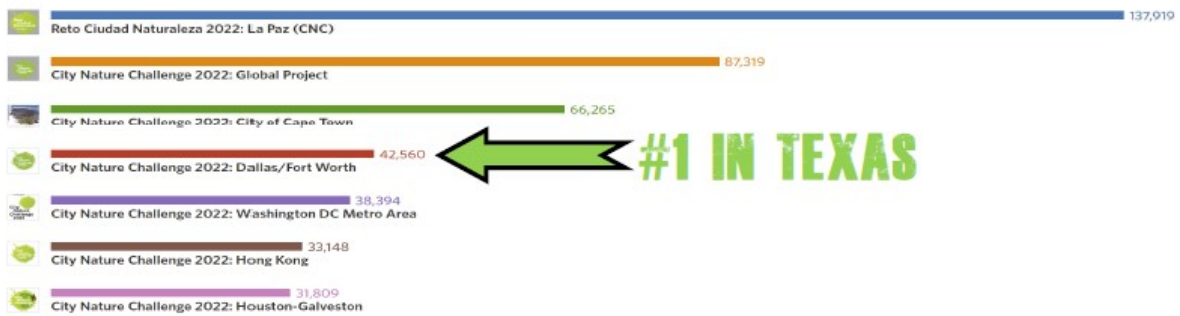
445 Cities

INATURALIST.ORG

City Nature Challenge Through the Years

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cities	2	16	68	159	244	419	445
Countries	1	1	17	28	40	44	47
Observations	19.8K	125K	441K	963K	815K	1.2M	1.7M
Species	2.5K	8.6K	18K	31K	32.6K	45.3K	50.1K
Observers	1K	4K	17K	32K	41K	51K	67.2K

Leaderboard [Sort By: Observations](#) | [Species](#) | [Observers](#)



Most Observations

denver	1,358
sambiology	1,143
charley	1,046
sahi2018	1,003
kathrynwells333	988
k8thegr8	945

Most Species

sambiology	722
denver	517
annikaml	469
tadamcochran	468
sehnature	414
kathrynwells333	388

Features

Natures Art. Art in Nature. By Sue Yost. Class of 2017.

LLELA is part Corp of Engineers, part city of Lewisville, part Lewisville School District and part University of North Texas. UNT students enrolled in Art in Public Places class are working on painting custom murals on the portable buildings at LLELA. The students met with Scott Kiester and Richard and toured many parts of LLELA to help with their vision for the designs. The designs were then sent to a small committee. There were only just a few tweaks needed! These students not only created the designs, but also as part of the Art in Public Places class had to figure their budgets, apply for grants to cover costs and purchase supplies. A formal recognition reception is planned for June 4th, but here is a sneak peek!



Commentary from Dorothy Thetford: Appears to be *passiflora incarnata*. If leaves are 5-lobed, it is considered a native to Mexico and south, but has won the hearts of all Texans for its breathtaking beauty. (The true botanists claim that leaves of native have only 3 lobes).

Below are examples of 3-leaf and 5-leaf.

Passion flower—photo submitted to shared Google Drive



Features

By Sarah Jay class of 2021
soon to be certified

Texas Wild Onion



One of the premiere plants on the prairie this spring is *Allium canadense* var. *canadense*, commonly known as wild onion, or meadow garlic. You'll find the lovely toothed flowers growing along wooded prairie trails in the Cross Timbers region of Texas. Their 2 foot scapes stick out among wildflowers and grasses on open prairie as well.

While it's not unique in the grand scheme of *Allium* species, it's a striking plant here in Texas. With umbels that slowly open, they seem almost alien as single flowers pop from the inflorescence. These bulbils are the focus of propagation for this plant. Each flower is a clone of the parent. Much like domestic onion species, the stems rise from a fibrous bulb which like the rest of the plant is edible. A note to foragers!



The flowers of *Allium canadense* L. var. *canadense* are white in Texas, but they span across the southeastern US, with varying colors. Because this plant is a result of asexual hybridization, it's highly adaptable, giving a nod to its ability to live in the forest and out on the prairie as well.

Wild Onion and Texas Ecology

Not only is this an impressive plant that homeowners can easily incorporate into their landscapes, it's also host to numerous native pollinators. In its range in Minnesota, the plant feeds sweat bees, resin bees, bumble bees, and plasterer bees. Native Texas solitary species benefit greatly from the wild onion, and use the pollen collected to forge their nests where they'll lay eggs in fall. These eggs overwinter, and in spring new bees emerge.



Solitary bees that feed on wild onion don't just assist in native plant production through the spreading of pollen. They are also a food source for spiders, some wasps, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. Texas Master Naturalists understand the importance of each building block of the food chain. Therefore, cultivating this awesome plant in our yards and landscapes, and on rangeland can be a part of a restoration effort.

On Habitat Restoration

The benefit of this plant to other insects and arachnids is important too. Wild Garlic is a food source and also provides habitat for insects to live in. Restoration of our native prairies is most effective when we consider the web of interests involved in the ecosystem. When we acknowledge the solitary bees that subsist off alliums like meadow garlic, we can see a marked improvement in our ability to produce food.

But we'll also see other members of the wild world return to the spaces that have been largely lost due to plowing and over cultivation – especially when it comes to prairie land. In this way, just one building block becomes an essential part of rebuilding our native ecology.

So, next spring, if you're foraging for wild onions, consider propagating!

Resources

<https://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/plants/wildgarlic.html>

<https://buffalobayou.org/blog/wild-onions-and-a-bunch-of-mistakes/>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ALCAC

<https://biodiversity.utexas.edu/news/entry/through-the-herbarium-cabinet>

<https://www.wildbeestexas.com/green-metallic-bees>

<https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2017/Oct-Nov/Gardening/Plants-for-Early-Pollinators>

Features

Bison at LLELA submitted by Dale Meyer



According to Ken Steigman, former LLELA manager, the bison were at LLELA for at least 10 years and then moved sometime in 2014.

Dale says he remembers that they were moved by the owner to a private property in Oklahoma. The owner is “back breeding” or using reverse engineering/breeding whereby the females are bred to different males the owner has to try to get them back to “pure” bison genes.



From Sue YOST, class of 2017



Bewick Wren nestlings

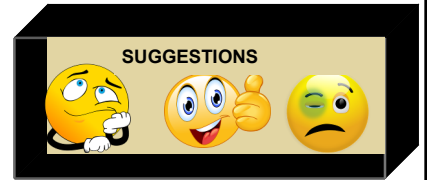


Carolina Chickadees

Inside Outside News

SUGGESTIONS

Have an idea, a complaint, a question? Then take advantage of the Chapter Suggestion Box.



Member suggestions are welcomed by the Board and may be made on the Chapter's website in the Members area under Suggestion Box or by contacting Harriet Powell directly by email at Suggestions@efctmn.org

Fort Worth Chapter NPAT Nature Hikes:

From Becky Bertoni

Saturday, **May 7** from 8:30 a.m. to noon

*Fort Worth Prairie & Western Cross Timbers Hike

Saturday, **May 21** from 9 a.m. to noon

*Fossil Hill on Lake Amon Carter Hike

Saturday, **May 28** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Caddo National Grasslands Blackland Prairie Tour

Visit the [FWNPAT website](#) for more information and to register.



HELP WANTED!

(Every month!!)

Naturalist News is looking for articles (flora and fauna), plus photos and news from your projects. I know there are many experts out in our chapter who know our flora and fauna so please share that expertise (at any level) thru our newsletter. Time spent in researching and writing is countable volunteer hours.

Also, your nature photos are needed. Time spent in creating these are volunteer hours as well.

This is your newsletter and your contributions are vital to keep it going out each month!

Deadline for the next newsletter is Wednesday, June 8. Contact wanda.odum@gmail.com or send to:

announcements@efctmn.org

Inside Outside News

From Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Weekly Digest Bulletin

Ranger John is back with a new sidekick, Queso the puppy. They share the do's and don'ts of bringing pets into parks in the video, [B.A.R.K. Ranger Program](#). B.A.R.K. stands for:

- **B**ag your poop
- **A**lways be on leash
- **R**espect wildlife
- **K**now where pets can go

Look over the [Leave No Trace](#) principles Ranger John mentions. These are the 7 best actions we can all take to minimize impact when we're in parks and other wild spaces.

Video link is inactive



The Nature Center at Ray Roberts Lake, Isle Du Bois unit and the new Johnson Branch Nature Center needs Master Naturalist volunteers. Please contact Chuck Thetford if you are not on the Signup Genius list

cthetfordathome@gmail.com

940-765-1418

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 to provide it with the State Park Interpretive Rangers, Izzy Mabry and Mindy Shumate.



Inside Outside News

Important Dates—Furneaux Creek

Early Bird Watch and Walk with Steve

Saturday May 7

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Insect and Nature Walk with Greg

Saturday, May 14

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Fun Day Work Day

Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m.

Join us for weeding, watering and seed collecting.

Locations for all above:

Meet at the Kiosk on the trail along Arbor Creek Dr. - the one with the Monarch butterfly wing on the side!

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th

6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Holy Covenant Church

Furneacreekfriends@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook

@furneauxcreeknaturetrail

Early Bird Watch and Walk with Steve

Join Steve Romaine and FoFC for a Bird Watch and Walk through the FoFC Nature Trail. Be sure to dress for the weather, and bring your camera and binoculars! (and water). Watch FoFC Facebook for potential updates.

Insect and Nature Walk with Greg

Fun for all ages! Greg Tonian, a local biologist and Texas Master Naturalist, will guide a walk looking for a variety of insects on the trail.

Meet us in person this month for our monthly meeting at Holy Covenant Church

1901 E Peters Colony Rd, Carrollton - in the gym.

Enter on the north side of the building

This month's talk is on Opossums!

Talk given by Diane Wetherbee

Diane is vice chairman of the board of The Flower Mound Foundation. She is also a Texas Master Naturalist, as well as a member of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and the Native Plant Society of Texas. She is a Certified Citizen Forester and is a board member of the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council. After a career in corporate communications and product marketing, she turned to her first love - the natural world. She was an interpretive naturalist and environmental educator at LLELA for 12 years, and has been working toward a Ph.D. in forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University for what seems like forever, only lacking her dissertation. In her spare time, she serves as a member of Lantana's Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 7 board of directors.

Courtesy Dorothy Thetford -Spider Lily (Hymenocallis liriosme)

She describes: "Flower is 6-8" diameter and very fragrant. The 35-40" tall stem shoots up from a white, fleshy-type onion bulb about the size of my fist".



Contributors This Month

**wanda odum class
2005—editor**



**Jonathan Reynolds
class 2014**



**Judy Elliott class
2009**



**Marilyn Blanton
class 1999**



**Mary Morrow
class 2014**



**Harriett Powell
class 2015**

**Dorothy Thetford
class 2001**



**Becky Bertoni
class 2015**



**Susan Yost class
2017**



**Sarah Jay class
2021**



**Check Thetford
class 2011**



**Dale & Debra Meyer
classes 2011, 2012**

**Kathryn Wells
class 2017**



FIELD NOTES IN FOCUS

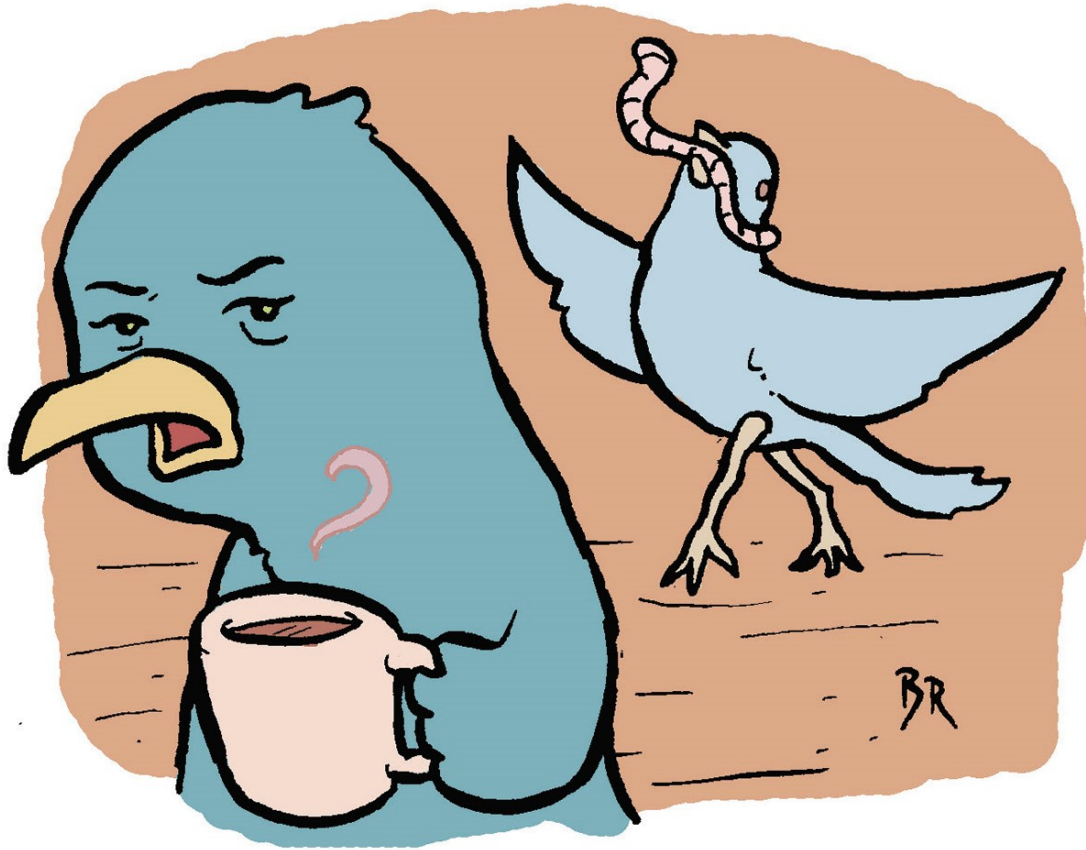


Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) on Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*) - Gallery of Kathryn Wells

If you would like to be featured on either front page or in Field Notes in Focus—
send photos to wanda.odum@gmail.com



Almost the Last Word



“No one cares, Alan.”

Have a word? Cartoon, nature quote, nature poem, funny nature picture etc.
Send to: announcements@efctmn.org (specify for newsletter)

Who We Are

Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension
Joseph A. Carroll Building
401 W. Hickory Street
Denton, TX 76201940-349-2883

We're on the web

<https://txmn.org/elmfork>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT—Jan Deatherage

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—Jerry Betty

VICE-PRESIDENT—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

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 May 19, 2022

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met May 12, 2022. Next monthly Board meeting June 9, 2022

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.

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 pro-gram will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas to-day and in the future."



Barn owl—wanda odum

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.