



Naturalist News



Goole Drive— Shared
by Diane Wetherbee

June 2022

Volume 22 Issue 6



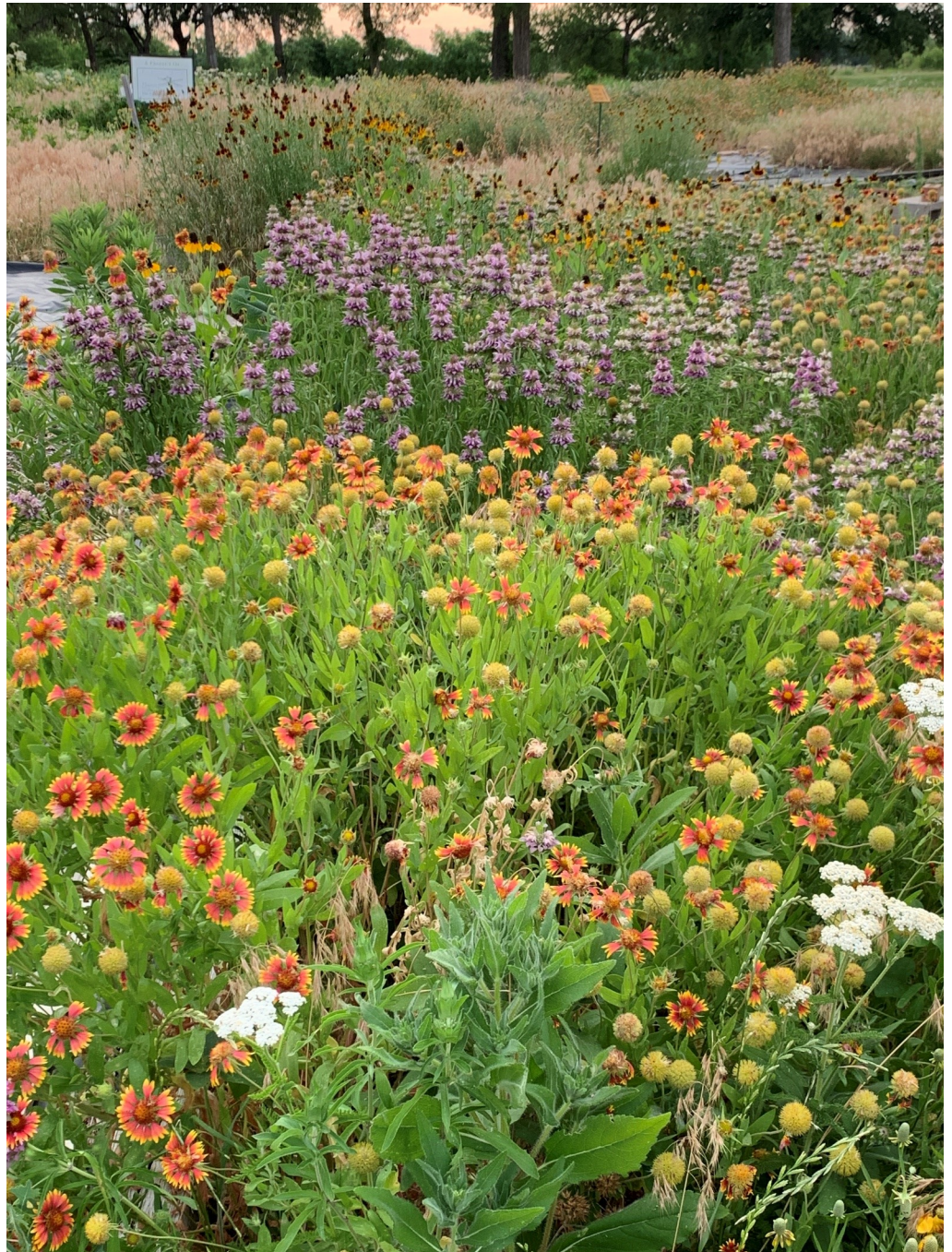
Naturalist News

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Special points of interest:

- Ray Roberts buildings getting special attention from artists
- Marvelous photography from chapter members
- Many things to do with your volunteer time
- Chapter meeting-learn about bats



*Green Acres Prairie Restoration
photo by Jean Mason*

Chapter Meeting June 16

What Happens Next

Speaker for the chapter meeting is **Elizabeth “Izzy” Mabry**, Park Interpreter, Ray Roberts State Park- Johnson Branch Unit, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department—topic “Batty Buddies”.

Bio:

Elizabeth earned her bachelor’s degree in both Biology and Natural Science from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in 2013. She completed her master’s degree in Environmental Sciences at Texas Christian University in December 2020 where her thesis project investigated how bats use residential swimming pools as a water resource during the summer. In 2021 her bat research won the Annie M. Alexander Award for the American Society of Mammalogists annual conference.

From 2009 to the present, Elizabeth has conducted various field research projects with bats, including windfarm fatality monitoring in Kansas and Texas. She conducted passive and active acoustic transects monitoring using a range of different ultrasonic detectors, bat call analysis, and behavioral observations. She spent two summer seasons in Missouri and Illinois mist-netting and radio-tracking bats, and during the two winter seasons in Missouri, she conducted research in a lab monitoring white-nose syndrome in over 300 bats per season. Elizabeth is currently helping with research investigating urban ponds as a water resource for bats. Besides bat research, in 2014 Elizabeth monitored and tagged sea turtles in Florida. This research included nesting females to identify clutch size, and monitoring juveniles to look at male to female ratio as well as biodiversity within the area.

In August 2021, Izzy started working for TPWD as a Texas Outdoor Family assistant in the DFW region. Here she took families camping and helped teach basic camping skills such as fishing, kayaking, fire building, tent making, sounds of night, campfire cooking, arts in the park, and Geocaching. In January 2022, Elizabeth became the Park Interpreter for RRLSP-JB where she educates the public on the Natural and Cultural Resources of our land, both past and present.



Location of the June meeting: Lewisville Municipal Annex Building, Glenmore Savage Community Room, 1126 W Main Street, Lewisville—you may park on the Main St side and go in the front entrance or park in the back and go in the back entrance.

Around the Community

From Dale and Deborah Meyer

Deborah and I thought their work was pretty amazing and they worked hard in the heat of the day.

There are two more buildings that have been painted similarly in different looks that are just as amazing. We do not have the names or photos of the students who are working on the other two buildings.



Jessica Green—UNT student



Keilyn Saltsman—UNT student

The Downside of a Prairie by Sue Yost, class of 2017

We

all remember it, that iconic opening of the family series “Little House on the Prairie” that debuted in 1974. Laura and her sisters Mary and Grace happily romping down the hill full of Midwest prairie grasses. Not a care in the world back then.



Fast forward to 2022. Imagine romping down a hill of Texas Blackland Prairie. TXMN. It's what we do!



It's a wonderful feeling. Close your eyes. Imagine the warm Texas air gently kissing your face, the beautiful array of colorful prairie flowers nodding to the sun and the tall prairie grasses dancing in the wind. Dickcissels on the highest perch filling your ears with a sweet call. Grasshoppers hopping and butterflies flitting. I see that when I LOOK at a prairie of tall grasses but venture into the prairie I shall not. Danger lurks. No, it is not the prairie snakes, the stinging nettle, or prickly thistle.

I know they are there. Silent. Lurking. Hiding. Waiting. Never to be seen with a human eye. Even though I have my pants tucked tightly into my socks. Shoes and ankles dusted with my sulfur sock. Ankles and clothing sprayed with DEET. They find me. Every-time! Those dam CHIGGERS! Biting my ankles and making me itch. EVERY-TIME! What can a naturalist do? Find out everything you need to know by copying and pasting this address in your browser:

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/library/landscaping/chiggers/> Maybe it will help *you*. Me not so much. They just love me! I just wish they didn't.

From Courier & Press**Looking out for birds in your backyard? Make sure these berries aren't growing there****By Sharon Sorenson****Columnist****Read more here:**

[courierpress.com: https://www.courierpress.com/story/life/columnists/sharon-sorenson/2022/06/03/heres-why-nandina-berries-dangerous-birds/7453751001/](https://www.courierpress.com/story/life/columnists/sharon-sorenson/2022/06/03/heres-why-nandina-berries-dangerous-birds/7453751001/)



Nandina berries—Wikipedia

Master Volunteer Entomology training

This course is designed as an Advanced training for Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners.

<https://tamu.estore.flywire.com/products/master-volunteer-entomology-advanced-training>

Over the course of 8 weeks and 30+ instructional hours, you can gain a greater understanding of entomology, integrated pest management, be able to identify common insects, spiders and arthropods in Texas, learn about butterfly gardening and native pollinators and much more. iNaturalist training, invasive insects to watch for in Texas, medical entomology, using dichotomous keys for identification will also be covered.

There will be opportunities for you to learn how to collect insects and other arthropods during course. We will also cover curation: pinning, pointing, spreading wings, preservation, etc. This part of the course is OPTIONAL. If you choose to participate in collecting and curation it will be done on your own. I have allotted time for sessions to teach about collecting equipment and methods and curation if you choose to participate. You will be responsible for purchasing your own supplies for collecting and curation. I am still trying to find reliable sources for these materials as the business that we typically purchased from closed earlier this year.

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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



Keep Us in Mind

(Every month!!)



Naturalist News is looking for articles (flora and fauna), plus photos and news from your projects. I know there is a wealth of knowledge in our chapter about our flora and fauna so this an opportunity for you to share that knowledge thru our newsletter and to earn some hours to boot—give some and get some. 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.

Remember that this is your newsletter and can only be valuable to you when we all participate. Deadline for the next newsletter is Wednesday, July 13 Contact wanda.odum@gmail.com or send to announcements@efctmn.org or Newsletter @efctmn.org



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

Please contact Pat Bragg if you are not on the Signup Genius list

putput81@gmail.com

940-580-0097



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.

From Becky Bertini

[Matt White, the author of *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait* at BRIT Reads Book Club Meeting – Monday, June 27, 2022 at Noon](#)

From: Ana Niño, Librarian at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden|Botanical Research Institute of Texas (FWBG|BRIT)

I wanted to reach out to personally invite your membership to attend our next [BRIT Reads book club meeting](#) on **Monday, June 27, 2022 from 12 – 1 PM.**

Matt White, the **author of *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait***, will be coming in-person to speak about his book and answer any questions attendees may have.

The book club will take place at the BRIT building's second floor Oak Conference Room at 1700 University Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76107. For those who can't make it in person or prefer to join in remotely, the meeting will also be offered online; the above link leads to a webpage with an orange button on the right that will connect to the Zoom meeting.

We would welcome any interested members to join in on this opportunity to listen to a local author and professor and discuss with him the Blackland Prairie Ecoregion. About the Event:

This is a Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) Book Club event, hybrid
Monday, June 27, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Author Matt White will be coming to BRIT to lead the discussion of his book, *Prairie Time*.

How to Attend:

For those who can't make it in person or prefer to join in remotely, the meeting will also be offered online via Zoom; the above hyperlink leads to a webpage with an orange button on the right that will connect to the Zoom meeting.

Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86376128057?pwd=NmtHZmo1bkZ6TjhsVnN5cG9JTStwUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 7612 8057

Passcode: 573457

Inside Outside News

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

Nick Makarenko (Lewisville Parks and Rec Outdoor Recreation Supervisor)
at nmakarenko@cityoflewsiville.com



Clip art



Clip art

Clear Creek Workdays

Monday and Thursday

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Trail maintenance, garden/greenhouse and prairie work. Usual workdays are Mondays and Thursdays 9-11, unless there is a Thursday Chapter meeting. For solo work, show up anytime!

Contact: Clay Thurmond – rcthurmond@gmail.com

Green Acres Tuesday Workdays

8:00 am - 11:00 am (Summer Hours)

Green Acres (located at 4400 Hide-A-Way Lane, Flower Mound, 75022)

Come and join us for springtime at Green Acres

Contact Becky Bertoni becky.bertoni@gmail.com or 972 878 4058 to volunteer or for more details

If you would like to purchase a rain gauge for CoCoRaHS, please use the link below to join the next group order. The cost is still \$32, payable when the gauge is delivered

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScf63muFNINd6Av2TorE8EZHR1mtAVhkf0_uKw3TCNefycqgQ/viewform

Jim Gerber



Clip art

Inside Outside News

The trail team took a vote this morning and we are going to move to summer hours beginning Tuesday Jun 7. We will start an hour early, 8am - 11am. To try and beat the heat.

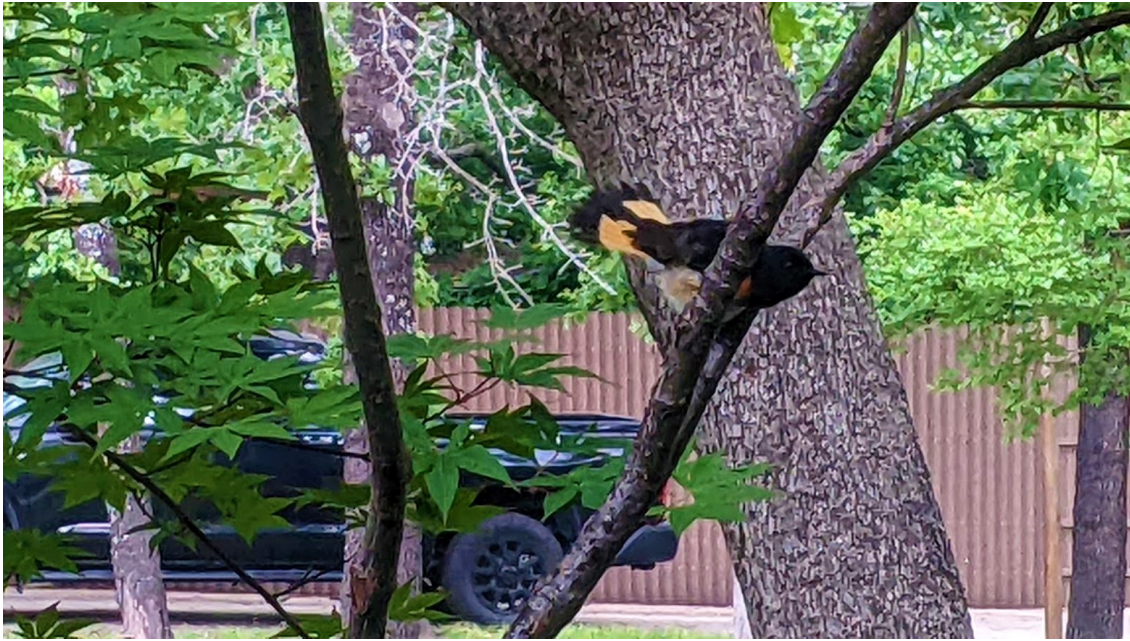
Thank you!

Happy Trails!

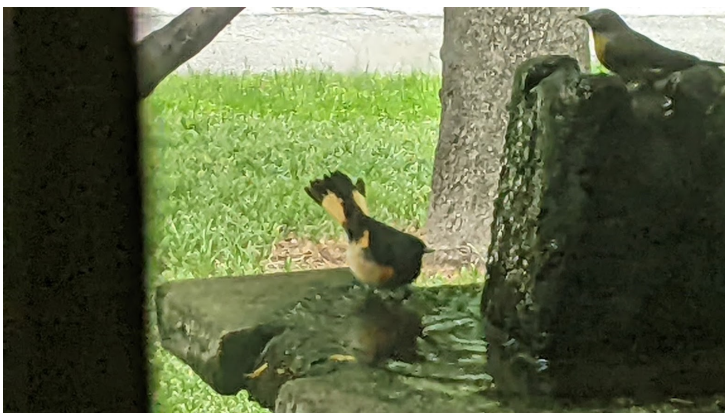
Leonard Chochrek



Too Good to Miss



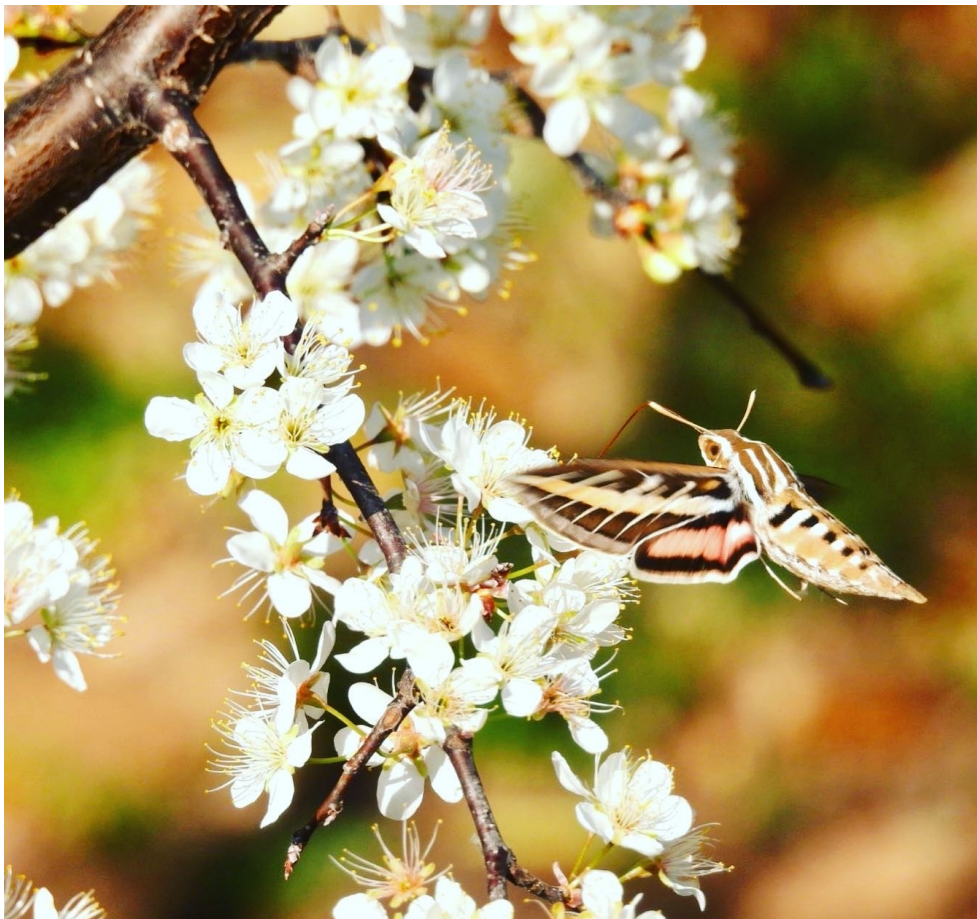
Making observations for INat from Kesa Clingman—American Redstart



Too Good to Miss



Ladybug (*Coccinella movemnotata*). Courtesy Jonathan Reynolds



White-Lined Sphinx Moth (*Hyles lineata*) on Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*).
Courtesy Kathryn Wells

Too Good to Miss



“I saw this Terrapene, a healthy guy or gal, in the woods on Black-jack 4/30/2022. It was the forested area of the trail - I started from parking lot with kayak launch. Mentioned it last night at bbq and was told to send photo. Hope it’s helpful to any research. thanks for all you do!” —courtesy Elizabeth Flora (a self-described person interested in LLELA)

**Rough Sunflower
(*Helianthus hirsutus*)
Leaves are as rough as
sandpaper —courtesy
Dorothy Thetford**



TWEET OF THE MONTH

SUE YOST, CLASS OF 2022



Road Runner, American cartoon character, a speedy, slender, blue and purple bird who continually frustrated the efforts of a coyote (Wile E. Coyote) to catch him.

In a series of animated short films, the fleet-footed Road Runner races along the highways of the American Southwest, his legs and feet moving so fast that they form a wheel-like blur, with Wile E. Coyote in hot pursuit. In each episode, the coyote sets an elaborate trap for the bird, usually with the aid of some product—such as a giant rubber band or a “portable outboard steamroller”—ordered from the fictitious Acme company. The scheme always backfires as a result of either the products’ chronic unreliability or Coyote’s own ineptitude. Road Runner, never captured or damaged, responds with a characteristic “**Beep! Beep!**” (his only communication) and runs off.

Animator Chuck Jones introduced the comedic pair in the 1949 short film *Fast and Furry-ous*, produced by Warner Bros. for its Looney Tunes cartoon series. More than two dozen more episodes were produced in the 1950s and ’60s. The shorts enjoyed a long second life in several different television series in the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s. In later decades the characters made occasional appearances on television and film. By The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica

Not *THAT* Roadrunner! *THIS* Roadrunner!

Beep-beep!

The Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*

This slender, long-legged member of the Cuckoo family resides year around in the southwest, including most parts of Texas. It can fly if under duress but prefers to run, up to 18 miles an hour. **Beep-beep!** They eat lizards, scorpions, anoles, snakes, tarantulas, insects, and small birds including nestlings and hummingbirds. I just love to watch them hunt. While running, it places its head and its tail parallel to the ground and uses its tail as a rudder to help change its direction.

Gotcha! Many times, Roadrunners will hold the prey in their large bills and smack it against a rock or branch till the prey is dead. Once I observed a Roadrunner catch an Old English House Sparrow [that’s one way to get rid of that non-native!] I thought, “Now what in the world are you going to do with that?” [A Roadrunner does not come equipped with a hawk’s tearing beak. But it does have a hooked tip] I was amazed as I watched it swallow the whole thing! Down the hatch it went! And just a few days ago I witnessed the same action with a brown anole. Gulp!



Photos courtesy of Sue Yost

Roadrunners are one of the few birds that will attack and eat rattlesnakes. Pairs will sometimes hunt rattlesnakes cooperatively; one bird distracts the rattler while the other sneaks up and pins its head. They kill the rattler by bashing its head against a rock. How cool is that? **Beep-beep!**

When alarmed or curious it will slowly raise its large, shaggy crest and long wedged tail and utter a dovelike series of coo-coos, [not **beep-beep!**] Or it will just clatter its beak. And have you ever looked closely at the facial features of a Greater Roadrunner? Completely glammed up with that blue and orange eyeshadow! A bare patch of orange and blue skin lies behind each eye; the blue is replaced by white in adult males (except the blue adjacent to the eye), and the orange (to the rear) is often hidden by feathers. Males and females have identical plumage.

Roadrunners remain in pairs throughout the year and may form lifelong bonds. Nest building starts in March in Texas. He brings the goods, and she arranges them. The nest is made up of thorny sticks lined with grasses, snakeskin, mesquite pods and leaves built in a cactus, shrubby bush, or small tree. The female lays 3-6 white/yellowish eggs which hatch in about 20 days. The male does most of the incubating, especially at night. They grow fast and fledge in about 18 days. They waste no time in learning how to catch their own food. Roadrunners will perform a distraction display to protect the nest from danger. On the darker side, in years when food is in short supply the parent may stop incubating the remaining eggs after the first few hatches. Or the youngest, weakest nestlings are fed to the older chicks. This secures successful fledging for at least part of the nest.

Greater Roadrunner populations in Texas appear to be stable. The oldest record for a Greater Roadrunner is 9. Greater Roadrunner fossils dating from the Holocene and have been found in California, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and the Mexican state of Nuevo León.

Some Pueblo Native American tribes, including the Hopi, believed the Roadrunner provided protection against evil spirits. In Mexico, some said it brought babies, as the white stork was said to in Europe. Some Anglo frontier people believed Roadrunners led lost people to trails. It is the state bird of New Mexico. It is also the mascot of numerous high schools and colleges in the United States, including California State University, Bakersfield and the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Roadrunner is also the mascot of the Tucson Roadrunners, a professional hockey team in Tucson, Arizona. **BEEP-BEEP!** Lookout Mr. Coyote it will trick you every time!

Field Notes in Focus



*From the Gallery of Dorothy theford - Wild
Bergamot or Bee Balm (Monarda fistulosa)*

Contributors this Month



Sue Yost 2017



Jean Mason class 2017

Harriett Powell class 2015



Diane Wetherbee class 2000



Clayton Thurman class 2016

Mary Morrow class 2014



Dale & Debra Meyer classes 2011, 2012



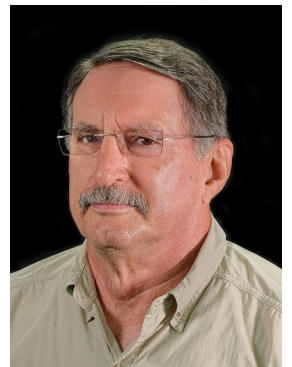
Kathryn Wells class 2017



Jim Gerber class 2019



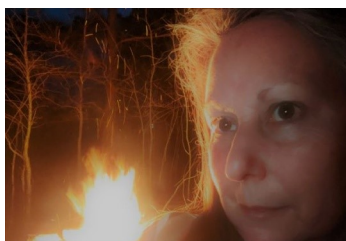
Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Leonard Chochrek, class 2019



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014

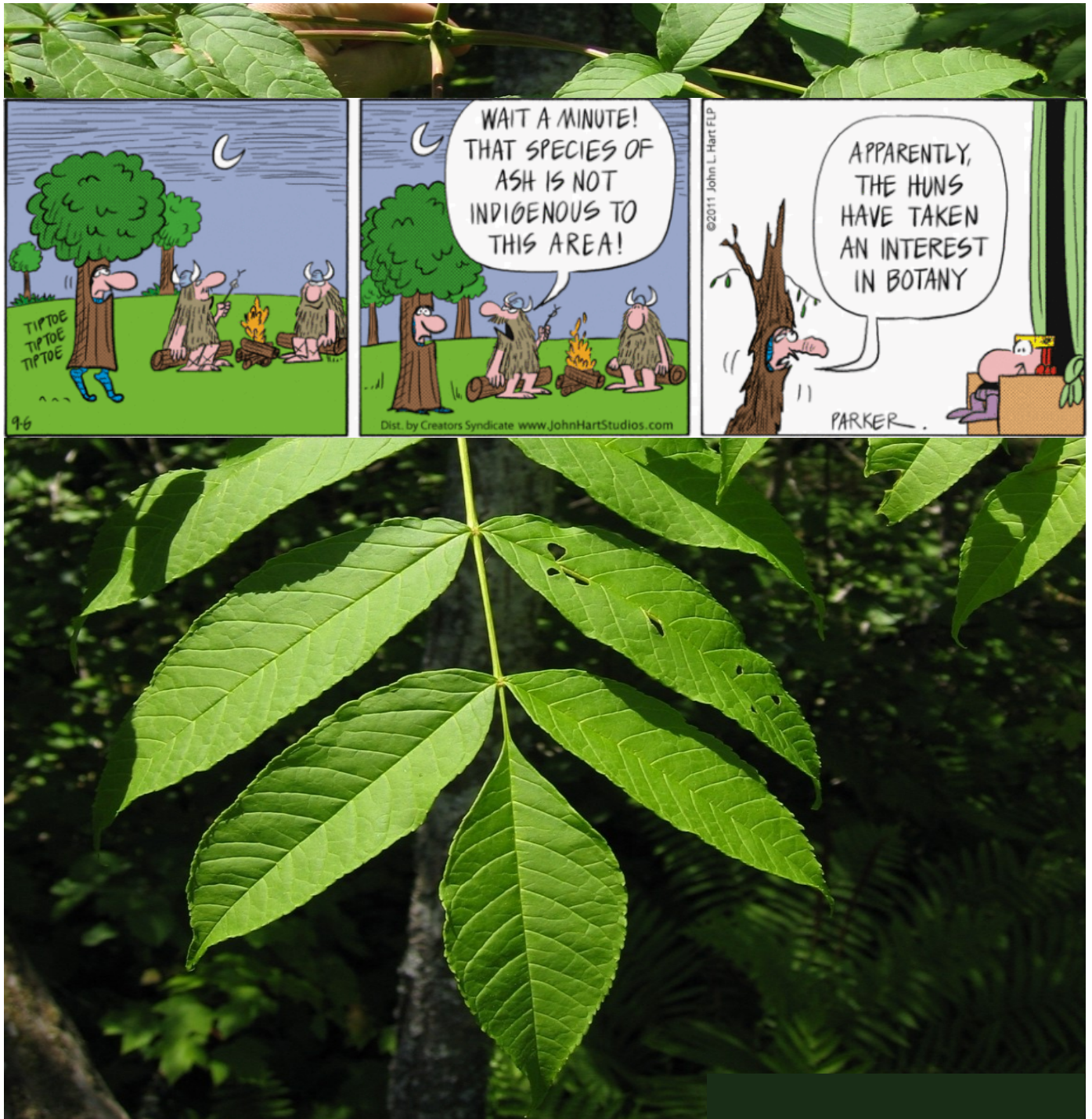


Kisa Clingman class 2017



Becky Bertoni class 2015

Almost the Last Word



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



Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter

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

<https://txmn.org/elmfork>

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.”



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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2021

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Janet Laminack, Extension Agent

TPWD—Daniel Rios

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.

Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings - **for location see p. 3

Meetings are 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 June 16, 2022 . Speaker is Elizabeth “Izzy” Mabry—”Bat Buddies”

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met June 9, 2022. Next monthly Board meeting July 14, 2022

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.



Buff-bellied hummingbird—w odum