

September 2022  
Volume 22 Issue 9

# Naturalist News



Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter



Six-spotted longhorn flower beetle on a zexmenia flower—from Diane Wetherbee

We're on the Web [www.txmn.org/elmfork](http://www.txmn.org/elmfork)

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

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## Special points of interest:

- September regular meeting speaker bio and topic
- Suggestion box is open
- Don't miss all of the photos from the chapter's talented photographers

## Inside this issue:

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*Sunrise, sunset from Jonathan Reynolds*

## What Comes Next

*From David Jones, program coordinator*

### *September 15 Regular Meeting*

The in-person presentation will follow the chapter business meeting.



**Speaker: Craig Hensley**

Craig Hensley has been a Texas Nature Trackers Biologist for the past three years, educating people throughout Texas on the use and value of iNaturalist as a tool to help document the state's flora and fauna through community science. Craig holds a B.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife Mgmt. and an M.S. in Zoology. Craig is an avid birder, including being a federally licensed bird bander, and a photographer of all things natural. He has been an educator and naturalist throughout his career, sharing his passion for the natural world from Minnesota to Texas. He resides in Boerne with his wife (and Master Naturalist) Terry Lashley.

**Presentation title:** iNaturalist and Bioblitzes for Conservation and Education

**Presentation Summary:** The iNaturalist app has become a powerful tool for not only educating yourself about the natural world, but also through providing much-needed information about the flora and fauna of Texas. This Texas Nature Trackers Biologist will introduce you to this wonderful tool for documenting plants and animals regardless of where you find them.

\* \* \*

Immediately afterwards, we will convene at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center where following lunch, we will conduct a bioblitz whereby we not only become proficient with the use of iNaturalist, but also take a snapshot biological inventory of the center's flora and fauna.



*Field Notes in Focus*



**SUNFLOWER (*HELIANTHUS ANUUS*) — FROM THE  
GALLERY OF DOROTHY THETFORD**

From Mary Morrow

## Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter



Our chapter provides close to 30,000 volunteer hours annually in conservation, restoration and education activities throughout Denton, Wise and Cooke counties. For over 21 years we've trained close to 1,000 volunteers who have developed and interpreted nature trails, built pollinator gardens, measured water quality in our local creeks and streams, led educational bird walks in several area parks and nature centers, monitored species biodiversity and many other beneficial environmental conservation projects. Our monthly chapter meetings - which are open to the public - feature speakers on various environmental topics relevant to our North Texas area. Please join us. You can learn more at [txmn.org/elmfork](http://txmn.org/elmfork).

### Our Needs

In addition to environmental conservation service to Texas, we are required to maintain our certification by continuing education. As a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer, we are encouraged to attend our State's annual conference to stay informed of the latest advancements and learnings from experts in all areas of conservation of wildlife habitat.

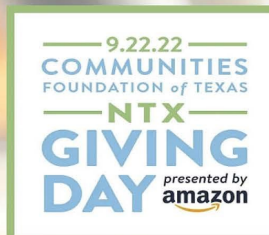
As our chapter has grown, many of our members could benefit by attending this year's conference. As a chapter, we would like to provide scholarships to those needing financial assistance to continue learning and to maintain their Texas Master Naturalist certification.

Truly, our efforts are a collective labor of love for the natural world in the communities we serve. Your gift is greatly appreciated and will help us strengthen our efforts with well-trained volunteers equipped with the knowledge and skills to protect natural areas of Texas.

**Donate Today!**

Early Giving is Open!

[northtexasgivingday.org](http://northtexasgivingday.org)





## 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](mailto:Suggestions@efctmn.org)**

Volunteers are really needed for The beautiful Nature Center at Johnson Branch Texas State Park for **Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm** (hours were recently changed). The center has been closed several times due to lack of volunteers. If you don't tolerate the heat and need an easily accessible site to volunteer this is the place for you! You will enjoy great air conditioning and a spacious atmosphere as you interact with our visitors. If you need training or want more information contact Pat Bragg at ([nativebragg55@gmail.com](mailto:nativebragg55@gmail.com))

### **Fall at Green Acres: Monarchs & Prairie Grasses**

Courtesy Becky Bertoni

**Sat Oct 1, 2022 10-11 am**

**Fall at Green Acres: Monarchs and Prairie Grasses**

Explore the Monarch Station for pollinators--and maybe monarchs, and hike to the prairie restoration and riparian areas to learn about native grasses. Learn plants you could use to make a pocket prairie on your property.

Location: Green Acres Park, 4400 Hide-A-Way, Flower Mound

Instructor: Becky Bertoni, Texas Master Naturalist

Max: 20 – there will be a wait list.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82d52u>



## *Inside Outside News*

### **Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting at the Omni in Houston Thursday, October 20th to Sunday October 23rd.**

Everything you'd ever want and need to know about the 2022 Annual Meeting can be found at our website: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2022-annual-meeting/>

Did you know there are four ways to register for this year's annual meeting?

1. Full In-Person
2. One day (Friday OR Saturday)
3. Two day (Friday AND Saturday)
4. Virtual (Friday AND Saturday)

**Early registration closed on August 31!**

**Regular registration began September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Hope to see you all in Houston this October!

Annabelle Moore  
Student Intern  
Texas Master Naturalist Program  
[annabelle.moore@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:annabelle.moore@agnet.tamu.edu)

**Correction from last Naturalist News:**

**Dorothy Thetford's name was left off of this photo. My apologies.**



*“Nature taking care of a dead tree stump” - Naematoloma fasciculare (Sulfur Tuft) - confirmed by Bob Killam, UNT retd*

*Photo courtesy of Dorothy Thetford*

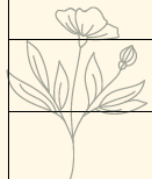
# Inside Outside News

## Upcoming Fall Outreach Events from Fran Witte, Outreach Director

### EFC-TMN 2022 FALL OUTREACH EVENT SCHEDULE



MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
SEPTEMBER	24	10 TO NOON	KFMB FALL CELEBRATION
OCTOBER	8	1-5	LEO RANCH (COOKE COUNTY AREA)
OCTOBER	29	2-4	SCARE ON THE SQUARE (GAINESVILLE)
NOVEMBER	5	10-2	HIGHLAND VILLAGE TEXAS ARBOR DAY
NOVEMBER	12	9-1	DENTON COMMUNITY MARKET
			*NOTE – TIME DOES NOT INCLUDE SETUP & TEARDOWN



### Furneaux Creek Activity

#### Fun Day Work Day

Saturday September 17 at 8 a.m.

Meet at the Kiosk on the trail along Arbor Creek Dr. near Robin Hill Ln. Look for the Monarch butterfly wing on the side!

[Furneacreekfriends@gmail.com](mailto:Furneacreekfriends@gmail.com)

Join us on Facebook

@furneauxcreeknaturetrail



## Features

Photos courtesy Betty Mullenweg

Bee on Texas Super Star

**Esperanza, Yellow Bells, Hardy Yellow Trumpet, Trumpet-flower, Yellow Elder**

*Tecoma stans*

Bignoniaceae

As a **Texas Super Star**, esperanza has recently become a popular ornamental plant in Texas gardens. In the wild it will be found growing on rocky slopes near San Antonio and in the Trans-Pecos, north into New Mexico and Arizona, east to Florida and south into Central and



South America in well drained soil and full sun. The Trans-Pecos plants are considered to be the most cold hardy, but they are still only really hardy to zone 8b. North of there it should be used as an annual or as a fast growing, large container plant which may be moved into warmer winter quarters. The striking, tubular 2 1/2-inch bright yellow flowers are highlighted by the attractive, shiny, green foliage and continue through the heat of the summer. The flowers have an odd but pleasing fragrance and also provide nectar for bees. The Indians made bows from its wood, and in Mexico a beer was prepared from its roots; it has also been used for a variety of medicines.

**Plant Habit or Use:** small shrub medium shrub

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/tecomastans.htm>

Also see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tecoma\\_stans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tecoma_stans)



## Photo Features

Courtesy Marilyn Blanton



Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*)  
Lantana (*Lantana x strigocamara*)

Primrose Moth (*Schinia florida*)  
Fourpoint Evening Primrose  
(*Oenothera rhombipetala*)



Six-spotted Flower Longhorn Beetle  
(*Strangalia sexnotata*)  
Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)



# Contributors this Month



w odum, editor  
class 2005



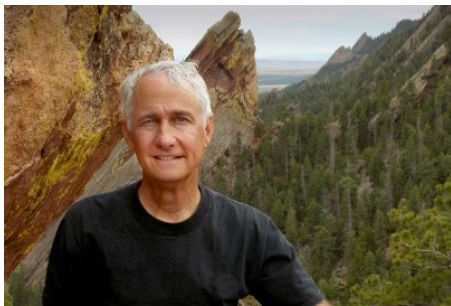
Mary Morrow class 2014



Judi Elliott class 2009



Becky Bertoni class 2015



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



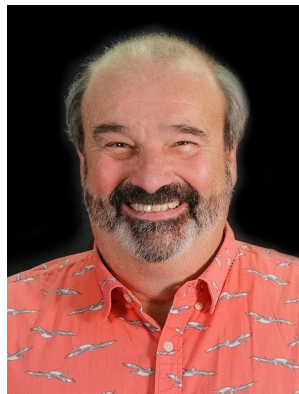
Marilyn Blanton class 1999



Betty Mullenweg class 2001



Harriett Powell class 2015



David Jones class 2019



Dorothy Thetford  
class 2001



Diane Wetherbee  
class 2000



## Hartley Road from Jonathan Reynolds

*The Road Not Taken*

Robert Frost - 1874-1963

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
 And sorry I could not travel both  
 And be one traveler, long I stood  
 And looked down one as far as I could  
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
 Then took the other, as just as fair,  
 And having perhaps the better claim,  
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
 Though as for that the passing there  
 Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
 In leaves no step had trodden black.  
 Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
 I doubted if I should ever come back.  
 I shall be telling this with a sigh  
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
 I took the one less traveled by,  
 And that has made all the difference.

Since I am approaching 12 years as editor, I will be taking the other road to see where it leads. This is my last **Naturalist News**. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed materials—photos, articles, announcements ++; read/scanned each monthly issue, and/or offered suggestions, encouragements and critical critiques. You have all been my inspiration to keep 'em comin'.

Special thanks to **Betty Mullenweg** who gave us the name Naturalist News; **Judi Elliott** who has faithfully proofread each month; **Alex Lieban** (former member and chapter president) for naming and contributing to the “Field Notes in Focus” [such beautiful photographs]; and the **Board** members with whom I have worked. Then there’s **Rob Roy** who was president when he handed off the newsletter to me. Rob, I didn’t know what I was getting myself into. He was putting together the newsletter while juggling so many other balls in the chapter that I couldn’t resist taking it off his hands. I had a lot to learn! There are many others whom I cannot name here because space is limited. Just know that I recognize and appreciate all. 🙌

Jan Deatherage will be announcing the new editor soon. Be kind and supportive to the new editor because in compiling the newsletter, there is often frustration as well as joy and satisfaction—deadlines, seeking, sorting through appropriate contributions each month, worrying there won’t be enough to make a newsletter or having too much to get it all in. Thank you to all who have helped me through the years. —*wanda odum class 2005*

Texas Master Naturalist-Elm  
Fork Chapter

Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension

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Denton, TX 76201 940-349-2883

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<https://txmn.org/elmfork>

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**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:**

**PRESIDENT**—Jan Deatherage

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**—Jerry Betty

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**TREASURER**—Ray Kreutzfeld

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**CLASS 2021 REPRESENTATIVE**— Karen DeVinney  
2021

**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. Chapter meetings are open to the public. Next meeting Next meeting September 15, 2022.

**Board Meetings**

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met September 8, 2022. Next monthly Board meeting October 13, 2022.

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.