

T E X A S



# Naturalist News

January 2023 Volume 23, Issue 1



White-tailed Deer at Ray Roberts Lake State Park, from Jonathan Reynolds

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/)

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™  
Elm Fork Chapter



# Naturalist News



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### *\*New Series!*

*Quick Tips From Our  
Webmaster, Gale Bacon*

and

*Unexpected,  
By Missy Adair*



Elm Fork Trinity River, from Tammie Walters



# What Happens Next

Thursday, January 19 - Chapter Meeting Presentation

**Name of Speaker:** Mick Tune

**Bio:** Mick Tune is a fossil enthusiast and frequent speaker for the Dallas Paleontology Society, Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting, and more. Mick, who calls fossil hunting “hiking with a purpose,” is the author of *Wildering: Anyone’s Guide to Enjoying the American Wilderness* and *Cretaceous Crick*.

**Presentation Title:** The Late Cretaceous Marine Fossils of the North Sulphur River

**Presentation Summary:** What was going on at the North Sulphur River 80 million years ago? Why is this odd (and mostly man-made in the late 1920's) slot canyon the most interesting and open fossil hunting hike in North Texas? What is the long earth history and the short human history of this place? What can you find? How do you do that?

Mick will also have three tables worth of fossils on display to touch and discuss.



# *What Happens Next (cont.)*

## 2023 Initial Training Class Committee



"Do not grow old,  
no matter how long you live.  
Never cease to stand like curious children  
before the Great Mystery into which  
we were born."

*Albert Einstein*

**January 26, 9:30 a.m.  
AgriLife Ext Office,  
Room 507**

### ***Note from Steve Carroll, Initial Training Director:***

"The initial training team for the 2023 new Master Naturalists is having its first meeting on January 26, at the Agrilife/Carroll courts building, 9:30 AM, room 507.

We can use all kinds of help, so anyone interested in learning more and helping to get these new Master Naturalists off to a great start, please come and learn what it's about. Thanks."

For more information contact Steve Carroll (see Members Area Directory)



# Awards and Recognition

## December 2022

### *Initial Certifications*

Stephanie Durbin  
Lin Hampton

Class of 2021  
Class of 2022



### *Recertifications*

Bob Bender	Class of 2019
Jon Bodnar	Class of 2007
Leonard Chochrek	Class of 2019
Bill Coleman	Class of 2013
Sheri Fenter	Class of 2015
John Goetz	Class of 2016
Jan Hodson	Class of 2002
Laura Jones	Class of 2019
Marian Kester	Class of 2007
Robert McLaughlin	Class of 2017
Ann O'Lone	Class of 2020
Cecily Pegues	Class of 2015
Diane Phil	Class of 2019
Fritz Poppe	Class of 2001
Caitlin Pyle	Class of 2018
Jamie Reneau	Class of 2022 (WOW!)
Ginny Richards	Class of 2022 (WOW!)
Kenneth Saintonge	Class of 2018
Jonathan Smith	Class of 2013
Jody Springer	Class of 2018
Dinah Stults	Class of 2020
Dawn Tallman	Class of 2019
Chris Teves	Class of 2019
Sherri Ursini	Class of 2022 (WOW!)



# Awards and Recognition

## December 2022

### 250 Hour Milestone

Ann O'Lone  
Dinah Stults

Class of 2020  
Class of 2020



### 500 Hour Milestone

Kesa Clingman  
Tammie Walters

Class of 2017  
Class of 2020



### 1000 Hour Milestone

Sharon Betty

Class of 2018



### 2000 Hour Milestone

Sue Yost  
Class of 2017



### 3000 Hour Milestone

Becky Bertoni  
Class of 2015





# *Field Notes in Focus*



Hiking at Ray Roberts Lake

*From the gallery of Jonathan Reynolds*

# Inside Outside News

## *Trees: They're "unbeleafable"*

January 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 9 AM to 3 PM

Lewisville Thrive Center  
1950 S Valley Pkwy, Lewisville, TX 75067  
Dogwood Rooms

### Seminar Agenda:

#### 9 to 9:10 - Welcome and Orientation

#### 9:15 to 10:15 - City of Lewisville Tree Canopy Survey:

Speakers; Stacie Anaya, Director of Lewisville Parks and Recreation and Russell Marusak, Environmental/Natural Resources Team Leader, Halff Associates, Inc.

What exactly is a tree canopy survey? If you want to manage your trees, you need to know what's there. What are the different types of survey? What are the objectives of different surveys and what do you learn from each? Why is Lewisville doing one? How is the Lewisville survey being done and what about the pre-survey guesses vs what was actually found? What do we hope to learn from the survey, and most importantly, how will the results guide the efforts to create a more livable and comfortable city?

#### 10:20 to 11:20 am - Carbon Capture of Native Trees:

Speaker; Dr. Alexandra Ponette-Gonzalez Associate Professor of City & Metropolitan Planning, Curator of Urban Ecology Natural History Museum University of Utah via Zoom.

Dr. Ponette-Gonzalez and her team conducted a very interesting suite of studies, in which they measured the amount of black carbon particles captured by post oak and live oak trees, and the amount of the black carbon transported to the ground with falling leaves. The results show that post oak trees capture approximately twice as much black carbon as live oak trees. The findings also indicate that post oak and live oak trees capture the most black carbon in the fall and winter, when black carbon air pollution is at its highest. The trees are filtering air when it is most beneficial to urban residents.

#### 11:30 am to 12:30 pm - Lunch and Native Trees Slide Show

#### 12:30 to 1:30 pm The Effects of the 2022 drought on our Trees:

Speaker: Mike Sills Dallas County Urban Forester TFS

Mike will discuss the damage that drought causes to trees in general and specifically effects of last summer's hot dry weather on the local tree canopy.

#### 1:30 to 3:00 pm - Native Trees of North Texas, Talk and Walk:

Speakers; Rick and Lisa Travis, Texas Mater Naturalists, Blackland Prairie Chapter

Join Rick and Lisa Travis for an introduction to our native trees. Their presentation will talk about what North Texas trees are most valuable to wildlife and the different ways and parts of the tree wildlife makes use of. Following the talk, weather permitting, we will go on a tree ID hike though Thrive Nature Park, across the street.

CLICK HERE TO [REGISTER](#)

Approved for 6.0 hours AT



# *Inside Outside News*

**Come join us for the Environmental Discovery and Adventure (EDA) program!**



It is a full-day, hands-on, inquiry- based field trip program that uses the environment as an integrated context for learning. EDA is the foundational program of UNT's environmental education programs; in partnership with local school districts, EDA reaches more than 15,000 K-8 students within a 35-mile radius of the center each year. Volunteer Guides are the first and last impression of the EDA fieldtrip experience as they provide a consistent and friendly face to a full day program with a variety of exciting and educational activities. Volunteer once a week, once a month, or as often as your schedule allows. Although you can volunteer any day, M-F, **Master Naturalist days are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm beginning January 30, 2023.**

Join us on **Monday, January 23, 9:00-11:00 am** for an orientation that includes a short presentation, facility tour, updates and chats. Refreshments will be available. **If you plan to attend, please use the button below to sign up.** Elm Fork Education Center (located inside the Environmental Science Building on the UNT-Denton campus, parking in lot 11) is located at 1704 W. Mulberry St. in Denton.

For more information contact Marian Kester (see Members Area Directory)

**We look forward to seeing you!**

**[SignUpGenius](#)**

# Inside Outside News

## Great Backyard Bird Count



**birdcount.org**  
**AT:Project Specific.**  
**ProjectFeederWatch**

**February 17-20, 2023**

For information contact Karen Mangum (see Members Area Directory), or email [projects@efctmn.org](mailto:projects@efctmn.org)

See Plan Your Week or the Elm Fork Chapter Calendar for more volunteer service projects and advanced training opportunities:  
<https://txmn.org/elmfork/members-only-calendar/>





# Quick Tips From Our Webmaster

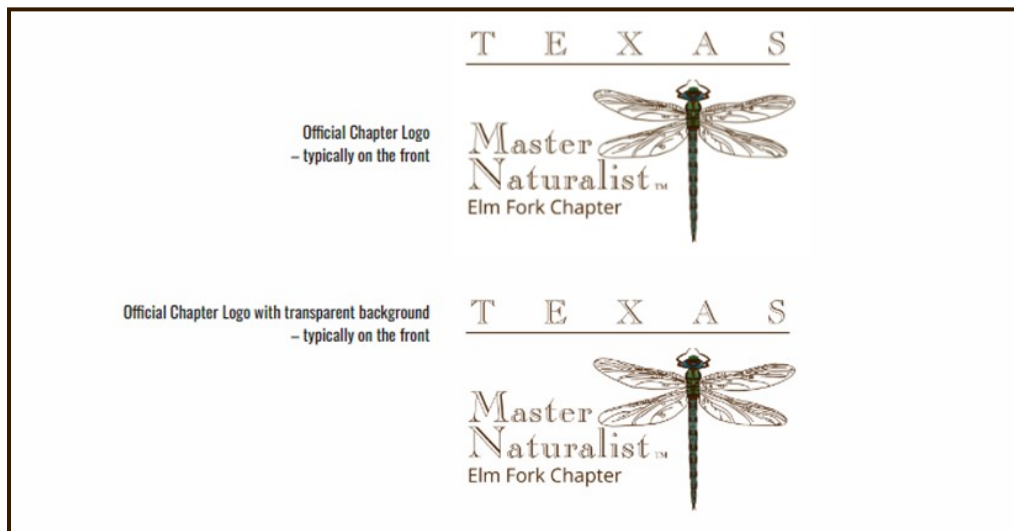
## Gale Bacon



*A new series of helpful hints  
on how to navigate in the  
Elm Fork Chapter Website  
and find the information  
you are looking for!*

### Website Quick Tip

Have you ever needed our Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter logo?  
It's available on our website at <https://txmn.org/elmfork/publication-logos/>  
for download.



Also see our publication guidelines at  
<https://txmn.org/elmfork/publication-guidelines/> for more information.

#### To Navigate from Homepage

- ◆ From the EFC Webpage, click on "Members Area" under the green banner
- ◆ Scroll down to "**Publications**" and click on "[Publication Guidelines](#)"
- ◆ Scroll down to the sentence that reads "The required logos are located in the [publications logos](#) section for viewing and download."
- ◆ Click on "[publications logos](#)"

# Projects in the Community

## NESTWATCH

By Sharon Miggins

### What is NestWatch?

A nationwide, year round, monitoring program through Cornell University, NestWatch tracks the reproductive biology of birds (when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, number of eggs that hatch and number of nestlings that survive). The program is designed to study how birds are affected by climate change, habitat loss, expansion of urban areas and introduction of non-native plants and animals.

### How Can You Help?

You can be an important part of this nationwide data collection and add to Cornell's database by monitoring bird nesting activities and reporting your results to NestWatch. All you need to do is go to [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org) and become a certified NestWatcher. It only takes a few minutes. Then set up your account to start reporting. If you participated in FeederWatch you already have an account. There is also a NestWatch mobile app so you can report in real time. You will be contributing valuable information to science as well as gain invaluable information about the birds you observe. I can't believe what I have learned about birds since I have been observing them!



Eastern Bluebird Eggs



Eastern Bluebirds

### Do you need nest boxes to participate?

No. All you need to do is get certified, find a bird nest and start reporting. This is a great time of year to look for old nests since the leaves have fallen from the deciduous trees. The evergreens are a little more challenging. Last year I reported on a mockingbird nest in a newly planted pin oak since the nest was at eye level. I also reported on 2 mallard nests and a killdeer nest which were ground level. You can also report data from your nest boxes, which is what I do, as well. I have 8 Eastern Bluebird boxes on my property along with 5 wren houses. My boxes have doors on the side which allow me to check on eggs and hatchlings. This is the time of year to check your boxes and clean them in preparation for nesting season. Birds in Texas can start nesting as early as February. So many ways to NestWatch!!!



**NESTWATCH (Cont.)****Learn Your Birds**

The NestWatch website has so much valuable information and gives you a great guide to get started. It is also helpful to know what birds are in your yard, park, or wherever you are observing. That makes it easier to pinpoint nests. I like to use the Merlin Bird ID app (free). The app identifies birds by markings, colors, location, size and even sound. I love to turn on the sound feature of the app and see what bird is singing. Males will sing to define their territories during breeding season so this will give you a good idea where to start looking for nests.

**Report Your Hours**

Please feel free to reach out to me if you need help with NestWatch. I will be more than happy to help. And if you check nest boxes at Clear Creek, Green Acres or LLELA, this counts as TXMN hours but you will report your nest observations to the project managers who in turn will report to NestWatch. You may report directly to NestWatch if you are observing anywhere else (your property, park, etc.). If you need Eastern Bluebird boxes, I am a nest box distributor for the Texas Bluebird Society so I always have them on hand. You can also purchase many different kinds of nest boxes at any birding store or big box store. Volunteer hours are approved for observing, identifying and uploading data to NestWatch. Making nest boxes is not an approved activity for this project.



Eastern Bluebird Hatchlings with Cowbird hatchling in the middle (note red gape in mouth)

*Happy NestWatching!!!*

Sharon Miggans

EFC NestWatch - Project Manager

[projects@efctmn.org](mailto:projects@efctmn.org)



5 Eastern Bluebird Eggs and 1 Cowbird Egg



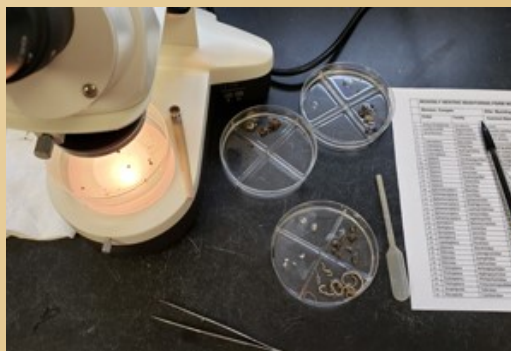
# Projects in the Community

## BENTHIC MONITORING PROGRAM

By Adelaide Bodnar, Project Manager and Jamie Reneau, Class of 2022



Brynne Bryan, Jamie Reneau, and Adelaide Bodnar sorting macroinvertebrates



Macroinvertebrate sorting station



Benthic macroinvertebrates

Benthic (meaning “bottom-dwelling”) macroinvertebrates are animals without backbones that can be seen with the naked eye and live on rocks, logs, sediment, debris, and aquatic plants in or near the bottom of water bodies. They include insect larvae, annelids (leeches), Oligochaetes (worms), crustaceans (crayfish), mollusks (clams) and gastropods (snails). Benthic macroinvertebrates tend to remain in their original habitat, so they are affected by local changes in water quality. Some organisms are able to tolerate greater loads of pollution than others. Thus, if the pollution is severe, or is moderate but sustained over time, the whole community structure may simplify in favor of tolerant species. Although the abundance of certain species may increase, the diversity and number of species in a given area decreases.



Sue Hudiburgh and Tammie Walters collecting benthic samples

At each site benthic samples are collected from the creek with a D-frame kick net of 0.25mm mesh size, at a riffle, creek edge and pool. Samples are sorted in the field by picking the invertebrates from plastic trays using forceps and pipettes and then placing them in a bottle of alcohol. The macroinvertebrates are later sorted, identified and counted at the City of Denton Municipal Laboratory using microscopes provided by the city. By determining the indicator species, diversity, and functional groups of the benthic community in a particular location, it is possible to determine water quality.



Vin Merrill, Sue Hudiburgh, and Tammie Walters collecting samples



## BENTHIC MONITORING (cont.)



Sue Hudiburgh sorting  
macroinvertebrates

**Benthic macroinvertebrates are good indicators of stream quality because:**

- They are a common and integral resident of aquatic systems
- They possess known tolerance ranges to organic & inorganic pollution
- Their community composition varies with environmental conditions
- They predictably respond to human and natural induced stressors
- They aid in monitoring physical and chemical conditions through time
- They provide a historical perspective missing in direct physical and chemical studies



Vin Merrill, Renee Province, Adelaide Bodnar, and Brynne Bryan sorting  
macroinvertebrates



# Projects in the Community

## 2022 Class Project Milkweed Seed Processing and Distribution Heidi Barr, 2022 Class Project Manager

*The overall mission of the project is to process collected seeds for distribution to local municipalities, seed libraries, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist Outreach, Keep (City) Beautiful groups, and the like.*

*Each seed packet will be labeled with instructions for cold stratifying, planting, or transplanting. There will be much more detailed instructions inside the envelopes, as well as a QR code to link the people to our cited research. If time and talent afford, an educational how-to video will also be linked to see the research in action.*

*If anyone needs seeds, we will have 1000 envelopes ready soon!*





# *Tweet of the Month*

By Sue Yost, class of 2017



## **The Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

It was on June 20, 1782, that the United States Congress approved the Bald Eagle as our national emblem. The seal designer used the image of a Golden Eagle, but Congress noted that the Golden Eagle had been used for centuries on seals and flags of other European States. Therefore, they chose the Bald Eagle, strictly a North American Bird. As you well may know, Benjamin Franklin didn't think the Bald Eagle was worthy of the honor and wanted the wild Turkey instead. "[the Eagle] He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. Besides he is a rank coward." His suggestion was quickly voted down!

Adults are easily identified by the dark brown feathered body and white head and tail. They have a bold, big, yellow bill. Juvenile Bald Eagles will be overall dark plumaged. The head does not molt into white feathers until it reaches 4 or 5 years of age. Males and females look the same, but females are larger in size.

Bald Eagles are huge birds. They weigh 6-14 pounds. They stand 31-37" tall and have a wingspan of 70-90". Since they are large birds so are their nests. They can be as large as a king size mattress as they continue to re-use and rebuild the same nest year after year. The largest Bald Eagle nest on record, in St. Petersburg, Florida, was 9' [2.9 meters] in diameter and 20' [6.1 meters] tall. Another famous nest, in Vermilion, Ohio, was shaped like a wine glass and weighed almost two metric tons or 4,409 pounds! It was used for 34 years until the



A ranger sitting in a replica nest measuring five feet wide and three feet deep. Those are the approximate dimensions of a four-person hot tub.

## *Tweet of the Month (cont.)*



Eagle in Nest with Chick at LLELA,  
Courtesy of Denver Kramer

tree blew down. The nests are usually in tall trees or on cliffs. They are stick structures lined with grass and other materials that can take several months to construct.

Both parents take an active role in incubation and feeding. The eaglets begin to fly at about 10 to 12 weeks and permanently leave the nest a month later. In our area, Bald Eagles can be found nesting on Lake Lewisville, Lake Texoma, Lake Grapevine, and White Rock Lake. Courtship, nest building and egg laying is occurring now in our area. There are many live webcams where one can become addicted to the nesting Eagles. One of my favorites is <https://www.berry.edu/eaglecam/>, or search live eagle nest cams. John Bunker Sands in Dallas also has a live cam <https://www.eagles.ntree.org>

Bald Eagles can live a long time, about 20-30 years. The oldest recorded bird in the wild was at least 38 years old when it was hit and killed by a car in New York in 2015. It had been banded in the same state in 1977. Despite their national fame, Bald Eagles were almost wiped out in the U.S. in the mid-1900s due to decades of sport hunting and habitat destruction. DDT, a pesticide that became popular after World War II, also wreaked havoc on Bald Eagles that ate contaminated fish, weakening their eggshells so much they'd crack during incubation. In 1972, the U.S. banned DDT use and began intensive population management strategies that led to eagle recovery in the wild and their eventual removal from the Endangered Species Act list in 2007. They are still suffering from the use of lead in bullets and fishing lures. Today bald eagle numbers continue to soar despite threats like illegal hunting and electrocution from power lines. A 2019 survey found that the population in the lower 48 states quadrupled since 2009.

If you ever visit Alaska, you see will eagles everywhere. They have the greatest population of our national symbol. Bald Eagles are carnivores. Bald Eagles can usually be found near lakes and rivers as they mainly are fish eaters. They will also take waterfowl. Rather than do their own fishing, Bald Eagles often go after other creatures' catches. A Bald Eagle will harass a hunting Osprey until the smaller raptor drops its prey in midair, where the eagle swoops it up. A Bald Eagle may even snatch a fish directly out of an Osprey's talons. Fishing mammals (even people sometimes) can also lose prey to Bald Eagle piracy. They will also eat roadkill and car-



Copyright Denver Kramer

Eagle Chasing an Osprey at LLELA,  
Courtesy of Denver Kramer



## *Tweet of the Month (cont.)*

rion. Bald eagles are considered raptors and have a number of adaptations that make them built for the chase: razor-like talons for puncturing and carrying up to eight-pound victims, a large wingspan for conserving energy by soaring, and a dense coating of light-detecting cells on their retinas that helps them spot prey from up to a mile away. Once an eagle has secured a meal, it uses the sharp edges of its curved beak to slice through flesh or scales.

The Bald Eagle (and Golden Eagle) is a sacred bird and were important birds in Native American culture, religious and spiritual customs. The birds were symbols of respect and honor, and their feathers were often used in tribal ceremonies. Eagles are considered spiritual messengers between gods and humans by some cultures.

I leave you with this blessing,



***May you have the strength  
of Eagle's wings,  
The faith and courage to  
fly to new heights,  
And the wisdom of the Universe  
to carry you there.***



# Features

## Hueco Tanks State Park- An Appreciation

By Robert McLaughlin



In the Chihuahuan desert, roughly thirty miles east of El Paso, in an area that geographers refer to as the Basin and Range, lie three jumbled masses of rock known as Hueco Tanks. Rising nearly 450 feet above the otherwise flat basin, they are easily spotted by travelers. Today, the Texas State Parks and Wildlife rangers refers to the three masses as North, South, and East Mountain. The rock is composed of a weak type of granite that geologists call syenite porphyry and covers about nine hundred acres. In addition to providing a landmark for early travelers, their most important attribute is not readily apparent until one ventures closer to the rock: they collect water.

The natural weathering processes create shallow depressions in the rock; some only a few inches across and others more than ten feet in diameter and eighteen inches deep. In Spanish, these hollows in the rock are called “huecos” giving this place its name. Most excellent for collecting rainwater and snowmelt. Numerous cracks and fissures in the rock have created an immense network of shallow caves and overhangs that trap even more water where the rock meets the desert floor. Several of the lowest caves are water-filled year-round, providing a permanent water source.



North Mountain



## Hueco Tanks State Park- An Appreciation (cont.)



Kiva Cave Mask

The year-round water supply and sheltering rock drew Paleo-Indians to this site. They and other more modern tribes left behind a record of more than 2,000 pictographs scattered among the rock. Among the most interesting are the masked faces. (See accompanying photographs.) Most are found on the ceilings of rock overhangs. The native American presence at Hueco Tanks goes back at least 8,000 years. The Tigua tribe from nearby Ysleta pueblo still hold ceremonies here.

I was fortunate to have been introduced to this site by an amateur archeologist while still in junior high. TPWD had not yet acquired the site and very few people visited. It became a favorite camping destination. At dusk you could find a high spot on the rock and watch a nearly endless stream of wildlife come in for water. A small bat colony would emerge for its nightly hunting. In August it was a great spot to watch the Perseid meteor showers as there was almost no light pollution.

Visiting Hueco Tanks takes a bit of advanced planning today. Only the North Mountain is open to visitors to explore on their own. Hiking on either South or East Mountain requires an accompanying ranger or volunteer guide. The availability of guides will vary seasonally. It is best to contact the park well in advance to determine the latest visitation schedules.



Kiva Cave Paired Masks

## More Features

### Nature is a Barrel of Laughs!

Sue Yost; class of 2017



For those of us who volunteer with kids... it's always good to have a few jokes as a back-up!! In addition to being fun, jokes have lots of great benefits. They improve the immune system, boost a person's mood, reduce stress, and encourage positive bonding among participants.

Why is grass so dangerous?     Because it's full of blades  
 What did the trees wear to the pool party?     Swimming trunks  
 Why did the sun go to school?     To get brighter  
 What did the little tree say to the big tree?     Leaf me alone  
 How do you properly identify a dogwood tree?     By its bark  
 Why is the mushroom always invited to parties?     Because he's a fungi  
 How does a bee brush its hair?     With its honeycomb  
 Why did the worm cross the ruler?     To become an inchworm  
 What's the biggest moth in the world?     A mammoth  
 Which side of a tree has the most leaves?     The outside  
 Why can't pine trees sew?     They always drop their needles  
 Where does a tree store their stuff?     In their trunk  
 What is the best way to learn more about spiders?     Check out their web site!  
 A dung beetle walks into a bar and asks:     "Is this stool taken?"  
 What's the best smelling insect?     "A deodor-ant."  
 How do trees get on the Internet?     They log on!



## *Barrel of Laughs (cont.)*

Knock-Knock jokes are always a hit especially with the younger kids!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Tree who?

Tree.

It's tree-mendous to see you again!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Water who?

Water.

Water you waiting for? Let me in!

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Leaf Who?

Leaf.

Leaf Me Alone!

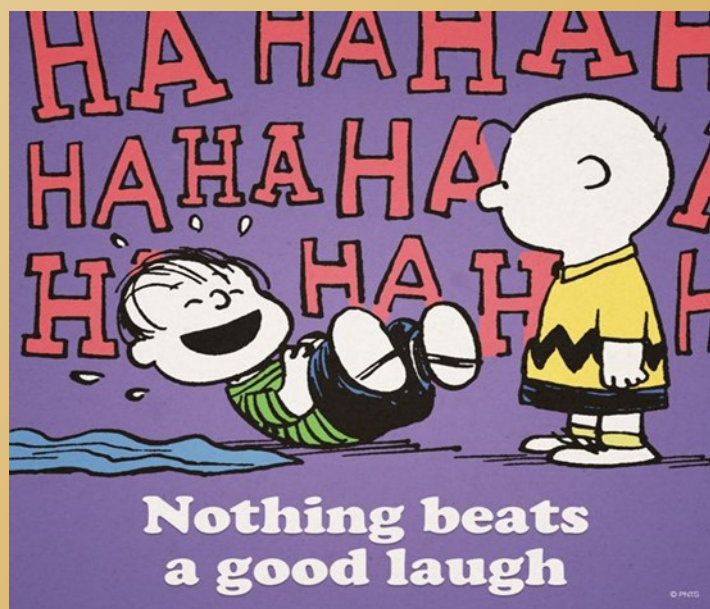
Knock knock.

Who's there?

Iva who?

Iva.

Iva lot of work to do in the garden today, come out and help me!



# Unexpected

## Joy Is Not Always the Word

By Missy Adair

Interaction with the natural world is not always a joy. Is this a scandalous or traitorous thing to say? We are so much taught that interaction with the natural world is joyous and awesome that perhaps we forget that sometimes this pleasure comes in hindsight or not at all. Nature exists and we are at liberty to introduce ourselves to it as much or little as we care to. But it is not always fun.

I remember my youthful glee at riding past a tree with gorgeous leaves. I grabbed some to feel and be part of that tree. There were stinging thorns on the underside. I was not filled with pleasure but I learned a valuable lesson about nature in general: it protects itself. Interfere with some care.

And about that snapping turtle. Did it really have to eye me with such contempt as I tried to heave its large form out of the path of oncoming cars? Did honking horns and an evil eyed reptile bring me joy? Definitely not. But was there some satisfaction somewhere under the stress and sweat?

Then there were the baby skunks. I rescued a litter of baby skunks, placing them carefully covered in my car trunk. Was I feeling joy or the dread of a car owner possibly about to lose all resale value of her vehicle?

Now I grin at these past meetings with nature. But more than that I appreciate that bringing yourself up close and personal with the natural world is not always a joy; but, there is always emotion. Life with earth doesn't have to be a series of awestruck moments. It is the emotional connections, good or less than good, as in all relationships, that makes us feel one with nature.



(Photo by Paul Hellstern, *The Oklahoman*)



## *This Month's Contributors*



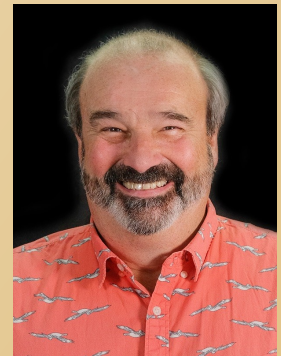
Tammie Walters, Editor



Sue Yost



Mary Morrow



David Jones



Adelaide Bodnar



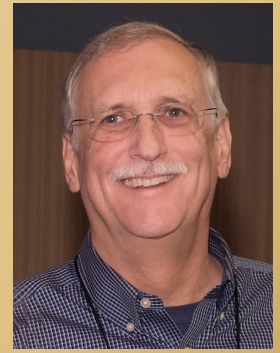
Jamie Reneau



Gale Bacon



Sharon Miggins



Robert McLaughlin



Heidi Barr



Jonathan Reynolds



Denver Kramer



Missy Adair



Elise Spain

*Thank you all!*

Articles and photos for the *Naturalist News* are always wanted and welcomed!

Send submissions to: [newsletter@efctmn.org](mailto:newsletter@efctmn.org)

Deadline for the February 2023 submissions is Friday, February 10th.

# *Almost the Last Word*

## **We Make Quite an Impact!**

Early in 2022, the Projects Committee wondered what we might learn from looking at the impact data reported in VMS. We asked Project Managers to consistently report the contacts for adults and children made during service activities this year, and the results were impressive.

**With 24 projects reporting impact data, the total contacts in 2022 were 18,929.  
That's a big number!**

It didn't surprise us that DISD School Days at Clear Creek had 5175 contacts or that LLELA was right up there with 3115. Next were Ray Roberts Lake State Park Nature Centers with 3027 and the Advisory and Outreach project with 2026. But we wouldn't have guessed that the volunteers with the DFW Wildlife Coalition project answered 1161 calls during 2022 or that, as a roving naturalist at FW Nature Center, Betty Zajac talked with 1022 people averaging nearly 100 each month. Impressive!

Nine more projects each reported between 100 and 1000 contacts, starting with Elm Fork Education Center at 908 and then SWAt, LISDOLA, Trees and Forest Management, Community Presentations, The Flower Mound, 4-H Entomology, Thrive Nature Park, and Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center.

In the range up to 100 contacts each were Growing Up WILD, Green Acres, Texas Our Heritage Demonstration Garden, Pratt Nature Preserve, Bob Jones Nature Center, TMN Virtual Volunteer Service, Furneaux Creek, Land Management Awareness and Lantana Monarch Waystation.

**Thank you for reporting service project impact data. Please continue this in 2023!**

If you have questions about how to report impact data in VMS, ask the Project Manager or send an email to [projects@efctmn.org](mailto:projects@efctmn.org).

The impact data in this report was provided by the AgriLife Office as they extract it from VMS on the first of each month to include it in their monthly report to the State office.

## **Reporting Impact Data**

**When we help children and adults learn about natural resources and about the Texas Master Naturalist program through service projects, those contacts should be recorded with the service hours as impact data in VMS. Impact data are a measure of our success in reaching the communities we serve.**



# Almost the Last Word

## WANTED!

### Your Photographs of Nature!



Be it birds, bugs, grasses, or trees,  
mammals, reptiles, flowers, or bees.

I can use any of these!

Please send any photographs that you  
would like to share & have published  
in the *Naturalist News* to  
[newsletter@efctmn.org](mailto:newsletter@efctmn.org).

Thank you!

Tammie Walters, Editor



# Who We Are



## Texas Master Naturalist—Elm Fork Chapter

<https://txmn.org/elmfork/>

### OFFICERS

President - Jerry Betty

Vice President - Kathy Webb

Treasurer - Ray Kreutzfeld

Secretary - Missy McCormick

### BOARD POSITIONS

Immediate Past President – Jan Deatherage

Member-at-Large – Janet Gershenfeld

### BOARD DIRECTORS

Membership - Sharon Betty

VMS - Shaleen Wunrow

Initial Training - Steve and Lori Carroll

Communications - Karen DeVinney

Volunteer Service Projects - Jerry Clark

Advanced Training Programs - David Jones

Outreach/Adult Education - Fran Witte

New Class Representative - Christina Wales

### CHAPTER ADVISORS

AgriLife – Janet Laminack, Extension Agent

Texas Parks and Wildlife – TBD



### Our Mission

*“To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.”*

### Our Vision

*“In our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist will be recognized as a primary source of information, education, and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future.”*

### 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.

### Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

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.*

### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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