

T E X A S

Master
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Elm Fork Chapter



Naturalist News

July 2023 Volume 23, Issue 7



Great Blue Heron, from Regina Dale

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Naturalist News

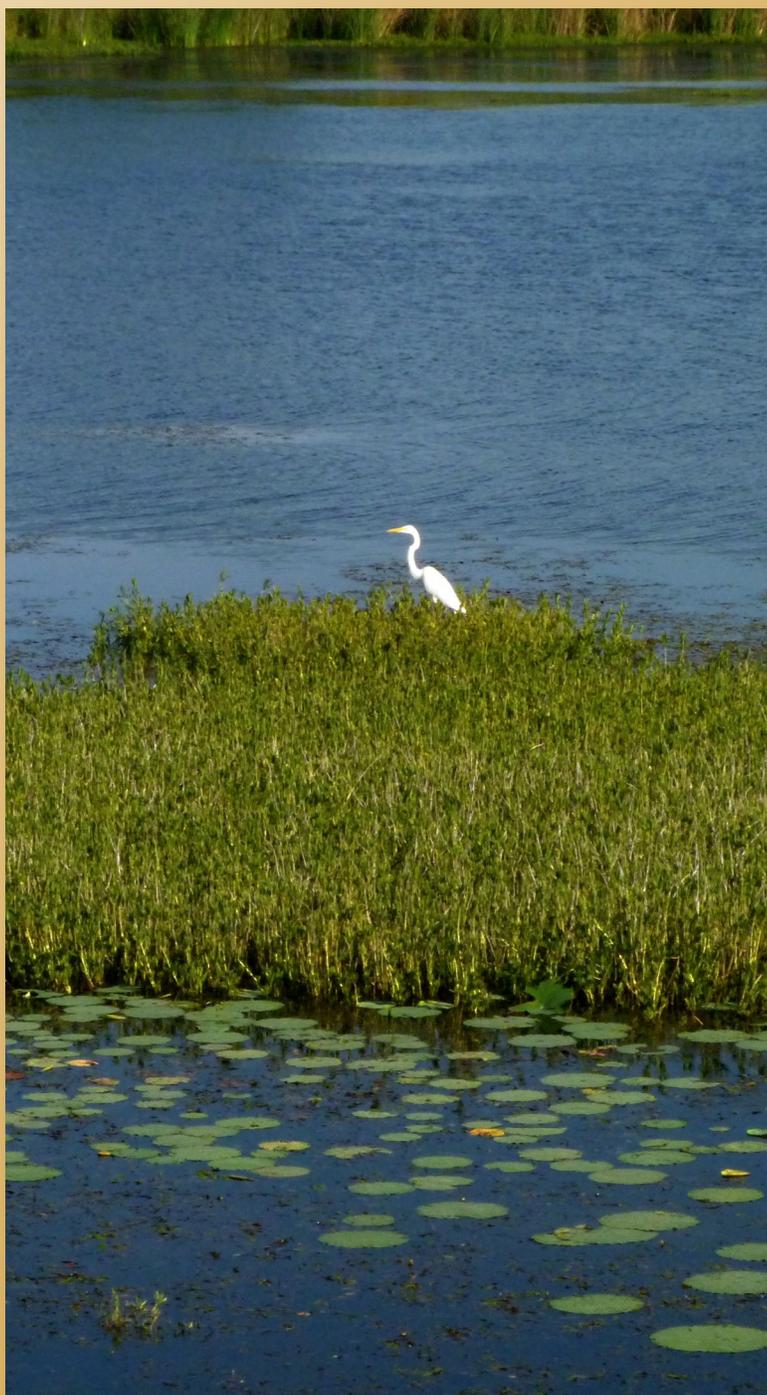


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Missy Adair will be back in August with more great articles to read!

It's **HOT** out there, so in this month's issue, we'll try to think **COOL** with some cool water birds!



Great Egret, from Jonathan Reynolds

Awards and Recognition

June 2023

Initial Certifications

Tyler Leverenz

Class of 2022



Recertifications

Leonard Chochrek

Class of 2019

Sharon Clark

Class of 2014

Cheryl Ellis

Class of 2012

Sue Hudiburgh

Class of 2018

Denver Kramer

Class of 2018

Jeff LaQuey

Class of 2019

Bryan Lewis

Class of 2020

Cathy Milliger

Class of 2019

Michele Rawleigh

Class of 2018

Elise Spain

Class of 2017

Dinah Stults

Class of 2020

John Thomlinson

Class of 2022

LeeAnn Weaver

Class of 2004

Kathy Webb

Class of 2017



Continued
on next page



Awards and Recognition

June 2023

250 Hour Milestone

Brynne Bryan

Class of 2022

Ginny Richards

Class of 2022



500 Hour Milestone

Daniel Arenas Richieri Class of 2017



1000 Hour Milestone

Michele Rawleigh

Class of 2018



1500 Hour Milestone

David Jones

Class of 2019



Field Notes in Focus



American White Pelicans, from Regina Dale

Inside Outside News

Ray Roberts Lake Nature Centers need your help!

The nature centers at both Isle Du Bois and Johnson Branch are suffering from lack of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Opportunities are waiting for you!

Please check your calendars and sign up at the links below:

[Isle Du Bois](#)

[Johnson Branch](#)

Approved AT

Friends of LLELA General Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area, in the LLELA Classroom
201 E. Jones Street
Lewisville, Texas 75057

Saving Texas Prairies

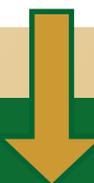
Speaker: Carly Aulicky, PhD

Texas is a prairie state from east to west, encompassing unique prairie ecosystems that have shaped Texas' history and Texan pride. Much of Texas prairie has been lost to agricultural conversion, leaving few native remnants on the landscape, and many of the remaining grasslands are degraded or non-native. Learn about prairie ecology, how the Native Prairies Association of Texas is working to conserve vulnerable prairies, and how you can help

Inside Outside News

Be sure to see *Plan Your Week* or the *Elm Fork Chapter Calendar* for more volunteer service projects and advanced training opportunities.

Click here: <https://txmn.org/elmfork/members-only-calendar/> or click on the Calendar



Quick Tips From Our Webmaster

Gale Bacon



SWAt Volunteer Resources

There are SWAt resources now available from the Members Area of our website! You have direct access to SWAt brochures, survival guides, kit and demo descriptions, YouTube videos and more.

If you are also a Master Gardener, you can view the SWAt resources from either the TMN or Master Gardeners website.

- From the main menu, select 'Members Area'

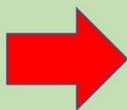


- Select 'SWAt Volunteer Resources' under Chapter Projects

Chapter Projects

- [Volunteer Service Projects](#) – a list of active projects with description, and project manager contact information.
- [Project Management Guide](#) – a guide for initiating, managing and documenting a Master Naturalist project
- [SWAt Volunteer Resources](#)

- The SWAt Volunteer Resources page will open in a new tab!



Protected: SWAt Volunteer Resources



RESOURCE	RESOURCE LINKS
SWAt Community Outreach Brochure .2023	SWAt Demonstration YouTube videos
SWAt Volunteer Recruitment Brochure 2023	SWAt Inventory Calendar
SWAt Volunteer Survival Guide .2022	SWAt Outreach Events Calendar
SWAt Kits and Demos Descriptions .2022	SWAt Outreach Reporting Form

Projects in the Community

Mothing Event at Green Acres

From Becky Bertoni

On June 20, 2023 Sam Kieschnick came to Green Acres with his mothing show. Sam set up several viewing sites, white sheets and lights to attract the moths. There were no lightning bugs, but we did have some notable posts on iNaturalist.

Notes from Sam:

This moth (*Fania nanus*) is a county record for Denton County on iNaturalist!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/168864271>

Here's another county record for Denton County - this moth called the "shagreened slug moth":

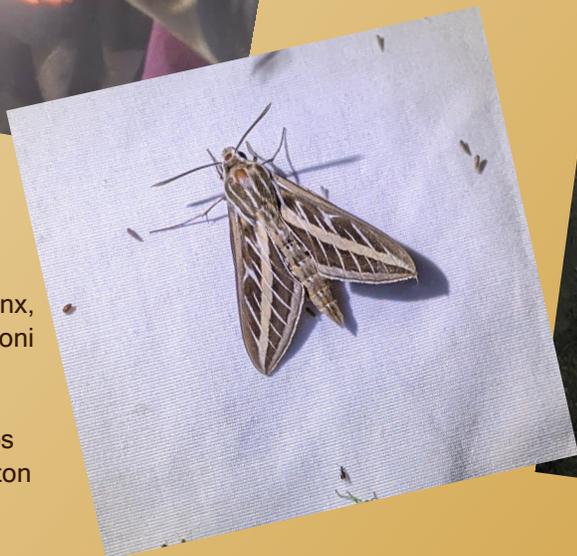
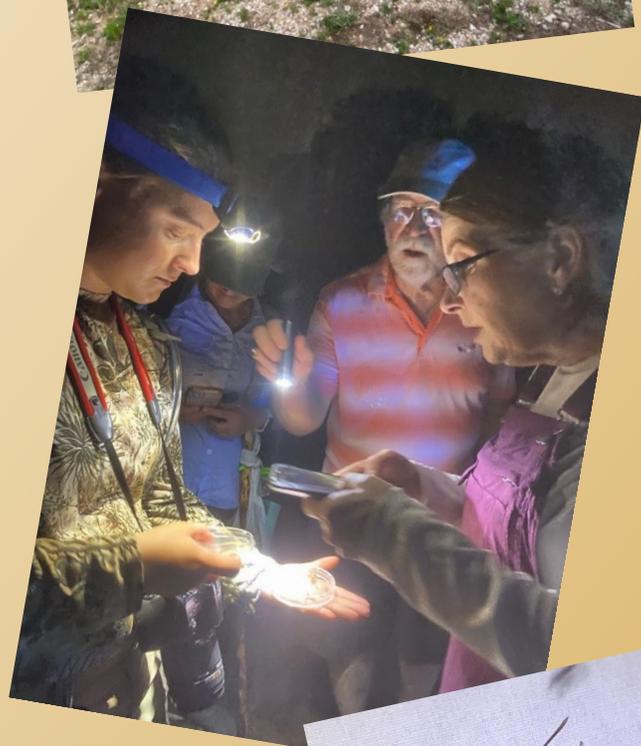
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/168740720>

This beetle had only been observed once in north central Texas before:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/168757009>

This moth was a very first for north central TX on iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/168757274>



White-lined sphinx, from Becky Bertoni

All other photos by Marilyn Blanton



Projects in the Community

Expanding and Connecting

From Jamie Reneau

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center in Denton, Texas, is embarking on an exciting journey with the acquisition of 70 acres of land on the north side of the center in 2022. This expansion presents a remarkable opportunity to extend the trail network, opening up undiscovered territories and enhancing the natural experience for visitors.



Clay Thurmond, Dave Ford, and Carl M.



Jeff LaQuey



Carl Malmberg

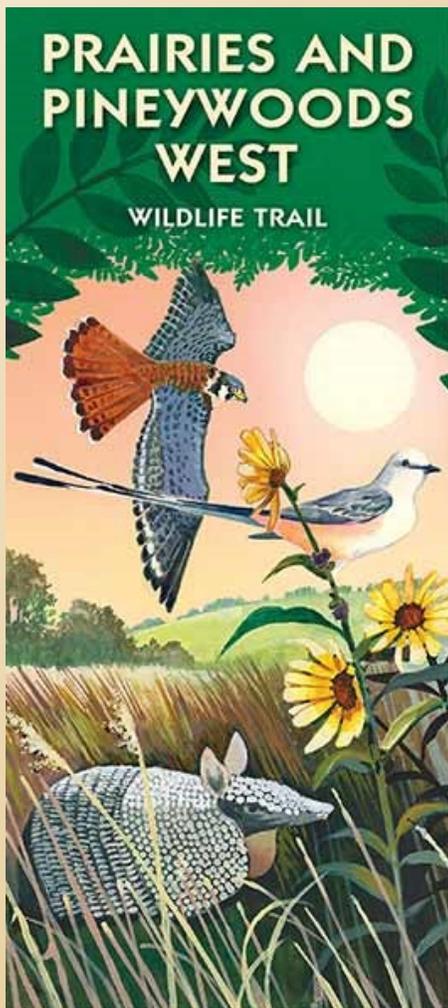


Dave Ford, Jeff LaQuey, and Dave Rowley

Elm Fork Chapter volunteers are hard at work clearing new trails!

(Photos courtesy of Jamie Reneau)

Projects in the Community



Regional Trail Map



Site Signage

Great Texas Wildlife Trails

By Troy Dale

The Beginning

The Great Texas Wildlife Trails Program was established by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1996 as a way of increasing tourism and encouraging Texans to get outdoors. After all, the motto for TPWD is “Life’s better outside.” The original trails were basically birding trails located in the coastal regions of the State. In time, however, the process of identifying and mapping trails in the State accelerated very rapidly. The new sites added to the list of trails evolved from being primarily birding sites to sites that allowed viewing of all sorts of wildlife living throughout the State.

HELP!

By 2020 the Department had become overwhelmed. There was one manager and possibly an intern (not certain) in the Austin Office who were trying to oversee what had become a “monster.” The number of trail sites had increased to over 900. It was impossible to maintain consistent awareness of the condition and viability of so many sites.

As the old saying goes, “Don’t try to eat the whole elephant in one bite,” or something like that. Something had to be done to make the program more manageable. They needed help.

The Birth

So, Adopt-A-Loop was born. The State was divided into 9 geographic regions (not to be confused with the 10 eco-regions, though there are similarities.) Each region was divided into loops. Each loop was home to several trail sites. Loops were designed as possible itineraries for an individual or family wanting to spend several days exploring the outdoors and viewing some wildlife. The number of loops in a region range from 10 to 16. Each loop is comprised of from 3 to 15 trail sites. Each site within a loop is reasonably close to the other sites for ease of travel.

To implement this new program, a request was sent to all the Master Naturalist Chapters in the State, asking them to “adopt” one or more of the loops in their area. To date, 37 TMN Chapters have answered the call.

Elm Fork Chapter to the Rescue

In February 2022, the Elm Fork Chapter Board of Directors approved the addition of the Adopt-A-Loop Project. Our Chapter’s three counties reside in the Prairies and Pineywoods West Region. Our dominant loop is

Great Texas Wildlife Trails (Cont.)

the Texoma Loop, but we also have sites located in the Colleyville Loop and the Lake Lavon Loop. (The loops do not follow County Lines.) We currently have 17 volunteers in our chapter involved in the observation and reporting activities on 5 of our 6 trail sites, which are Miss Kitty's Bird and Bath, Ray Roberts Lake State Park - Isle Du Bois Unit, Greenbelt Corridor at Ray Roberts Lake State Park, LBJ National Grasslands, Bob Jones Park, and Arbor Hills Nature Preserve. (Our chapter is not doing observations at Bartush Land and Cattle Company at this time.)

Each site is visited four times each year (seasonally) to observe, document, and report. A specific Adopt-A-Loop program on iNaturalist is used to report sightings of wildlife. Any bird observations are reported on eBird. Significant changes in the conditions of the sites are reported directly to the Austin Office.

The Future of EFC's Project

From the beginning of this Project, it was clear there were certain aspects needing attention and possible alteration. First, it was obvious we had some wonderful trail sites within our area not included in the Great Texas Wildlife Trails. We needed to submit some nominations.

Second, the vast areas of the LBJ Grasslands were terribly under-represented on the web site and in the published Trail Map, making it difficult to achieve effective observation and reporting.

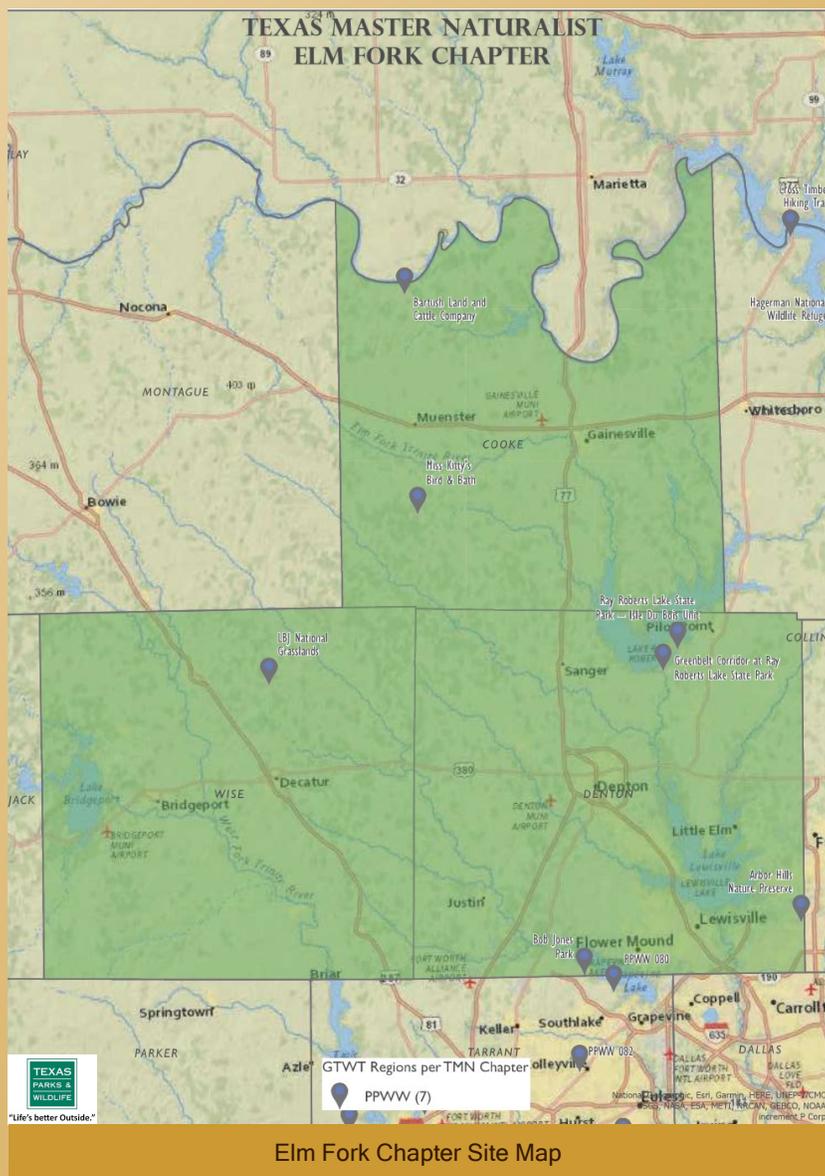
So, we made our nominations and offered our concerns regarding the magnitude of the Grasslands. Our efforts paid off. Just recently we received very good news from the Program Manager in Austin.

We now have four new trail sites added to our area. They are LLELA, Clear Creek, Lake Ray Roberts Johnson Branch, and Trophy Club Nature Trail. In addition to these new trail sites, we have a new loop created in our area named the Elm Fork Loop.

The LBJ Grasslands will now be a part of another new loop named the Grasslands Loop, which will be divided into several smaller sites, each with its own number and name.

With these expansions, we need more volunteers who want to be part of this future. If you are interested, please contact Troy Dale at projects@efctmn.org.

The future is bright.



Elm Fork Chapter Site Map

Features

Question Mark Butterfly

By Marilyn Blanton

With a tiny question mark on each hindwing,
My question to you is, what does it mean?

What is the question you wonder about?
If I gave you an answer, would you still have doubt?

Perhaps you know more than me.
How can I know what a butterfly sees?

When you open your lovely angle-shaped wings,
Spicy orange decorated with rich darkness is seen.

On wings like velvet edged with fine lavender trim,
Your black spots stand out like precious gems.

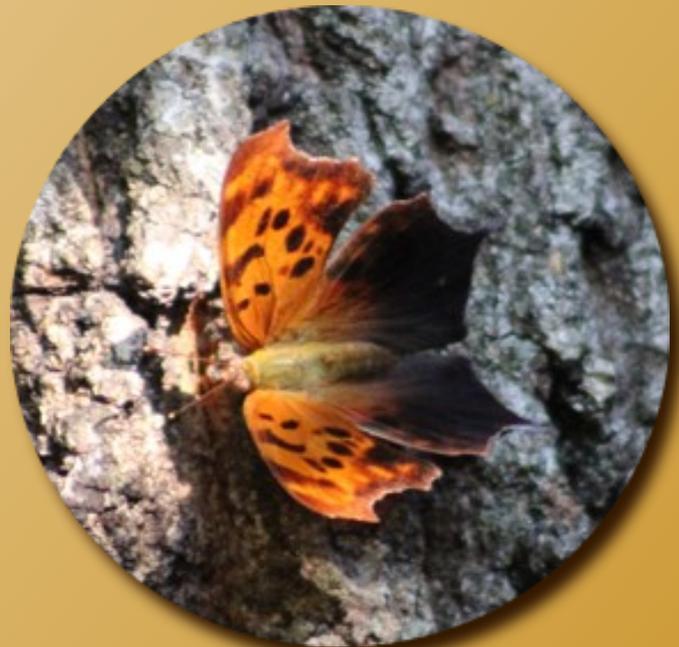
With your wings closed as you rest on a tree,
Your subtle browns and grays make you difficult to see.

Your camouflage makes you look like a dead leaf.
Then you spread your wings and there's disbelief.

Wherever you want, you're free to fly.
My thoughts go with you, sailing high.

Tell me again the question carried on your wings.
I have no answer, but your beauty makes my heart sing.

The Question Mark, *Polygonia interrogationis*, is named for the silvery question mark on the underside of its hindwings. It's one of the "Anglewing" butterflies that's known for having wings with jagged edges. The Question Mark's hindwings also have projections that look like small tails. The butterfly has a wingspan up to three inches. The top side of its wings are orange and dark brown or black. The underside of its wings are subtle shades of browns and grays, which provide excellent camouflage making the butterfly look like a dead leaf.



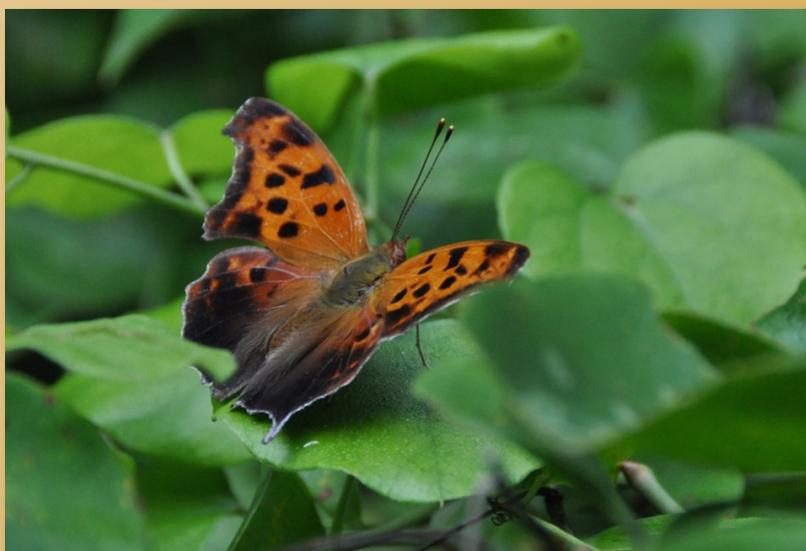
Question Mark Butterfly (Cont.)



Question Marks have two broods a year in the north and up to five in the south. The broods that fly in the summer are darker than the broods that overwinter as adults. Hibernating adults hide in tree crevices and logs and even cracks in buildings. They occasionally fly on warm winter days. Due to their seasonal dimorphism, they are said to have a summer form and a winter form. Their range extends from Florida to Canada and west to the Rockies. Their flight is fast and erratic. Males are aggressive and territorial. They usually live in wooded areas with some open spaces.

Question Marks feed on rotting fruit, leaking tree sap, dung and carrion. They rarely feed on nectar. Elms, hackberries, nettles and hops serve as larval food-plants. Caterpillars are variable but generally rust-colored with white dots and longitudinal lines that are yellow or orangey red. They have two branched black spines on their head and many orange spines on their bodies.

Question Marks belong to the family Nymphalidae. Butterflies in this family are often referred to as brush foot butterflies. They are similar to the smaller Comma.



*Photos on this page
by Marilyn Blanton*

Features

“DON'T TOUCH THAT PLANT... IT'S PIZZEN”

By Bob James

My Dad decided to put me to work the summer I was 14 years old. I went to work for a friend of my father who owned a construction company in Fort Worth. I joined a crew of workers to build a warehouse and business off East Lancaster. Our first task was to clear a large area and construct the forms for the large concrete slab. Most of the work the first week was digging ditches and huge holes for the slab and the piers. Most of my fellow workers were African American grown men who knew exactly what we were supposed to do. The first afternoon as we were digging, I spotted a plant in the weeds. It had sticky looking leaves and in the middle was a beautiful lacy white flower. I stopped and started to pick the flower when one of the men said, "Don't touch that plant boy, it's PIZZEN". I took him at his word and stayed away from it.

Many years later, I was wandering around Worth Ranch, a Boy Scout Camp on the Brazos River, and I saw an identical plant with a beautiful lacy white flower. It brought back old memories of my working with a crew digging ditches. I sketched it in my Nature Journal and later identified it as White Prickly Poppy (*Argemone albiflora*). And it is, indeed, poisonous.



Photo from Gardner's Connect FB Post

White Prickly Poppy

A year or so later I was hunting with my dad when he had to take a short bathroom break and he squatted down in an area of Poison Ivy. That seems funny but it was torture for my dad, and he was the butt (pardon the pun) of many jokes for about six weeks.

Poison Ivy exists in two species, Eastern Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and Western Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergi*). Both exist in the State of Texas. The sap of the plant contains a hydrocarbon compound, urushiol, which is a pale yellow liquid and causes contact dermatitis if you come in contact with it. It exists on the leaves, stems and limbs of the ivy. Urushiol can be washed off the skin and clothes, however, it will react with the skin if it is not washed off with soap and water within 10 minutes. Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac all contain urushiol and these plants should never be burned. The smoke will contain Urushiol and if breathed can cause inflammation in the throat and lungs.

In one of my articles I wrote about going to the Everglades in Florida with two of my Scoutmaster friends. While we were in the Everglades, we contracted with a gentleman to take us out into the depths of the swamp in his boat. He charged us \$20.00 apiece and it was the best bargain I had received in a long time. Captain Bill had a boat that looked like the boat Humphrey Bogart had in the movie *The African Queen*. We chugged out of the slough and into the dark Everglades. We saw all types of flora and fauna and stayed out almost all day.

Before we started back to the camping area, I asked Captain Bill if he could show me a Manchineel Tree. He said, " Why in hell would you want to see something like that? You know that is one of the most poisonous



DON'T TOUCH THAT PLANT... (Cont.)



Photo from <https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/avoid-the-deadly-manchineel-tree>

Manchineel Tree

plants on earth!" I told him I had been fascinated with poisonous plants for a long time and just wanted to see one of the trees if possible. He said he knew where one was, but we were not going to get within 50 feet of it. He drove the boat about a mile into a very winding waterway to a sandy island and there it was - a Manchineel Tree. Sure enough Captain Bill stopped the boat about 100 feet away from the island and he said he wished every Manchineel tree could be chopped down until they were extinct.

The Manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*) grows in far south of Florida and into the north of South America. It is called Manzanilla de la Muerte or little apple of death. The tree grows to about 50 feet in height. It has very luxurious vegetation and fruit that looks much like an ordinary apple. It is one of the most toxic plants on earth and grows on the sandy beaches among the Mangroves. The fruit is poisonous, the leaves are poisonous, and the sap is poisonous. It is claimed that Ponce de Leon died after being struck by an arrow with Manchineel tree sap on the arrow tip. The Seminole Indians would tie their captives to the trunk of the tree and the sap would slowly dissolve the captive's body. It was a terrible way of dying.

Most of the Manchineel trees are marked with a red band around the trunk and warning signs to keep people away from it. It is said that even standing under the tree the sap will rain onto a person and make them deathly ill. I guess we are fortunate that the worst thing we have here in Texas is plain old Poison Ivy.



*Poison Ivy, Poison Ivy.
Late at night while you're sleeping,
Poison Ivy comes a'creeping around.*

The Coasters 1959

Features

Feathers as Decoration and the Decimation of Wild Bird Populations

Sue Yost, class of 2017

Today, hats are worn primarily on celebratory or festive occasions, like the Kentucky Derby hat tradition, but in the 19th century, hats and bonnets were an essential element of every woman's wardrobe. Beginning in the 1890s and continuing until about 1915, many hats were extremely large and served as an ideal canvas on which to display a variety of trimmings, feathers included. Egret, heron, hummingbird, pheasant, ostrich, seagull, and peacock were all popular as sources of feathers, though milliners did not limit themselves to these birds alone.



From 1875 - 1886 entire stuffed birds or wings adorned hats. The feather trade was so huge that wild bird populations were devastated by the slaughter. Birds were killed during the breeding season when plumage was most attractive, leaving nestlings to starve to death. Conservatives spread misinformation claiming that feathers were gathered from the ground at rookeries. Others believed that wild birds were an inexhaustible resource.

On two days in 1886, ornithologist Frank Chapman walked the streets of New York City and recorded the types of birds he saw on ladies' hats. On his walks he counted the wings, feathers, heads, and entire bodies of 174 birds representing 40 different species decorating the hats of ladies, including 21 hats decorated with parts of the common tern. Frank Chapman went on to start the annual Christmas Bird Count in 1890!

In 1896, wealthy Boston socialite Harriet Lawrence Hemenway (1858-1960) read an article about feather hunting. She was so upset by what the article described that she decided she needed to take action. She contacted her cousin, Minna B. Hall, and together they organized a series of ladies' teas. They asked the wealthy ladies who attended these teas to stop wearing hats with feathers.

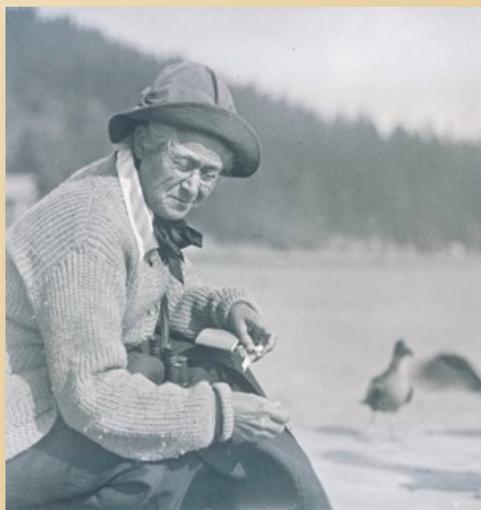
Eventually, they had 900 Boston women enlisted in their cause and boycotting feathered hats. In 1896 women didn't have very much political power; they didn't have the right to vote, and it was difficult to be taken seriously by politicians and other people with power. Harriet Lawrence Hemenway knew she would need the help of men to take her message



Feathers as Decoration (Cont.)

to more than just women. She convinced leading scientists and other men in Boston to help her form the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the oldest Audubon Society in the country. In 1897, the Massachusetts Audubon Society played a key role in convincing the Massachusetts legislature to outlaw the wild bird feather trade. Soon other Audubon Societies formed around the United States. Many of these societies were started by women. Like Harriet Lawrence Hemenway, the women then recruited men to join the organizations so people would see the groups as more than ladies clubs. These societies played a critical role in changing people's attitudes towards killing birds for their feathers.

By 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty ended the trade of many wild birds and prevented the extinction of the Snowy Egret, Sandhill Crane, and Wood Duck, and helped restore populations.



A Different Approach to Feathered Hats

When Florence Merriam Bailey was born in 1863, birds were more often seen ornamenting women's hats than they were in the wild! In fact, on one walk through Manhattan in 1886, she counted 40 different species, stuffed, and mounted for fashion. The pioneering ornithologist wanted to stop this trend, which killed an estimated five million birds a year. Her solution was to encourage people to go out and admire living birds through bird watching. "We won't say too much about the hats," she declared. "We'll take the girls afield and let them get acquainted with the birds. Then of inborn necessity, they will wear feathers never more."

Bailey developed an early interest in birds, but when she went to Smith College in 1882, she learned that most ornithologists had little interest in bird behavior. Instead, they studied birds which had been killed, skinned, and mounted for private or museum collections. Bailey proposed that naturalists should learn to observe living birds in their habitats. She recommended an opera glass to allow bird watchers to see details: "The student who goes afield armed with opera-glass," she declared, "will not only add more to our knowledge than he who goes armed with a gun but will gain for himself a fund of enthusiasm and a lasting store of pleasant memories."

In 1889, at the age of 26, she published "Birds Through An Opera-Glass." [Still available on Amazon] It was the first modern bird watching field guide: an illustrated guide to recognizing 70 common species in the wild, written for hobbyists and young people. Her approach of watching birds through magnification formed the basis of modern bird watching, which still uses binoculars today. Her book was also unusual because it was published under her own name, an uncommon practice at the time. Bailey's independent and feminist streaks come out in her writing about her beloved birds too. "Like other ladies, the lit-



Feathers as Decoration (Cont.)

the feathered brides have to bear their husbands' names, however inappropriate," she lamented. "What injustice! Here an innocent creature with an olive-green back and yellowish breast has to go about all her days known as the black-throated blue warbler, just because that happens to describe the dress of her spouse!"

*Bailey went on to write over 100 journal articles and ten books, including the "Handbook of Birds of the Western United States," which remained a standard text for over 50 years. Bailey was named the first woman associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1885; in 1929, she became its first woman fellow and received its Brewster Medal, which recognizes authors of exceptional work about birds, in 1931. In a fitting tribute to this trailblazing advocate for birds, eminent American biologist Joseph Grinnell named a subspecies of mountain chickadee after her in 1908: with the scientific name of *Parus gambeli baileyae* and the common name of Mrs. Bailey's Chickadee.*



Tweet of the Month

By Sue Yost, class of 2017



Photo by Jonathan Reynolds

Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

Nyctanassa violacea

More solitary and often more secretive than the Black-crowned Night-Heron, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is still quite common in parts of the southeast, including in Texas. In fact, it is a bird that stumps homeowners when one is in their yard. "What is this bird?" they ask?

They are a beautiful pewter-gray with striking black and white feathers on the head. The yellow crown is not often seen as yellow but as a dirty white with long head plumes trailing down the back during breeding season. The juveniles look nothing like the adults, and it will take them 3 years to get those sleek adult feathers. Young birds have a brownish body, an overall greyish head, drab colors and spots and streaks on their plumage.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron is a rather stocky wading bird. They stand about 2' tall and have a wingspan of over 3'. Like all herons, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron flies with long, slow purposeful wing beats. It can be found gliding over water with its legs easily visible, extended straight below the tail.

The yellow-crowned does not mind living near humans and can be found in wooded neighborhoods, nesting on rooftops and trees over driveways. Such cohabitation may not go smoothly and can create conflicts with humans. It prefers shallow water to live in: marshes, wooded swamps, and lakeshores for inland populations, and thickets. It can also be found in areas that don't always have enough water, but that get flooded on a regular basis. Its habitat is closely linked to that of the crustaceans that make for most of its diet, and it tolerates fresh water, brackish water and saltwater.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron may forage any time of the day and night, although it prefers the night to feed the young. Its stout bill is adapted for feeding on hard-shelled crustaceans -- it is called 'crab-eater' in some locales. In fact, the species was introduced into Bermuda in the late 1970s in a successful attempt to bring land crabs under control there. As mentioned, it feeds heavily on crustaceans, mainly crabs and crayfish. It also will eat mollusks, frogs, insects, and fish. It finds its prey visually, either stalking it or standing and waiting for it to come within reach. When hunting crayfish, the heron stands at the entrance of the burrow, always facing the sun so its shadow is not cast over the entrance of the burrow, which would alert the crawfish. Once close enough, it lunges with its bill. Small prey is swallowed whole while larger prey (like a large crab), it will try to dismember in order to eat the body first and the legs last, or to jab it straight through the body. It will also carry crabs, mollusks or fish away from the water to prevent them from escaping. Any indigestible material, such as crab shells, is ejected in a pellet, and it is quite common to find shells and pellets scattered around foraging and nesting areas. Pretty cool hunting tactics!

Like many other aspects of its life, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron's breeding season depends closely on the emergence of crabs in the spring and the crab



Photo by Jonathan Reynolds

Tweet of the Month (cont.)

cycle itself depends on temperatures. Because of this, the breeding season varies geographically, but typically between March and May. Once on their breeding territory, both birds will decide where to build their nest, sometimes starting several nests before settling down to "this is the perfect spot!" They will nest in colonies with other herons and egrets. The preferred site is usually in tree 30-40' above ground, but sometimes very close to ground or water in thickets, mangroves. The nest is a platform of sticks, lined with finer twigs and sometimes leaves.



Copyright Denver Kramer

At first, the male brings material for the female to build the nest, then both finish the task of material gathering and building. A pair can use the same nest for years, enlarging it every season; the first nest is usually just large enough to hold the eggs. The female lays two to six eggs, depending on the conditions, especially the temperature. The eggs are oval and smooth, with a pale green-blue color. Both parents start guarding the nest as soon as the first egg is laid, and they both incubate the clutch. 24-29 days later, the young hatch. During the first two weeks, both adults brood the young. Both parents feed the young, taking turns gathering food and guarding the nest. They regurgitate food in the center of the nest rather than feeding each chick individually. When the nest grows too tight for the chicks, they start venturing to its edges. They leave the nest 36-42 days after hatching. They cannot fly yet, so they walk around the nests and return daily to the colony to be fed, and they keep doing so for another three weeks. They start taking short flights by the sixth week and are capable of sustained flight between their seventh and eleventh week.

The adults have virtually no predators, but the nests are vulnerable to other animals. Both the eggs and the young are an appealing meal to American crows and some mammals such as raccoons. Human activities also constitute threats to the Yellow-crowned Night Heron. In areas where the herons cohabit with people, they are often disturbed or shooed away from their nests if they get too close to human habitations. Loss of habitat is another major threat to the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, with the wetlands they favor are destroyed.



This Month's Contributors



Gale Bacon



Becky Bertoni



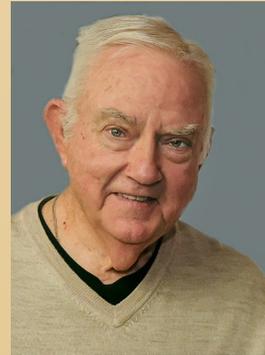
Marilyn Blanton



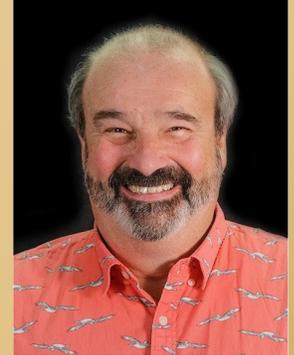
Troy Dale



Regina Dale



Bob James



Dave Jones



Denver Kramer



Jonathan Reynolds



Sue Yost



Tammie Walters, Editor

Thank you all!

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

Please send submissions to: newsletter@efctmn.org

Deadline for the August 2023 submissions is Friday, August 11th.

Almost the Last Word

Reminder: AT Request Procedure

AT requests are to be submitted using the proper form:

<https://txmn.org/elmfork/request-for-approval-of-at/>

and the following field **MUST** be filled out:

"Description of program or add URL of program below".

Send all promotion requests to announcements@efctmn.org

The link above may be used to access the form, or it can be found by going to the 'Advanced Training' section under the 'Activities' tab on the chapter's website.

Funny Finds from Sue Yost!



"Now take them big birds, Barnaby. ...
Never eat a thing ... just sit and stare."

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 - Mike Hatch

Initial Training - Elise Spain

Communications - Karen DeVinney

Volunteer Service Projects - Larry Duncan

Advanced Training Programs - David Jones

Outreach/Adult Education - Fran Witte

New Class Representative - Christine Wayles

CHAPTER ADVISORS

AgriLife –

Texas Parks and Wildlife – Mindy Shumate



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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