

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

March 2024

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™  
Elm Fork Chapter  
1999-2024



*Celebrating*  
— 25 YEARS —



Hello and thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist program !!!

*We engage Texans of all ages through education and outreach as one of the core tenets of the Texas Master Naturalist program.*

*Our Mission is 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.*

*"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"*

*- Robin Williams*



**2024 marks the 25th anniversary of the Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists**



**Please Join Us for our Next Meeting**

**Master Naturalist meetings are open to the public.**

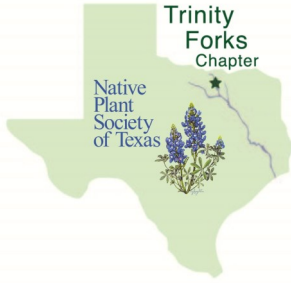
**This month's meeting program: Eclipses 101, Get Ready for April 8, Total Solar Eclipse, presented by Dorian Janney.**

Thursday, March 21st  
9 am to Noon

Denton County Southwest Courthouse  
Map & Directions



# Plant Native



The Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas serves Denton County and the surrounding area.

The mission is promoting research, conservation, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats through education, outreach, and example.

Native plants are important for the health of local ecosystems. Plus, they create a sense of beauty in our landscapes and are an important food source for our favorite wildlife such as butterflies and birds.

Find the Perfect Texas Native Plant for Your Landscape.

The purpose of this database is to help you fill your landscape with native plants that are best adapted to your region and



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

HEIDI PELLI June 2014

## EASY GARDENING: PLANNING A GARDEN

Joseph Masabou<sup>1</sup> and Patrick Libault<sup>2</sup>

A good plan is the first step in establishing a flourishing home vegetable garden. Planning includes selecting the garden location, deciding on the size of the garden, determining the types and varieties of vegetables to plant, and planning where, when, and how much of each vegetable to plant in the garden.

### SITE SELECTION

Choose a place where the soil is loess, rich, level, and well-drained. Do not choose low areas where water stands or the soil stays wet. Vegetables will not grow in poorly drained areas.

Do not plant where weeds do not grow; vegetables will not grow well there either.

Vegetables need sunlight to grow well. Do not plant where buildings, trees or shrubs will shade the garden. Most vegetables need at least 6 hours of sunlight daily.

Do not plant vegetables under the branches of large trees or near shrubs because they rob vegetables of light and water.

Plant the garden near a water supply if possible. In many areas a garden can grow without watering, but it is more likely to be successful if it is irrigated. Water is needed especially during long dry periods or when planting seeds.

Few people have the perfect garden location, so look for the best spot possible.

### GARDEN SIZE

Making the garden too large is one of the most common mistakes of enthusiastic, first-time gardeners. A garden that is too large will be too much work. When determining the size of your garden, consider these factors:

**Available room.** For apartment dwellers, the garden may be a planter box. In a suburban or rural area, however, there may be plenty of ground space for a garden.

**Available time.** If the only time you have for gardening is after work or school, or on weekends, there may not be enough time to care for a large garden.

**Family size.** If gardening is a family activity, a large space can be saved for a larger family also can use more vegetables.

**Reason for gardening.** If the garden is purely a recreational activity, a container or flower bed garden may be big enough; if you want to grow vegetables for eating or freezing, a larger area is needed.

**Types of vegetables to be grown.** Some vegetables take a lot of room. Most need at least 3 feet of space between rows. If you want to plant ten rows of vegetables, the garden must be 30 feet wide.

### DECIDING WHAT TO GROW

What to grow in the garden is as big a decision as where to locate it. Consider the following points in selecting vegetables.

**Space available.** Do not plant watermelons in a small garden. They take up too much room. Other vine crops such as cucumbers and cantaloupes can be grown in small gardens by trellising them on a fence some other structure.

**Expected production from the crop.** The smaller the garden, the more important it is to get high production from each row. Small, fast-maturing crops such as radishes, turnips and beets yield quickly and do not require much space. Tomatoes, bush beans, squash and peppers require more space but produce over a long season.

**Cost of vegetables if purchased.** Plant vegetables that are expensive to buy at the grocery store. Broccoli is usually one of the more expensive vegetables that can be grown in most home gardens.

**Food value of vegetables.** All vegetables are good, but some are more nutritious than others. Grow different kinds of vegetables to get more variety in your diet.

**Personal preference.** This is especially important if the garden is purely for recreation or personal enjoyment. Grow vegetables your family likes to eat.

Plant small, fast-maturing vegetables between larger ones. Plant vine crops near a fence or trellis if possible. Make a drawing on paper to show the location and spacing of vegetables in the garden (Fig. 3).

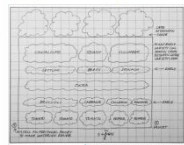


Figure 3. A garden planning guide.

### SUGGESTED VEGETABLES FOR A SMALL GARDEN

Bush beans	Chard	Onions	Radishes
Tomatoes	Turnips	Lettuce	Squash
Eggplant	Beets	Broccoli	
Carrots	Peppers		

### LOCATION OF VEGETABLES IN THE GARDEN

Arrange vegetables in a way that makes the most efficient use of space and light. Group tall vegetables such as okra, corn and tomatoes together on the north side of the garden where they won't shade shorter vegetables such as bush beans. Also, group vegetables according to maturity. This makes it easier to replant after removing an early crop such as lettuce or beets (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Plant tall vegetables where they won't shade shorter plants.

### TIMING OF PLANTING

Vegetables are divided into two general groups—warm season and cool season. Cool-season crops can stand lower temperatures; plant them before the soil warms in the spring. They also can be planted in late summer to harvest after the first frost in the fall.

Warm-season crops cannot tolerate frost and will not grow when the soil temperature is cool. Plant them after the last frost in the spring and early enough to mature before frost in the fall.

### TEMPERATURE CLASSIFICATION OF SOME VEGETABLES

COOL SEASON		WARM SEASON	
Beet	Greens	Corn	Squash
Carrot	Radish	Bean	Cucumber
Cabbage	Turnip	Okra	Tomato
Broccoli	Lettuce	Pepper	Eggplant
Onion	Collard		

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### HOW MUCH TO PLANT

Some vegetables produce more than others so fewer plants will be needed. The amount to plant depends on family size, expected production, and whether or not you plan to do any freezing or canning. Do not plant too much. Over-planting is wasteful and takes too much work.

AMOUNT TO PLANT PER PERSON		
VEGETABLE	EAT FRESH	PRESERVE
APPROXIMATE AMOUNT TO PLANT		
Beet	10 feet	20 feet
Carrot	10 feet	10 feet
Corn	15 feet	10 feet
Bush green bean	15 feet	20 feet
Pole green bean	5 feet	10 feet
Greens	10 feet	10 feet
Leaf lettuce	10 feet	-
Okra	6 feet	10 feet
Onion	5 feet	30 feet
Pepper	3 plants	5 plants
Radish	5 feet	-
Squash, summer	2 hills	3 hills
Turnip	3 plants	5 plants
Turnip	10 feet	10 feet
Broccoli	4 plants	8 plants
Cucumber	2 hills	5 hills
Collard	5 feet	10 feet

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The original version of this publication was authored by Sam Carter and B. Dean McCraw.

The information herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

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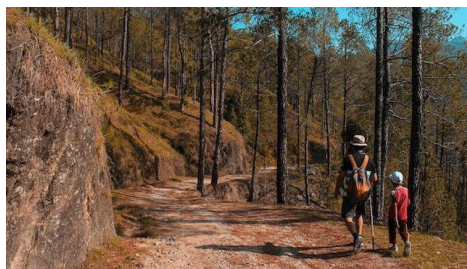
# AgrLife Learn

Discover valuable resources to build a thriving garden!

Prepare your garden now!



# Take a Hike



## Little Elm

66-miles of shoreline and an intricate trail system that continues to expand.

## Little Elm Park

[Little Elm Park](#) is one of the town's largest and most popular parks, situated on the shores of Lewisville Lake. It features a sandy beach area, a swimming area, a boat ramp, picnic areas, and playgrounds. There's also a volleyball court and a pavilion for gatherings.

## Beard Park

[Beard Park](#) is a serene neighborhood park offering a playground, basketball court, and a beautiful gazebo for picnics and relaxation. It's a great place for families to enjoy some outdoor time.

## Cottonwood Park

[Cottonwood Park](#) is a green space with walking trails and a serene pond. It's a peaceful spot for a leisurely stroll or for birdwatching. The park also has a playground for children.

## McCord Park

[McCord Park](#) is another neighborhood park with a playground and picnic area. It's a great place for kids to play and for families to enjoy a meal outdoors.

## Lakefront Trail

The [Lakefront Trail](#) runs along the shoreline of Lewisville Lake, offering stunning views of the water. It's a popular spot for walking, jogging, and biking. You can also enjoy fishing from the trail.

## Harts Branch Trail

The [Harts Branch Trail](#) connects the Lakefront Trail at Eldorado Parkway to Walker Lane. This 12-foot wide concrete trail winds through the beautiful trees and neighborhoods, providing connectivity to residents and visitors alike.

## Johnny Broyles Trail

[Johnny Broyles Trail](#) is a hike and bike trail with a 10-foot wide concrete path that spans just under a mile, and a crushed granite path of out one quarter mile.

## Ray Roberts Lake State Park

Explore miles of trails on foot, bike or horseback. Horse riders can use 12 miles of the trail, while 10 miles are for hike and bike use only.

[Johnson Branch](#) and [Isle du Bois](#) have multi-use trails, some of which are paved.

## Johnson Branch Unit

[Ray Roberts Lake State Park - Johnson Branch Unit](#) [Map & Directions](#)

## Dogwood Canyon Trail

This primitive path winds through Cross Timbers and pockets of native prairie, providing a variety of views.

## Kid Fish Pond Trail

Take a relaxing stroll around the Kid Fish Pond. Bring your pole, and wet a line when you finish your hike!

## Cross Timbers Trail

This paved trail is great for families of all ages! Pick this trail up from nearly any camping loop, and start your adventure!

## DORBA Trail

Named for the Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association, six consecutive trails were built by mountain bikers. Intense riding crisscrosses prairies and timber lands alike.

## Isle du Bois Unit

[Ray Roberts Lake State Park - Isle Du Bois Unit](#) [Map & Directions](#)

## Eagle Activity Trail

Can you leap like a frog? Scamper like a squirrel?

Test your animal abilities and more on this self-guided trail designed for kids and their families.

## Lost Pines Trail

Catch a glimpse of the lake, see a remnant of an early settler's cabin, and take in the towering pines mixed with native oaks and elms, all in a half-mile loop.

## Randy Bell Scenic Trail

Experience the many stories this trail has to share and explore the woodlands and prairies as they were before

Ray Roberts Lake was developed.

## Wagon Wheel Crossing

This trail system connects the Horse Blaze Trail on the FM 455 section of the Greenbelt to the Bluestem parking area, where you can access the rest of the multi-use equestrian trail system.

## Red Bud Run

Explore this relatively flat multi-use equestrian trail as it follows the shoreline.

## Rocky Spur

Up for a challenge? Explore the sandstone rocks and cross through terrain with many elevation changes.

## Visit our Booth



Look for the Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter booth at the following events:

### ***LLELA's Full Circle Trace Race***

**Saturday, April 13 - 8 a.m. to Noon**

**Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area Nature Preserve  
201 E Jones Street, Lewisville, TX 75057**

The Friends of LLELA is hosting the newly expanded "Full Circle Trail Race" to raise funds for restoration and educational projects. This year's event will be run by [Tejas Trails](#) and will feature all new distance categories including our first ever full marathon! **Races: 26.2 mi, 13.1 mi, 10k, 5k, youth 1 mi** [Registration is open](#) so secure your spot today!

### ***Lantana Earth Day***

**Saturday, April 13 - 9 a.m. to Noon**

**North Community Center, 11555 Lantana Trl. Argyle, TX 76226**

The Fresh Water Supply District is hosting the annual Lantana Earth Day event, with lots of exciting new reasons to park your car and stroll the exhibits! Earth Day will provide residents with information on the environment, tree care for our area, and tough native plants, with hands-on activities for the kids and a guided nature hike. It's also an opportunity to dispose of hazardous and bulk materials and get your sensitive documents shredded.

### ***Shady Shores Spring Clean and Arbor Day***

**Saturday, April 20 - 9 a.m. to Noon**

**Shady Shores Town Hall, 101 South Shady Shores Rd, Denton, TX 76208**

Please join the town of Shady Shores in celebrating Arbor Day! We are collecting shredding, e-waste and will have roll offs. BUT more than that we will be hosting several local community groups. Follow our Facebook event Spring Clean and Arbor Day Celebration (<https://fb.me/e/1rMWWWhnuC>) and watch the details unfold on our website <https://tinyurl.com/ShadyShorescleanups>.

### ***Redbud Festival***

**Saturday, April 20 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Denton Civic Center, 321 E. McKinney Street, Denton**

Celebrate in the Redbud Capital of Texas! The award-winning Denton Redbud Festival has been promoting community beautification and Denton pride since 1994. The Redbud Festival features dozens of vendors with tree and plant sales, gardening supplies, household items and local/handmade products, along with family-friendly activities and live, local music. This is a free public event.

## Project Showcase

# Wellness in Nature

A guided stroll in nature for persons struggling with memory loss and their caregivers



### Spring Season

**Denton** - Tuesdays starting April 9

(Civic Center Park, South Lakes Park, Avondale Park)

**Lewisville** - Wednesdays starting April 10

(Central Park, LL Woods Park, Dragon Park)

**Flower Mound** - Thursdays starting April 11

(Rheudasil Park, Heritage Park, Glenwick Park)

**Carrollton** - Fridays starting April 12

(Friends of Furneaux Creek, Senior Center Green, Elm Fork Nature Preserve)



Register today!



[www. DementiaFriendlyDentonCounty.org](http://www.DementiaFriendlyDentonCounty.org)

The Spring Season of the **Wellness in Nature (WiN) Walks** is here!!!

For six weeks beginning in April, Texas Master Naturalists, in collaboration with Dementia Friendly Denton County, will guide persons struggling with memory loss and their caregivers through select city parks across Denton, Flower Mound, Lewisville, and Carrollton.

Nature, intrinsic to our physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, has the unique ability to calm stress, boost creativity, empathy, and wonder, enhance social interactions, and alleviate feelings of loneliness, isolation, and anxiety, thus bringing significant health benefits.

We receive so much praise and positive feedback about this program. Here are some ways that you can be part of this life changing experience:

- ⇒ Participate in a park inventory of flora and fauna
- ⇒ Sign up to lead a walk
- ⇒ Place flyers in select locations and post on social media outlets

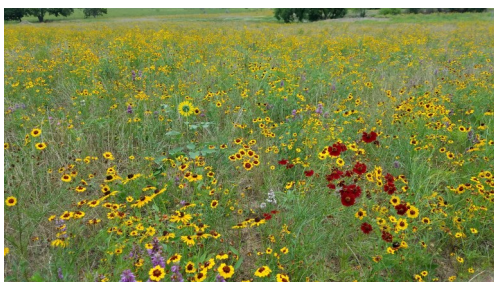
For details, contact Matt Brown at [mbrown75022@gmail.com](mailto:mbrown75022@gmail.com) or 972-839-0005.



# You Can Help!

## Prairie Restoration - Volunteer Day \_ Ray Roberts Lake

Want to get involved to make  
a difference ?



Join **Texas Conservation Alliance** and **Texas Parks and Wildlife** in restoring our prairies by aiding in the removal of invasive species and encroaching small trees. These efforts will prepare park grounds for future projects such as prescribed burns and native planting that will help restore them into natural, prairie habitat that will benefit local wildlife, park visitors, and trail accessibility.

- April 13th - 9AM-12PM
- [Ray Roberts Lake State Park - Isle Du Bois Unit Map & Directions](#)
- [Parking/Meeting Location—Bluestem Grove parking lot](#)

**REGISTRATION is REQUIRED.** To register visit the link below and sign up.  
<https://www.tcatexas.org/event-details/take-action-restore-prairie-at-ray-roberts-state-park>

This is considered a volunteer opportunity and entrance fees are waived for registered participants. Let Headquarters staff know you are a volunteer when you arrive (They will have a list of registered volunteer names)

[More information about this event...](#)



VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## Not a Texas Master Naturalist, but want to volunteer?

Check out these volunteer [opportunities](#)  
in your area.

**iNaturalist** describes itself as "an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature", with its primary goal being to connect people to nature.

 **DOWNLOAD iNATURALIST**  
Download the free app from  
your app store



### SEE IT

Find any wild  
plant, animal,  
or fungi



### SNAP IT

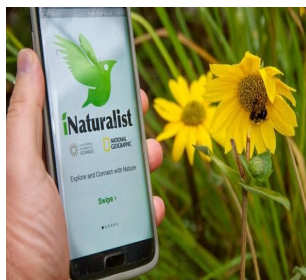
Take a photo



### SHARE IT

Share your  
photo on the  
iNaturalist app

**iNaturalist provides a place to record  
and organize nature findings, meet  
other nature enthusiasts, and learn  
about the natural world.**



Please consider  
helping our efforts.

**DONATE**

Our chapter provides close to 30,000 volunteer hours annually in **conservation, restoration and education** activities throughout Denton, Wise and Cooke counties.

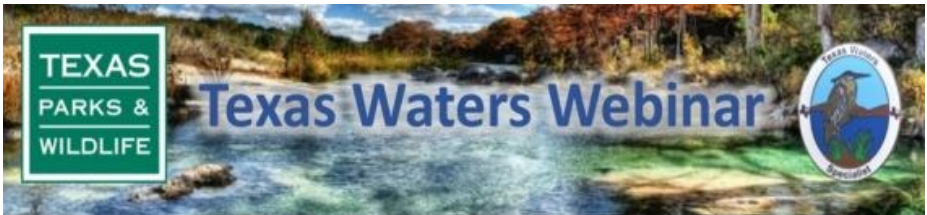
For over 23 years, we've trained close to 1,000 volunteers who have **developed and interpreted nature trails, built pollinator gardens, measured water quality, led educational hikes in area parks and nature centers, monitored species biodiversity** and led many other beneficial environmental conservation projects.

## More Educational Opportunities...

Interested in having a Master Naturalist as a speaker for your next event?

Contact our Speakers Bureau for more information.

[Request a Speaker](#)



Enjoy learning about improving water quality, water quantity, conservation practices, water law, and aquatic habitats. Join us throughout the year for FREE.

Desalination: Southmost Regional Water Authority Brackish Groundwater Treatment Facility: **Thursday, April 18 @ 6:30-7:30 PM CT**

Judy K. Adams, Division Manager, Jose Armando Garza, Water Treatment Manager, & Jacob Galvan with Brownsville Public Utilities Board; Southmost Regional Water Authority

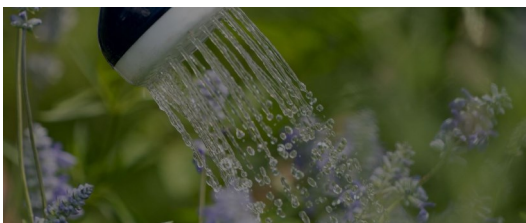
- [Register](#)
- Visit the [Texas Waters](#) webpage for information on becoming a certified [Texas Waters Specialist](#) and view recorded webinars from 2017-2023.

Many educational videos are available on our [YouTube Channel!!!](#)

In addition to this **Educational Opportunities** newsletter, The Elm Fork Chapter produces a monthly newsletter for it's members. This newsletter is now available in an audio version.

The audio version is being produced by our very own chapter member, Teri Schnaubelt (Class of 2023), an award-winning audiobook narrator of over 400 titles and traditional voiceover actor.

“Stream: The Naturalist News” (February 2024 edition)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwqbYBAGd7Y>



The **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service** is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices.

### DISCOVER AGRILIFE LEARN

**AgriLife Learn** is the home for educational resources for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Grab quick information for solutions you need now, or sign up for one our courses or certifications to change the trajectory of your future path. From gardening to goats, and childcare to lawn maintenance, we've got you covered with the latest research-backed information from Texas A&M AgriLife.

In addition to courses, a library of Publications are available to extend the latest research and expert knowledge with the people of Texas.

[Here](#) you can find this information as packaged material that are easy to use and download.

**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRILIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

# About Us...

## 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.

## Vision

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



## Training

The Elm Fork Chapter offers training for new Master Naturalists each year. Classes include instruction from statewide curriculum materials and from local experts on a wide range of natural resource topics. Look for information about the Training Program on the website.



## Service

Members volunteer thousands of service hours each year through work on projects which involve education, public outreach, trail clearing, tree planting, prairie restoration, and so much more.

**We look forward to YOU becoming a Texas Master Naturalist!!!**

To become a Texas Master Naturalist, please email us at: [training@efctmn.org](mailto:training@efctmn.org).

The Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter proudly serves Denton, Cooke and Wise counties.

The Elm Fork Chapter was established in 1999, as one of the first chapters in the state. We are a group of over 200 active members, sharing our curiosity, knowledge and love of nature.

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a partnership between the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and other local partners.



**Keep up to date on the wonderful world of the Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist program.**

**Please like us on Facebook and visit our websites!!!**



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611 Kimberly Drive, Hulcher Service Building B Suite 114  
Denton, Texas, 76208

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