

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

May 2024

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™
Elm Fork Chapter
1999-2024



Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —



GERALD CORSI/GETTY IMAGES - Harris's hawk

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.

"If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environment problems in the world."

- Dr. Thomas Lovejoy



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:
"Cooperative Hunting Behavior, Harris's Hawks" - presented by— Jim Bednarz, PHD

Thursday, May 16th
9 am to Noon
Denton County Southwest Courthouse
[6200 Canyon Falls Dr. Flower Mound](#)



Visit our Booth

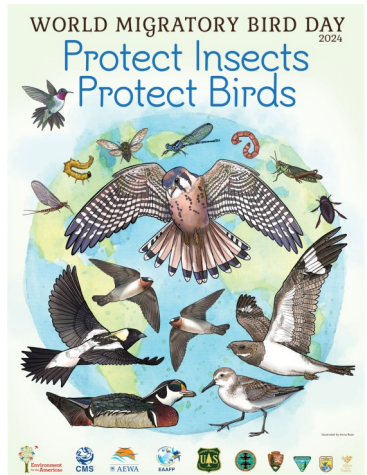


Look for the Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter booth at upcoming events:

LLELA World Migratory Bird Day
Saturday, May 11
Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area
Nature Preserve – Cicada Pavilion
201 E Jones Street, Lewisville

Migratory Bird Day is “a global campaign that aims to raise awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.”

This year’s World Migratory Bird Day will celebrate “insects and their importance to migratory birds.”



- 7:30 to 10:00 – Advanced Bird Walk; pre-registration and a \$5 fee applies
- 10:00 to 11:00 – Family-Friendly Bird Walk
- 10:00 to 1:15 – Learn from educational displays from local non-profits that support migratory birds
- 11:00 to 1:15 – Enjoy hands-on activities to expand your knowledge of all things birds
- 1:30 to 2:30 – Live Bird Presentation by the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center

FREE EVENT
Projects Showcase
Open to the Public
Thursday, July 18th
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Denton County Elections Building
 701 Kimberly Drive
 Denton, Texas

Come learn about our projects in Denton, Cooke & Wise Counties and find out what it's like to be a TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST.

Connect with Nature

Education & Training

Projects & Outreach

txmn.org/elmfork
 940-349-2882
 contact@efetmn.org

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing advance notice for program participation in the meeting should contact Denton County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or email to request website, email, hearing or other assistance.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Our Project Showcase is coming in July! This is your chance to get information about the work that we do from current members and project leaders.

If you are considering becoming a member of our Chapter, this is a must attend event.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Project Showcase

NESTWATCH

Helping to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive.

WHAT IS NESTWATCH?

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive.



The database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations, and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Participating in **NestWatch** is easy and just about anyone can do it.

1. Go to www.nestwatch.org HOME tab, scroll to “How to Count” graphic to become a certified NestWatcher (username, password and an online quiz regarding do’s and don’ts of observing bird nests).
2. Find a bird nest (or nests) (in a tree, in a bush, on the ground, or in a nest box, etc.) using the website’s helpful tips
3. Using the instructions regarding species I.D. and site location, record its (their) geographic location and “name” on the website
4. Visit the nest every 3-4 days (using website-recommended observation etiquette)
5. Record what you see (using the website-recommended hardcopy form) (Go to LEARN tab, under HOW TO NEST WATCH, select “Nest Check Data Sheet”)
6. Then upload the information on the website. You can also download the **NestWatch mobile app** for iOS and Android and record what you see at the nest in real time.

Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a life-long bond with the natural world.



Plant Native

Native Plants are for the Birds

Native plants and native birds have developed together over time and have a strong reciprocal relationship. Those who nurture this relationship will be rewarded with beautiful landscapes and the wonderful birds they will attract and sustain.



Birds and plants just naturally go together. But do we want just any kind of plants attracting just any kind of birds?

Research shows that even small native habitats can add up to a big difference for native birds. To help birds, each of us has to do important things that are good for birds. Each of us can make a difference for birds where we live.

By replacing our conventional landscaping with gardens featuring native plants, we can restore these vital habitats and create spaces for birds within our own backyards.

Find Bird-Friendly Native Plants

With [Audubon's Native Plant Database](#), you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Explore all of our native plant resources here, including our factsheets on [creating a native plant garden and how it can save you money](#). And, if you're attracting birds using native plants, you will want to ensure that your space is bird-friendly in every way. Visit our [Reducing Collisions](#) page to learn more about protecting birds from collisions with glass. <https://www.audubon.org/news/bird-friendly-plants-faq>

Seven Ways to Make Your Home More Bird Friendly

From your windows to what plants you grow, there are many ways to make your sanctuary a safe place for avian visitors.

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2022/seven-ways-make-your-home-more-bird-friendly>



Take a Hike

Ray Roberts Lake State Park (Isle du Bois unit)

May 7th from 9 am to Noon
Ray Roberts Lake State Park (Isle du Bois unit)
[100 PW 4137](#)
[Pilot Point, TX 76258](#)

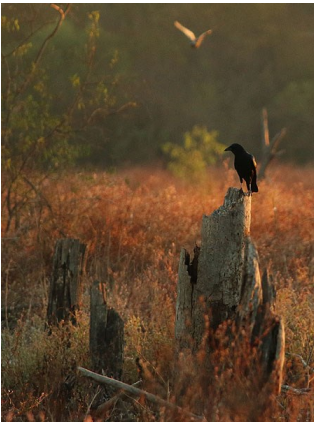
www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/ray-roberts-lake



Hike Led by Native Prairies Association of Texas

Join us for a unique look at one of the Metroplex's most diverse habitats, where an ecotone between the Eastern Cross Timbers, the Blackland Prairie and the Fort Worth Prairie support uncommon and rare plant communities. ***Must pay entrance to the state park. [Register Here.](#)**

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center



Explore more than 2900 acres of diverse forest, prairie, and aquatic habitats

The Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, located within Lake Lewisville's upper floodplain, provides residents and visitors with unmatched ecological, educational, and recreational opportunities.

The Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area includes the confluence of Clear Creek and the Elm Fork of the Trinity River and was originally established to protect and restore rare bottom-land and upland prairie ecosystems.

The City of Denton leases the land from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area.

[3310 Collins Rd, Denton, TX 76208](#)

Dementia Friendly Nature Walks: Wellness in Nature

May 15 from 10 am to 11:00 am
Central Park
[1899 S. Edmonds](#)
[Lewisville, Texas 75067](#)

Join Dementia Friendly Denton County as a Texas Master Naturalist guides a group walk through two of Lewisville's parks. These walks are a great source of exercise, education, and sensory stimulation.

All walks are free. A caregiver must accompany loved ones on the nature walk. [Click this link to register online](#)



LISDOLA: More Than a Walk in the Woods

Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area

Discovery Day! May 11th

[101 Fish Hatchery Rd, Lewisville, TX 75057](#) [LISDOLA TRAIL MAP](#)



Walking trails are 'family-friendly'. Trails loop for short walks, longer walks or really long walks. There are picnic areas for lunch or snacking, plus outdoor checkerboards & other play opportunities. Outdoor drinking fountain and restrooms.

You Can Help!

Volunteer with DFW Wildlife Coalition

Are you passionate about the wild world and the animals that live in it?

Volunteering for the DFW Wildlife Coalition is the perfect opportunity to give back to the wild world and the community in which you live!



Calls can come from all over the U.S. Some calls are from home-owners, others from children, who are frantic to find a wildlife rehabilitator to help them save an animal that has been injured or abandoned. Imagine for a minute that you are the person responsible for saving the life of a Red-tailed hawk, a fawn, a baby owl or an infant opossum!

Requirements to be a DFW Wildlife Coalition Volunteer:

- Eighteen years of age
- Have telephone service and Internet access
- Desire to learn about Texas native wildlife
- Commit two hours a week (three hours for 7pm to 10pm shift) to answer the hotline or chat, hours of operation 7am to 10pm
- Complete 6-hour online training and attend volunteer orientation

<https://www.dfwwildlife.org/volunteers/>

If you need help with a wildlife emergency, please call the hotline at 972-234-9453.

Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area Habitat Restoration

Every Monday and Wednesday, as well as the 1st Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Help in LLELA's native plant nursery.
- Assist in workdays to plant prairie grasses, seed wildflowers, or plant wetland plants.
- Process seeds to prepare them for planting (can be an indoor, seated job).
- Control invasive exotic plant species.
- Help cut new trails.
- Maintain existing trails, including the kayak/canoe trail.



LLELA needs volunteer assistance in almost all areas of operations on an ongoing basis. Please contact the staff listed for the project you are most interested in, below. **Note LLELA does have opportunities for large groups to volunteer. **Contact Restoration Manager Richard Freiheit at freiheit@unt.edu or call 214.264.8047 to discuss.**



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

Please consider helping our efforts with a donation.



VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Not a Texas Master Naturalist, yet?

Check out these volunteer opportunities !!!

More Educational Opportunities...

Learning with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Are you looking for nature resources for your classroom, home-school, or just for fun? We can help!

TPWD Classroom Resources pages gather materials from all corners of Texas Parks and Wildlife: state parks, coastal fisheries, outdoor education and more!

There are in-person and on-demand resources for students in early childhood through 12th grade. This includes virtual programs, videos, activities, and even teacher training.

TPWD Discover: Virtual, TEKS-aligned programs

On-demand videos: Pre-recorded videos with resources

In-person events: Field trips, classroom visits, career fairs

Activities and Lessons: Curriculum, loaner trunks and more

Teacher Training

In addition to this **Educational Opportunities** newsletter, The Elm Fork Chapter produces a monthly newsletter for its members; "**Naturalist News**".

Now available in an audio version:

"**Stream: The Naturalist News**" here >>>>>>>

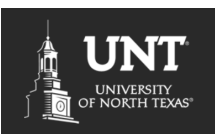


Many educational videos are available on our [YouTube Channel!!!](#)

University of North Texas Elm Fork Education Center

The mission of the **Elm Fork Education Center** is to develop and implement premiere environmental education programs. These programs will provide investigative encounters that engage students of all ages in field activities and discovery experiences. These opportunities are designed to encourage sound environmental decision making and responsible environmental stewardship.

Elm Fork Education Center is the public education branch of the University of North Texas's Environmental Programs which include Environmental Science, Environmental Ethics, Environmental and Community Journalism, Astronomy, Environmental Education, and the Department of Geography.



Elm Fork Education Center (EFEC) is located in the Environmental Education, Science, and Technology Building (EESAT) which is a 117,000 square foot environmentally friendly facility. <https://efec.unt.edu/>

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

[Request a Speaker](#)

Questions ???
Email speakers@efctmn.org



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.



Conservation



Preservation



Restoration

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.

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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