

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

June 2024

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™
Elm Fork Chapter
1999-2024



Celebrating
— 25 YEARS —



Great Plains Restoration Council

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.

"In nature nothing exists alone."

- Rachel Carson



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:
"Prairie Seekers: Teaching in Nature's Classroom" - presented by— Kate Morgan, Native Prairies Association of Texas

Thursday, June 20th
9 am to Noon
Denton County Administrative Courthouse
3rd Floor, 1 Courthouse Drive, Denton, Texas



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

June 2024

Visit our Booth



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

Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

Saturday, June 15th
 North Texas Fairgrounds
 2217 North Carroll Blvd.
 Denton, TX 76201 United States + [Google Map](#)



This is a county fair atmosphere where people of all ages from all over the county and surrounding areas can bring their home grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers to compete for ribbons.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Our Project Showcase is coming in July!

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@efctmn.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 accommodations for effective participation in the training should contact Denton County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Please join us as we showcase the work that we do!!!

This is your chance to get information from current members and project leaders.

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

This is a FREE event.

Project Showcase

THE FLOWER MOUND

The Flower Mound is a historic site and is a 12.576-acre native Tall Grass Prairie segment of the Great American Black Land Prairie. It rises 650 feet above sea level, and it stands 50 feet above the surrounding countryside.

Nineteenth century settlers named this landmark for the profusion of wildflowers that grew there. Since it was deeded to the Flower Mound Foundation in 1983, the Foundation's purpose has been to keep the original character of the Mound site and to promote educational, scientific and historical interests.

Master Naturalists work to help preserve this highly endangered ecosystem by eliminating woody plants and invasive species. Through educational programs presented at The Mound and the Flower Mound Public Library, Master Naturalists also help others learn about and care for the nature that surrounds them.



<https://www.flower-mound.com/684/Flowers-on-the-Mound>

The impact of living in a prairie environment is shown with Master Naturalist-led visits to the Gibson-Grant Log House, built in 1860-1861.



The house stands on its original site and is historically significant for its association with William Gibson, an original Peters Colonist,

and because it shows the evolution of early homesteads on the Texas prairie.



The Flower Mound is located at 2400 Flower Mound Road, Flower Mound, Texas, on the northeast corner of the FM3040 and FM2499 crossroads.

<https://www.flower-mound.com/>



Plant Native

What makes a plant a native?

One that exists in a given region through non-human introduction, directly or indirectly. (Andrea De-Long Amaya, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center)

All indigenous, terrestrial, and aquatic plant species that evolved naturally in an ecosystem. (US Forest Service)

A plant that lives or grows naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention. (USDA and US National Arboretum)

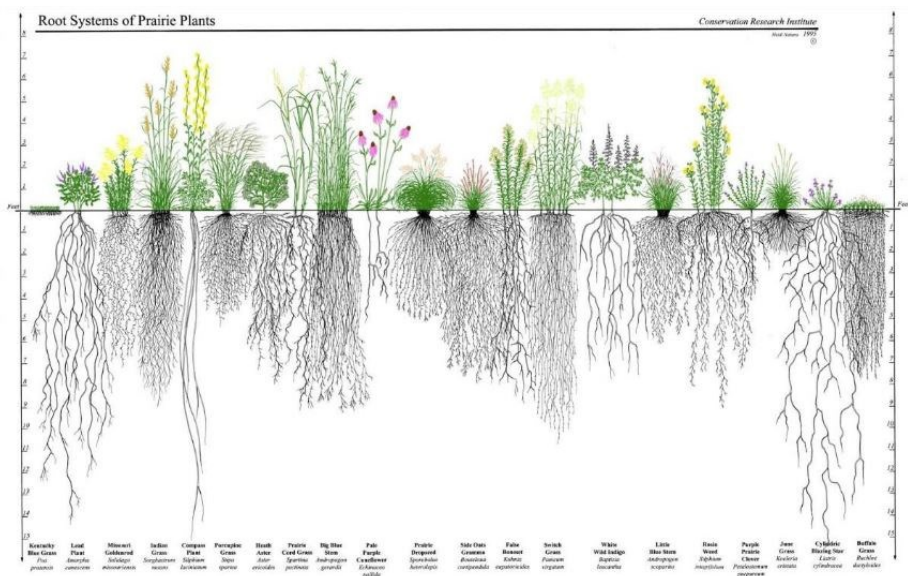
Any plant which is a member of a species which was present at a given site prior to European contact. (California Native Plant Society)

"I believe that what is and is not a native plant is best defined by nature herself. Because plants do not grow in isolation from the other living things around them...Over immense periods of time, these interactions help shape both the plants and animals...they coevolve" - Tallamy, Douglas, Bringing Nature Home, Timber Press

Native plant's role in the ecosystem

An ecosystem is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Plants form the critical base of food chains in nearly all ecosystems. For example, plants are fed upon by insects, which may be eaten by birds, which in turn are eaten by birds of prey, and so on. In general, native plants support other native species more effectively than non-native plants.

Native plants survive our challenging conditions because their extensive root systems reach deep for water during droughts and also help breakup heavy, clay soil.



Conservation Research Institute

Grow Native

- Less maintenance
- Less chemicals
- Less water wasted
- Less plant replacement
- Less soil erosion
- Less money spent
- More pollinators
- More wildlife
- More drought tolerant
- More clean air
- Much better for the environment

Gardeners play a valuable role in helping the environment by putting native plants to work in their landscapes.

Landscaping with native plants sustains native insect populations. In a balanced ecosystem, species further up the food chain eat plant-feeding insects before the insects cause serious harm. Native plants serve as the foundation of our native ecosystems. When used in a landscape, native plants attract and support local and migrating birds; pollinators, including butterflies, bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and other native insect pollinators; and an array of other wildlife.



Take a Hike

Ray Roberts Lake State Park (Johnson Branch unit)

Healing Through Nature Journaling

Learn how nature can heal your body and mind through nature journaling. Join Ranger Izzy at the Kid Fishpond, as she teaches not only about nature journaling but the healing impacts of nature on our body and mind.

You will be taking a half-mile hike around the Kid Fishpond to observe nature with all 5 senses and learn how to fully connect. After the hike you will get a premade (empty) nature journal for you to start collecting your adventure memories in and learn how focusing on nature can help you destress. (suggested for 13 years and older)



When: June 15th, Where: Kid Fishpond, Time: 10 am–11 am

Nighttime Bioblitz

Learn how bugs, birds, bats affect our state park.

Join rangers and other wildlife specialists from North Texas as we learn how to identify different nighttime wildlife within our state park.

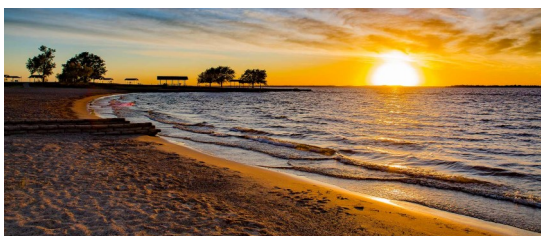
For nighttime programs we do ask that you reserve your day use passes ahead of time at reserveamerica.com



When: June 21st, Where: Kid Fishpond, Time: 8:30 pm-10 pm

Summer Solstice Hike

Take a hike with rangers to celebrate the Summer Solstice. Celebrate the beginning of summer by taking a 2-mile hike on our Cross Timbers, paved trail.



Ask questions and learn about the park.

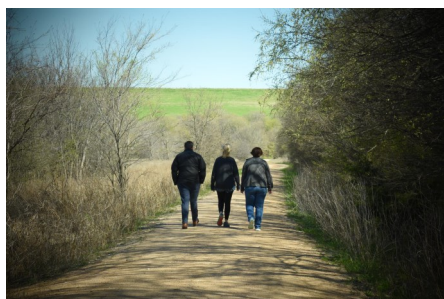
When: June 22nd, Where: Nature Center, Time: 10 am-11 am

****Cost: All programs is included in park fees (\$7 per person 13 years and older. (free for 12 years and younger)**

Ray Roberts Lake State Park - Johnson Branch Unit

Map & Directions

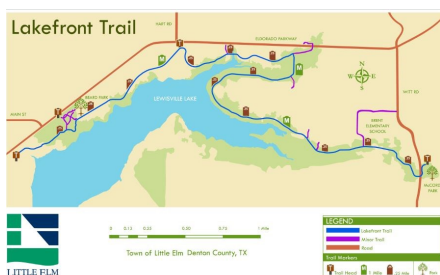
Little Elm Lakefront Trail



The Lakefront Trail is approximately four miles of crushed granite that connects Beard Park to McCord Park. Enjoy the scenic views of the lake, with several access points for fishing. This trail is ideal for hikers, runners, bicyclists, and anyone who enjoys seeing beautiful Little Elm!

The trail has four trail heads:

- Hula Hut restaurant, southwest of Beard Park
- Beard Park (310 E. Eldorado Parkway)
- Harts Road & El Dorado Parkway
- McCord Park (2050 FM423)



You Can Help!



VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Not a Texas Master Naturalist, yet?

Check out these volunteer opportunities !!!

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Center (LLELA) seeks volunteers year round.

In most cases, no experience is required. But by giving just a few hours of your time, you will likely discover a rewarding experience as a volunteer.



Preservation: Assist with development of trails, camping areas, bird banding, seed harvests, prescribed burns, bison management.

Restoration and Research: Help with habitat evaluations, plant rescues, invasive species removal, field studies.

Education: Lead visitors on weekend nature hikes, bird walks and bison tours.

Present badge workshops for scouts. Assist with spinning, weaving, wood-working, genealogical research, and storytelling at the Pioneer Homestead.

University of North Texas Students

Environmental Volunteerism Graduation Cord: Recognizes students for their outstanding contribution to environmental sustainability through community volunteerism.

The LLELA Track of the EVGC immerses volunteers in hands-on techniques used in ecological restoration. Through this track, students will gain knowledge and an appreciation for what it takes to restore ecological function in disturbed habitats. Students who complete at least 75 volunteer hours at LLELA will earn the EVGC and qualify for the LLELA Restoration Intern Program.



LLELA Restoration Internship Program:

Open to UNT students who have completed the requirements for the LLELA Track of the Environmental Volunteerism Graduation Cord. This internship experience provides important practice in ecological restoration and wildlife knowledge. The unpaid internship requires 160 hours of work at LLELA which can be completed at a personalized pace.

To request information or apply for the LLELA Restoration Intern Program, contact LisaCole@UNT.edu or Richard Freiheit Freiheit@unt.edu. For more information about how to complete the EVGC Program, go to the [We Mean Green Fund website](#).

**Note LLELA does have opportunities for large groups to volunteer.



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.



More Educational Opportunities...

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

Now available in an audio version:

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

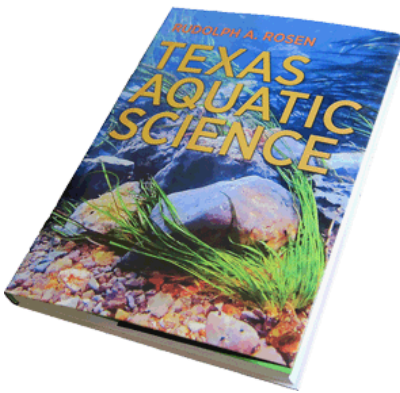


The Texas Aquatic Science Project

TASP partners are committed to connecting young Texans to the natural world through inquiry based, experiential learning, and support of outdoor recreation and industries.



Texas Aquatic Science is an internationally-recognized suite of **free** technology-enhanced learning materials entirely available on-line <https://texasaquaticscience.org/>. Also available in traditional format, it takes middle through high school science students through the wonderful world of water, from headwaters to oceans, and molecules to ecosystems.



The curriculum is comprehensive, was open to review by all Texas science teachers while being developed, and has been the subject of research studies involving over 167 teachers and 4,500 students in school districts in Austin, Dallas, East Texas, Houston, Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio.

The curriculum has received international recognition, has been the subject of publications in peer reviewed journals and was featured at the 2017 World Water Congress.

Texas Aquatic Science Teacher Resources and Guide

* For Teachers Only *

Accompanying **Texas Aquatic Science** is a comprehensive **Teacher Guide**. The **Teacher Guide** is available to educators for free download at the following website address: Texas Parks and Wildlife: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/learning/aquaticscience/>

For more information about the Teachers Guide program: <https://texasaquaticscience.org/aquatic-water-science-teacher-resources/>

The **Texas Aquatic Science Project** is a cooperative education effort sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife, The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University.

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

[Request a Speaker](#)

Questions ???
Email speakers@efctmn.org



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

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.

TEXAS A&M
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LIFE
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TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

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

Learn more about us on our websites!!!



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