

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

August 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.

“Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals.”

- Aldo Leopold

Please Join Us for our Next Meeting

Master Naturalist meetings are open to the public.

This month's meeting program:

“Lewisville's Roots For Wings Program: How One Texas Town Is Rethinking the American Lawn” presented by – TJ Gilmore, Mayor of the City of Lewisville



The North Texas suburb of Lewisville is encouraging residents to let their lush, manicured yards grow wild.

Thursday, June 20th

9 am to Noon

Denton County Administrative Courthouse

3rd Floor, 1 Courthouse Drive, Denton, Texas

[Denton County Southwest Courthouse](#)

[6200 Canyon Falls Dr. Flower Mound 76226](#)



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

August 2024

More Educational Opportunities

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



Thrive Family Camp Night

Saturday, September 14th

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Ages 4+

\$10/person

Thrive North Lawn

[1950 S. Valley Parkway](#)

[Lewisville, Texas 75067](#)

[to register for this event click this link](#)

Wise County Fire Convention

Saturday, September 28th

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Decatur Conference Center

[2010 W US Highway 380](#)

[Decatur, Texas 76234](#)

Elm Fork Chapter Land Management Awareness will be available to discuss helping private landowners assess their property's current wildlife habitat and to make recommendations how to improve it.

This is a FREE event

Wise County Fire Convention
"Sparks of Knowledge"

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready to ignite your passion for fire management!

Saturday, September 28, 2024 | 9 AM - 3 PM
Decatur Conference Center | 2010 W Hwy US 380

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with other burn enthusiasts. Bring your friends and family to this fun, educational event.

Many thanks to the agencies and organizations providing:

- Wildland firefighting equipment
- Kid-friendly activities
- Exhibit tables
- Seminars

Schedule

- 9:00 Opening Remarks
- 9:30-12:30 Prescribed Burn Associations with Dr. Morgan Treadwell
- 12:45-1:15 Defensible Space with the Texas A&M Forest Service
- 1:30-2:15 Landowner Resources a panel discussion

The members of Texas A&M AgLife will provide equal opportunities to programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity and expression in order to provide the best and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners County of Wise County, Texas, hereby certify that this poster is available to all, without discrimination, in order to provide the best and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgLife. Wise County Extension Office at 800-557-3343 for more information or assistance. Wise County Extension Office at 800-557-3343 for more information or assistance. Wise County Extension Office at 800-557-3343 for more information or assistance.



Denton Community Market

Saturday, October 19th

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

[317 W. Mulberry Street](#)

[Denton, Texas 76201](#)

A producer-only art and farmer's market in downtown Denton.

Live music > Kids Activities >

Local Farms > Local Artists > Food Trucks > Food Vendors

Visit our [YouTube Channel](#) for educational videos on many topics!!!

In addition to this Educational Opportunities newsletter, The Elm Fork Chapter produces a monthly newsletter for it's members; "Naturalist News". This newsletter provides more education and detailed information on our Chapter, including the work and play involved in our projects, and training. Now available in an audio version:

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



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

The Elm Fork Chapter Speakers Bureau provides a resource to the community for quality speakers presenting on topics related to issues that correspond to the Chapter's mission and vision.

[Request a Speaker](#)

Questions ???
email speakers@efctmn.org

Project Spotlight

Lewisville Extending the Green

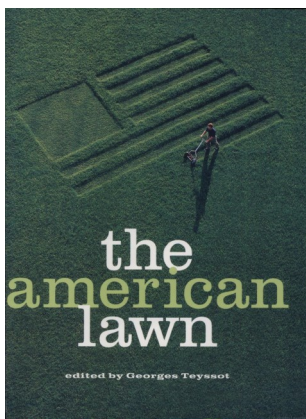
The **Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists** are helping to develop small nature parks in the **City of Lewisville**.

The overall **Lewisville Extending the Green** project includes public and residential sites that are undeveloped or planted with lawns of non-native species. The project will reintroduce appropriate native species to recreate natural landscapes.



Illustration by Nicolas Ortega

Manicured green lawns have a cultural undertow going back to the landed gentry model, when a wealthy, British landlord class lived off rental income.



According to a gardening book from 1837, *The American Lawn*, “If there are lawns or grass walks, they should be frequently . . . mowed and rolled . . . to give the whole a neat, regular, carpet-like appearance.” This ideal was repackaged as a demonstration of wealth and imported to the United States with little regard for native landscapes, temperatures, or rainfall patterns. Today, we water grass in the desert, an approach that is becoming increasingly expensive and time-consuming as climate change exacerbates drought, heat, and extreme temperature swings.

Public Areas include several existing parks, nature areas or gardens, to be improved and monitored. Other parks without natural areas or gardens will be developed using appropriate native species designs. Some green belt-type areas are being developed into wildscapes, while some major roadway medians will be developed with pollinator pocket gardens. The initial stages at each of an evolving list of sites will involve design, invasive removal, and planting. **Texas Master Naturalist** volunteers will be consulted about design issues and aid **Parks and Recreation** employees with hands-on work. The sites are in neighborhoods that will provide opportunities for education and hands-on outreach to the surrounding community. **Parks and Recreation** personnel are building community relationships in these areas. As the parks are opened, the role of volunteers will change from hands-on to education programs done in partnership with the **City of Lewisville**.



Residential Areas include assisting the city in developing and implementing the **Roots for Wings** program, a group of city-certified residential pollinator gardens. A first group of 40 Lewisville residents have been selected to develop pollinator gardens on their property. Those selected go through a one day training program. The plan includes adding another group of 40 each year. Additionally, **Texas Master Naturalist** volunteers assist the **City of Lewisville** in training, plant selection, garden design, monitoring of gardens and various public outreach events.

Roots for Wings is done in partnership with the **Denton County Master Gardeners Association**, **Native Plant Society of Texas**, and **Keep Lewisville Beautiful**.

Plant Native

Native Gardens and Parks

Getting out into nature is a great way to improve your health and inspire your own native plant gardening. Be sure to use take pictures and use **iNaturalist** to help identify and record what you see.

When you're ready to plant, seek out nurseries that concentrate on native plant varieties. The **NICE** Native Plant Partner program is a collaboration between the Native Plant Society of Texas and local nurseries around the state to offer native plants that are right for the local environment. Search for a NICE nursery near you:

<https://www.npsot.org/our-work/nice-native-plant-partners/>



Here are a few places to visit and get ideas for your garden:

Dr Bettye Myers Butterfly Garden and Carrol Abbot Wildflower Sanctuary



TWU's Denton campus is host to two a native-plant butterfly gardens that attract and sustain monarchs and many other butterflies, bees and birds. The **Dr. Bettye Myers Butterfly Garden** is located next to the Ann Stuart Science Complex in the south part of campus, and the **Carroll Abbot Wildflower Sanctuary** is next to the Texas Pond in the northwest portion of campus.

[1605 N. Bell Ave., Denton, TX 76204](https://www.twu.edu/locations/denton-campus/1605-n-bell-ave)

Green Acres Farm Memorial Park

Green Acres is a Flower Mound town park of about 13 acres, located off of Simmons Road near to Grapevine Lake. The land was donated to the town by the Davis family, who operated a horse farm there. Originally there was a barn, horse arena, pasture area, and their home and pool. Green Acres is an amazing place—a bit of country in the city.



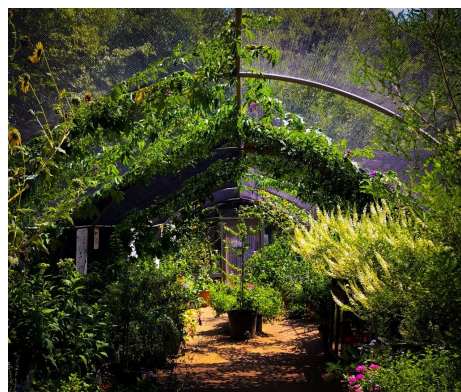
[4400 Hide-A-Way Ln, Flower Mound, TX 75022](https://www.flowermoundtx.com/parks-recreation/green-acres-farm)

Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary

Since 1967, the Heard has been dedicated to bringing nature and people together through a variety of events and educational opportunities in our 289-acre nature preserve and museum.



[1 Nature Pl, McKinney, TX 75069](https://www.heard.org/1-nature-pl)



There are many garden paths to explore and ways to learn about the benefits of native plants and landscapes. Heard general admission provides access to permanent and seasonal exhibits, gardens, nature trails and more.

Take a Hike

Scientific research and health professionals agree that hitting the trails is advantageous for all aspects of fitness and mental wellness.

Sturgeon Full Moon Night Hike

August 19th

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

[201 E. Jones Street,](#)

[Lewisville, Texas 75057](#)



Join an illuminating evening trekking along LLELA's Cottonwood trail and enjoy the Sturgeon Full Moon!

This full Moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes and other major lakes were more easily caught at this time of the year. This Moon has also been known as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy LLELA after hours!

Only \$15 per person, ages 5 and up are welcome! [Registration is required](#)

Nighttime Bioblitz

August 23rd

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

[Ray Roberts Lake State Park](#)

[Johnson Branch Unit](#)

[Map & Directions](#)

Meet at the Boat Ramp



Explore the park at night and learn about our nighttime wildlife.

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

We will focus on birds, bats, and bugs from 8pm-10pm. Then join us for a blacklight hike from 10pm-11pm.

For nighttime programs we do ask that you reserve your day use passes ahead of time at [reserveamerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com)

Program is included in park fees (\$7 per person 13 years and older, Free for 12 years and younger).

Healing Through Nature Journaling

August 31st

10:00 am-11:30 am

[Ray Roberts Lake State Park](#)

[Johnson Branch Unit](#)

[Map & Directions](#)

Meet at Kid Fishpond



Learn how nature can help heal your body and mind with nature journaling.

Life can be hard, and sometimes we don't know how to get through our emotions or the thousands of thoughts in our heads. Join Ranger Izzy, as she teaches not only about nature journaling but the healing impacts of nature on our body and mind. We 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 nature journal to start collecting your own adventure memories and help you to destress.

***Suggested for 13 years and older. Program is included in park fees (\$7 per person 13 years and older, Free for 12 years and younger).



You Can Help!

North Texas Giving Day is coming up, and it's a primary way that the **Elm Fork Chapter** receives donations to help fund Chapter projects and provide scholarships for members seeking to attend the **Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting**.

This annual meeting is an educational event that improves the knowledge, awareness and work done towards fulfilling our mission.

Save the Date
North Texas Giving Day
September 19, 2024

9.19.24
NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY
COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
SPONSORED BY amazon

T E X A S
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For more information:

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/organization/ElmFork>

Drones for Restoration

August 17, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area
201 E. Jones Street
Lewisville, Texas 75057
Meet at the LLELA Classroom located near the Blackjack Trail parking area.



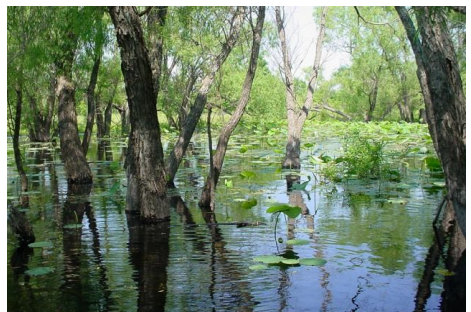
Purchased by the **Friends of LLELA** with donations from the 2023 North Texas Giving Day event, a new drone will enable staff and student researchers to monitor and plan restoration efforts more strategically than ever before. Drone images overlaid on topographical maps will improve our restoration efforts by mapping vegetation, including identifying invasive plants for removal.



Additionally, the drone advances our partnership with the **UNT Geography Department** to develop a drone certification option for undergraduate students. Join John South for a fascinating exploration of how this modern technology will aid in a historic restoration. The lecture is free with \$5/vehicle entrance fee, payable upon arrival with either debit or credit card.

River Care Clean-Up

August 10, 2024
8:00 am - 11:00 am
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area
201 E. Jones Street
Lewisville, Texas 75057



Together we can make an impact!

Each month on the second Saturday, volunteers from the community, college students, Scouting organizations, and many others come together to help clean the Elm Fork of the Trinity River shoreline.

The River Care team meets at the gatehouse before driving down to the river parking area. Bring work gloves, sensible shoes, and spend a couple of hours clearing debris from the banks of the river.

No registration is required, just show up!

About Us...

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



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.



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