

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

T E X A S



*Celebrating*  
— 25 YEARS —

September 2024



Photo by Carl Malmberg

**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.*

*“Become like a bird, expand your wings, learn new things and fly as high as you can.”*

*- Unknown*

## Please Join Us for our Next Meeting

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

**This month's meeting program:**

**“Great Egrets” presented by – Carl Malmberg, Class of 2021, Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalist**

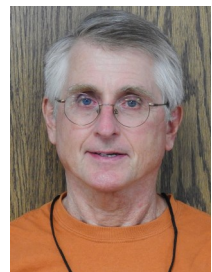


Photo by Carl Malmberg

**Thursday, September 19th  
9 am to Noon**

**Denton County Administrative  
Courthouse, 3rd Floor,**

**1 Courthouse Dr, Denton, TX 76208**

# Project Spotlight

## Great Texas Wildlife Trail Adopt-A-Loop

**Adopt-a-Loop** is a citizen science project by the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)** and **Texas Master Naturalists (TMN)** to better understand the distribution of Texas' wildlife. The **Great Texas Wildlife Trails (GTWT)** are used by many to visit sites across the state for birding and other wildlife viewing.



The GTWT program originated in 1996, and has subsequently grown to include 124 separate loops and over 900 individual sites.

It became an impossible task for the TPWD Staff to monitor all these sites, so the Adopt-A-Loop program was implemented to allow Texas Master Naturalist Chapters to assist with the task of monitoring.

By adopting a loop on the GTWT, TMN chapter members assist in ensuring that site information along the GTWT is updated and accurate, and perform site surveys throughout the year. The information gathered from this project may be used to augment the TPWD's survey, monitoring and research efforts; including collecting data on our Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). This info is also used as a guide for informing visitors on what species to look for when they are at a particular site.

Observations of rare species may be added to the Texas Species Observations database which is maintained by the TPWD and used to assist environmental review and conservation planning efforts.

Volunteers use the **iNaturalist** app to capture pictures and record data for providing bird and wildlife mapping in our service area. Our work helps TPWD to educate the public to the biodiversity within these sites.



## Great Texas Wildlife Trails



<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gtwt-adopt-a-loop>

Current sites being monitored by the Elm Fork Chapter include:

- » Arbor Hills Nature Preserve
- » Bob Jones Park
- » Bartush Land and Cattle Co.
- » Miss Kitty's Bird & Bath
- » LBJ Grasslands
- » Ray Roberts Lake Isle Du Bois
- » Ray Roberts Lake Johnson Branch
- » Ray Roberts Lake Greenbelt Corridor
- » Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area
- » Clear Creek Heritage Center
- » Trophy Club Nature Trails, Trophy Club

Whether you are a birder, a wildlife enthusiast, or just want to see the wild side of Texas, these nine driving trail maps will lead you to the best spots to see birds, butterflies, bats, pronghorns and more.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/>

## Visit Our Booth

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



### **Nature's Classroom—Explore Texas Wildlife and Plants**

**Saturday, September 14th – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**City of Carrollton, Mcinnish Sports Complex**

[2335 Sandy Lake Rd, Carrollton, Texas 75006](#)

Explore skulls, shells, and furs; participate in crafts and activities; talk to experts in the outdoor field; and learn about wildlife conservation and sustainable living.

Free event.

### **Thrive Family Camp Night**

**Saturday, September 14th— 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**Thrive North Lawn**

[1950 S. Valley Parkway, Lewisville, Texas 75067](#)

Families will get the opportunity to bond over snacks, stories and songs, stargazing, and learning all about local wildlife. Make sure you wear some good shoes and put your game faces on as we compete in some fun glow-in-the-dark activities and flash-light tag. Ages 4+, \$10/person [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. Free event.

### **LLELA Open House**

**Saturday, Oct. 12th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

[201 E. Jones Street, Lewisville, Texas 75057](#)

Join the Mariposas celebration and learn about butterflies and their habitats. Participate in interactive exhibits and camping demonstrations to get hands-on experience with essential camping gear. Enjoy nature walks and fishing along the river for all ages and skill levels. Discover the flora and fauna that call LLELA home. And, no trip to LLELA is complete without visiting the historic Minor-Porter Log House to learn about 1870s pioneer life. Free event.

### **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. Bring the family and experience the best live music, kids activities, local farms, local artists, food trucks, food vendors, and more! Free event.

### **Green Meadows Fall Festival**

**Saturday, Oct. 26th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Green Meadows Event Center**

[5550 Martin Drive, Celina, Texas 75009](#)

Enjoy an assortment of fun games, competitions and activities; including hanging apples (the sanitary version of bobbing for apples), egg walk, egg toss, mummy wrapping races, pie walk, bounce houses, face painting, caricatures drawings and a petting zoo! Free event.

## Plant Native

Fall is a good time to plant trees!!!



Increase the value of your property and improve the livability of the environment around you by planting trees!!!

To prioritize plantings, **Keep Denton Beautiful** and the **City of Denton** are encouraging residents to purchase and plant larger trees with a rebate program.

Denton utility customers can apply for a rebate for each qualifying native or adapted tree purchased.

A tree rebate will be available in the following gallon-size increments. Rebate amounts are per tree for up to five trees per property.

5-gallon - \$50 \* 13-gallon - \$100 \* 35-gallon - \$250



For step-by-step instructions, an updated list of qualifying trees, and to apply, visit [www.dentontreerebates.com](http://www.dentontreerebates.com). Tree Rebate applications are accepted Oct. 1, 2024 through May 15, 2025 for trees bought and planted between Oct. 1 through May 1st.

The Tree Rebate Program is part of the Denton Tree Initiative, a campaign from **Keep Denton Beautiful** and the **City of Denton** designed to increase Denton's tree canopy by offering free trees, forestry education, and tree planting incentives to Denton residents, businesses, neighborhoods, and schools. Limited funds available; first come, first served.

### City of Denton Community Tree Giveaway

In addition to the rebate program, The **Community Tree Giveaway** is an annual drive-thru event that provides free trees to Denton residents each October and is Denton's largest and longest-running tree giveaway!

Tree Species Available:  
Autumn Blaze Maple  
Cedar Elm  
Chinkapin Oak  
Nellie R. Stevens Holly  
Shumard Oak  
Texas Redbud

Registration **OPENS** September 24 at 10 a.m. and pick up will take place **October 19**.

Registration and more information here: <https://www.cityofdenton.com/619/Community-Tree-Giveaway>



### Texas Tree Planting Guide



For over two centuries, **Texas A&M Forest Service** forester's have compiled tree planting knowledge to help with deciding which trees will grow best in your yard.

<https://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/ViewAllTrees.aspx>

The beautiful illustrations are by [Robert O'Brien](#). This project has been funded in part by the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program.

# You Can Help!

## North Texas Giving Day is Coming Soon!



**2024 NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY**  
COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS  
SPONSORED BY amazon

T E X A S  
Master Naturalist

For over 21 years we've trained close to 1,000 volunteers who have developed and interpreted nature trails, built pollinator gardens, measured water quality in our local creeks and streams, led educational bird walks in several area parks and nature centers, monitored species biodiversity and many other beneficial environmental conservation projects.

**DONATE** ❤️

North Texas Giving Day is September 19, 2024.

Donations help provide funds for Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalist projects, continuing education and member scholarships. Our Goal this year is \$1,500.

[northtexasgiving-day.org/organization/ElmFork](https://northtexasgiving-day.org/organization/ElmFork)

## Lights Out Texas!

Texas is globally important for birds. Approximately 1 of every 3 birds migrating through the U.S. in spring, and 1 of every 4 birds migrating through the U.S. in the fall, or nearly two billion birds, passes through Texas in one of the planet's greatest wildlife spectacles.

Lights Out, Texas is a campaign of education, awareness, and action that focuses on protecting the billions of migratory birds traveling through Texas.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Building owners, businesses, developers and homeowners can help protect migrating birds by turning off all non-essential nighttime lighting on buildings and other structures from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night.



**LIGHTS OUT, TEXAS!**

Fall migration  
Aug 15 - Nov 30

Help migrating birds:

- Turn off non-essential lights
- Make windows visible to birds
- Provide shelter, food and water

White-throated Sparrow/Danny Hancock/ Audubon Photography Awards

<https://texanbynature.org/projects/lights-out-texas/>

## Corinth Community Volunteer Opportunities

Keep Corinth Beautiful is hosting community Butterfly and Pond Garden volunteer workdays this fall.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved, meet like-minded people, and make a positive impact on our environment.

**Butterfly Garden Workdays—**  
Saturday, September 14th, 8 am  
Saturday, October 5th, 8 am

**Pond Garden Workday—**  
Saturday, September 21st, 9 am

There will be rock painting for the kids, flowers to plant, mulch to spread, and other garden maintenance tasks.

Corinth Community Gardens are located at [3700 Corinth Parkway, Corinth, Texas 76208](https://www.ci.corinth.tx.us/).



COMMUNITY OF CORINTH  
**Let's LEARN and plant!**

Come join us at the Corinth Community Park Pond for a day of learning about your local ecosystem and planting aquatic plants!

**09.21.2024**  
From 9 AM to 4 PM  
3700 Corinth Pkwy, Corinth

**What to Bring**

- Gloves and Boots
- Hand Trowel
- Waders
- Water

# Take a Hike

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

## Thrive Nature Walks

Every 3rd Sunday at 9:00 am  
Beginning September 15, 2024.

Join Master Naturalists on an easy, family-friendly walk through **Thrive Nature Park**. We never know what we'll see or hear. Bring binoculars if you have them. Park at the Thrive Rec Center and meet up at the picnic table in the park near the Valley Pkwy crosswalk.



**1950 S Valley Pkwy, Lewisville, TX 75067**

## LBJ National Grasslands Hike

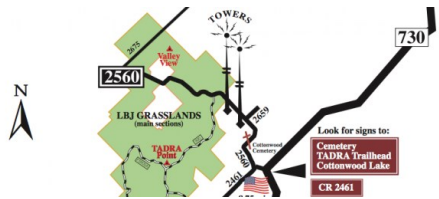
Tuesday October 22, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Decatur, Wise County



This tour is offered by donations. Suggested donation amount is \$5; but please donate any amount you believe this special tour is worth. Donations benefit Native Prairies Association of Texas (conservation & land trust organization) & are non-refundable.

The deadline to sign up is October 17th. [Register Here](#)

Meet at the TXDOT rest stop northwest of Decatur on Highway 287, 3 miles past the intersection of Loop 380 and Highway 287. Caravan from the rest stop to Windmill Lake (unit #2) at the LBJ National Grasslands.



# More Educational Opportunities...



**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](mailto:speakers@efctmn.org)

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 >>>>>>>>



# 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](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.



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