

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

October 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.

"I think there ought to be a big old tree right there. And let's give him a friend. Everybody needs a friend."

- Bob Ross

Please Join Us for our Next Meeting

Master Naturalist meetings are open to the public.

This month's meeting program: "Oak Wilt and Role of the Urban Forester" presented by — Eric D'Antonio, City of Lewisville



**Thursday, October 17th
9 am to Noon**

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

1 Courthouse Dr, Denton, TX 76208



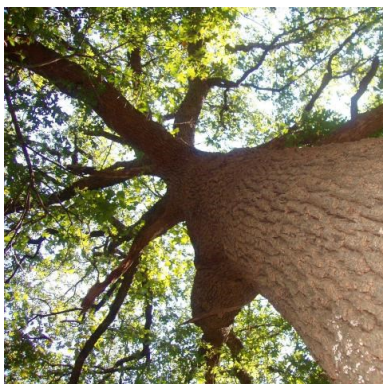
Project Spotlight

Trees and Forest Management

Volunteers utilize their Master Naturalist training and additional training from programs such as **Citizen Forester** to provide education, outreach, and service for better management of trees and forest areas within Denton, Cooke, and Wise counties.

This project includes but is not limited to the following activities:

- ◇ Assist municipalities with their urban forestry programs.
- ◇ Educate through public speaking engagements to community and neighborhood groups about the benefits of trees. This may include demonstrating proper ways to select, plant, prune, and care for trees.
- ◇ Assist **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** and **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension** in their programs when asked.
- ◇ Oversee citizen teams involved with planting, pruning, and maintaining trees in communities and venues.



Visit Our Booth

Look for Master Naturalists at these upcoming events:



Consider attending an event where Master Naturalists will be available to provide information on program and projects.

Pick up information and get guidance on supporting and learning more about the natural world in our area.

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



Tree Texas Well

There's something remarkably simple that anyone can do to improve their well-being – Spend time near trees. Learn how healthy trees and forests benefit you and your community through Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives.



<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/arboday/>

Forestry in Texas impacts the lives of Texans both economically and environmentally. The forestry program provides expertise and educational resources on establishment, management, environmental stewardship and much more.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension offers numerous free and affordable programs on agriculture and natural resources, family and community health, economic health and youth development.

There are also many volunteer opportunities.

https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/assets/environment-natural-resources/forestry/?asset_type=program

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/>

Fall is for Flower Seeds — In North Texas, sow wildflower seeds in the fall for spring bloom. Of the 5,000 or so species of native plants in Texas, approximately 2,700 can be considered wildflowers.

Select seeds of species that are native to your area.

These will be the most attractive and beneficial to native pollinators and adapted to your weather conditions. You can also compare seeds listed on packets with the native plant database on the **Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center**.



<https://www.wildflower.org/learn/wildflower-facts>

According to **Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center**, the 20 most common Texas wildflowers are: **Bluebonnet, Indian paintbrush, Firewheel, Evening Primrose, Horsemint, Drummond phlox, Mexican hat, Winecup, Black-eyed Susan, Prairie Verbena, Blackfoot Daisy, White Prickly Poppy, Rain Lily, Huisache Daisy, Spider Lily, Plains Coreopsis, Plains Wild Indigo, Engelmann Daisy, Antelope Horns, Texas thistle**

The **Denton County Master Gardner Association** provides a very helpful guide to planting wildflowers:

<https://www.dcmga.com/wp-content/uploads/docs/garden-basics-prepare/gb-growing-wildflower-seeds.pdf>



Take a Hike

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

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

2nd Saturday Bird Walk

Every 2nd Saturday at 7:30 am
September 2024 through 2024

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join an expert birder exploring prime birding locations along LLELA's nature trails. Ages 10 and up. Registration is required for this \$5 program.

Contact Erin Piper to register - epiper@cityoflewisville.com

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



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. 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

This tour is offered by donations. Donations benefit **Native Prairies Association of Texas** & 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

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 >>>>>>>>



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

You Can Help!



The LLELA Visitor Center is looking for new volunteers!

The LLELA Visitor Center is open Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. It is staffed exclusively by LLELA-loving volunteers!



This is a great opportunity for any volunteer who can donate 3-4 hours a month greeting visitors, answering questions, and just generally telling folks about LLELA

If you are interested in joining the Visitor Center team, please contact Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, [Erin Piper](#) or call 469.635.5482.

Texas Discovery Gardens seeks volunteers for 2024 State Fair of Texas

WE NEED YOUR HELP

VOLUNTEER WITH US DURING THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS!

Many positions available including:

- Butterfly House Docents
- Snake House Docents
- Gardens and Greenhouse Volunteers
- Gift Shop Volunteers
- AND MORE!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME!

- Free State Fair Ticket and Parking pass to volunteer and same day visit
- Exclusive volunteer lounge
- Access to volunteer appreciation event after the State Fair of Texas
- Gain valuable skills and help your community!

APPLY TO VOLUNTEER WITH US TODAY!

Go to txdg.org/volunteer-opportunities/ to submit a quick application today!

Contact: volunteers@txdg.org if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Located in Dallas' historic Fair Park, **Texas Discovery Gardens** is a year-round organically maintained urban oasis filled with natural wonders.

Family festivals, workshops, and an extensive (and always growing) EarthKeepers® student education program introduce children and adults to natural outdoor learning experiences.

TDG is the first public garden in the state of Texas to be certified 100% organic. The gardens are maintained using sustainable methods that conserve water and help to protect the environment.

Join Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Rotary Club members, and DFW residents who are interested in our environment.

No prior experience is required –you just need to have a desire to learn about nature and to convey your knowledge to visitors!

If you are **16 or older** and want to get started, just submit the volunteer form at <https://txdg.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Have questions? Please reach out to volunteers@txdg.org.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department volunteer program

Use your skills and passion to conserve and protect our natural and cultural resources in Texas State Parks. Opportunities are available in parks throughout the state for volunteers with varying skills and interests.

For more information, visit: [State Park Volunteer Opportunities](#)

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/volunteer/>



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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