

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Elm Fork Chapter



Naturalist News

August 2026 Volume 26, Issue 8



Bryan Lewis

We're on the Web www.txmn.org/elmfork

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/



Naturalist News

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Tammie Walters, Designer
 Karen DeVinney
 Mary Morrow
 Brynne Bryan

If you don't have time to read this month's issue of **Naturalist News**, click the box below to **stream** our newsletter in audio format, featuring the voice of Teri Schnaubelt.



On the Cover:

Neon skimmer
 (*Libellula croceipennis*)
 by Bryan Lewis



Inornate pyrausta moth (*Pyrausta inornatalis*)
 by Emily Markel, 2026 trainee

Announcements

Education That Inspires Action!

GARDEN AND NATURE EXPO 2026

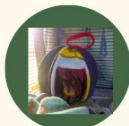
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 3

Denton County Administrative Courthouse
1 Courthouse Drive, Denton



ACTIVITIES



Animal
Rehab



Environmental
Support



Science with
Attitude



Buffalo
Soldiers



Helping
Nature

Family Friendly and Free



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.



www.dcmga.com
<https://txmn.org/elmfork/>

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

August Chapter Meeting and Presentation

Thursday, August 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Denton County Administrative Courthouse • 3rd Floor Conference Room
1 Courthouse Drive • Denton

Presentation:

Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Design, Performance and Maintenance

By: Dr. Fouad Jaber
Professor and Water Resources Extension Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center
at Dallas

Urbanization is reshaping the health of rivers, streams and lakes in every community. Join Dr. Fouad Jaber, an expert in hydrology management, as he shares nature-based strategies for reducing these impacts at residential and larger scales. He will also present findings from a green stormwater infrastructure study done at the Dallas AgriLife center and discuss maintenance considerations.



Photo by Fouad Jaber



Dr. Jaber is a professor and extension specialist in integrated water resources management at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas. A professional engineer in Texas, his research and programs in green stormwater infrastructure, nature-based systems, stream restoration and climate change resiliency have received over \$3 million in funding. His work is published in scientific journals, conference papers, extension publications and government reports.

Dr. Jaber's contributions have been honored with awards from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and the American Society for Horticultural Sciences. He earned a Ph.D. in agricultural and biological engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree in irrigation and bachelor's degree in agricultural and biological engineering from the American University of Beirut.



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

September Chapter Meeting and Presentation

Thursday, September 17th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Denton County Administrative Courthouse • 3rd Floor Conference Room
1 Courthouse Drive • Denton

Presentation:

Hidden Partners: The Role of Fungi in Plant Growth

By: Bob Richie

Urban Forager

TMN - North Texas Chapter

This presentation will explore the symbiotic relationship between plants and fungi. We will look at how this relationship was created and how both sides benefit. We will also explore what that means to us, as humans, living on planet Earth.

Bob Richie is a Dallas native who has raised almost every insect, mammal, reptile, plant and fungus that can be kept legally, and some that cannot. He likes birds, bugs, plants, fish, fungus, herps, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing, anthropology, archaeology and more. An amateur naturalist from an early age, Bob has spent much of his life outdoors.

As an urban forager, Bob teaches classes about edible and medicinal native plants and regularly appears on spring schedules at local nature preserves, parks and environmental centers.



Bob is a certified Texas Master Naturalist, a past president of the Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association, and a past board member of the North Texas Mycological Association. He is the father of two grown children, an avid bicycle rider and commuter, and a registered yoga instructor.



Awards and Recognition

July 2026

Initial Certifications

Noel Perez II

Class of 2025

Diana Slavinsky

Class of 2025



2026 Recertifications

Adelaide Bodnar

Class of 2007

Bonnie Hardy

Class of 2024

Alice Mankoff

Class of 2016

Brenda Martin

Class of 2023

Clay Thurmond

Class of 2016

Allen York

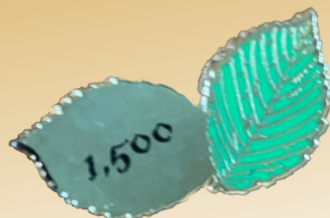
Class of 2017



250 Hour Milestone

Jim Kennedy

Class of 2024



1500 Hour Milestone

Barbara Beane

Class of 2018



Awards and Recognition

July 2026

4000 Hour Milestone

Leonard Chochrek Class of 2019



7000 Hour Milestone

Betty Zajac Class of 2003



*Congratulations
everyone!*



Field Notes in Focus



Redwhisker clammyweed (*Polanisia dodecandra*), by Cindy Jones

Inside Outside News

Advanced Training

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

August 21, 2026 8am-3pm

Denton County Extension Office

611 Kimberly Dr
Denton, TX 76208



HABITAT *at* HOME

**Managing the land you have with
the wildlife you want**

\$35 - Early Registration (ends 7/21/26)

\$45 - Regular Registration

Lunch and all course materials included
with registration

Program Agenda

8-8:30am	Registration
8:30-9am	Welcome & Introduction to Wildlife Management
9-10am	Land Resource Inventory and Habitat Suitability Assessment
10-10:15am	Break
10:15-11am	Species at Scales: What Wildlife Can You Manage on Your Size Property?
11-11:45am	Managing Wildlife Habitat Within Land-Use Restrictions
11:45-12:15pm	Lunch (provided with registration)
12:15-1pm	Choosing Scale-Appropriate Wildlife Management Practices
1-2:30pm	Building Wildlife Management Plans
2:30-3pm	Building Communities of Conservation

Agenda and presentation titles subject to change

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas.

What is Habitat at Home?

This workshop guides landowners through managing wildlife habitat on your land - regardless of acreage. From home pollinator gardens to white-tailed deer management, this series focuses on identifying the right wildlife species for your property, building a wildlife management plan, & integrating your land-use goals with your wildlife management.

Register Online



<http://tx.ag/2026habitatathome>

For questions about the program or sponsorship opportunities, email:
chase.brooke@ag.tamu.edu



Inside Outside News

Advanced Training

BAT WALK



Learn about
bats



Hear them
in action

Experience the magic of the night with a talk and walk using bat acoustic monitoring devices to help us detect the presence of our only flying mammals!

This program may
require walking on
uneven ground.



Lewisville Lake Environmental
Learning Area (LLELA)
201 East Jones St., Lewisville



Saturday August 22nd



7:30 - 9:00 PM

Space is limited.
Registration required!



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal
opportunity employer and program provider



<https://www.llela.org/visit/llela-events-calendar>

For AT enter under AT: Bat Project Acoustic Monitoring (for members who are participating in the bat walk)

For Service enter under FR: Bat Project Acoustic Monitoring (for members who assist with the bat walk)

Inside Outside News

Advanced Training



Making Tabling Interpretive

Wednesday, September 2nd

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Lost Pines Amphitheater

Isle Du Bois Unit of Ray Roberts Lake State Park
100 P W 4137, Pilot Point, Texas

Join Ranger Mindy Shumate to learn how to make connections during your outreach tabling, making it more than a "show-and-tell" presentation. You will learn techniques of interpretation that apply to any outreach encounter.

This advanced training is designed for members and initial trainees who actively participate in outreach or host at the Elm Fork Chapter's annual project showcase. Please bring any materials you need to take notes.

Sign up here: [Making Tabling Interpretive](#)

Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners will not be charged to enter the park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC | LIVE

Chasing Monarchs

JAIME ROJO
PHOTOGRAPHER
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

LIVE SPEAKER SERIES

September 30, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Perot Museum of
Nature and Science

Fifty years after the startling discovery that monarch butterflies spend winters in the forests of Mexico, photographer and National Geographic Explorer Jaime Rojo reveals this winged wonder of the insect world in new ways with never-before-seen visuals. Tag along with conservationists and citizen scientists who are helping this species avoid catastrophic threats, all through Jaime's beautiful photos and videos.

This is third part of the National Geographic Live Speaker Series being offered at the Perot Museum in 2026, which is applicable to our geographic area. There is a fee to attend. Registration can be found on the website link: [National Geographic Live: Jaime Rojo – Perot Museum of Nature and Science](#)

Inside Outside News

Advanced Training



EROSION CONTROL FOR YOUR LAWN
presented by a Certified Horticulturist

SEPTEMBER 12
9-10:30 A.M.

CORINTH NATURE PRESERVE
3901 CORINTH PKWY

 **Keep CORINTH Beautiful**

Jeremy Wayne Voss, Horticulturist, will discuss the definition of erosion, identifying signs of erosion, assessing the severity, and natural and structural solutions. This workshop is tailored to residential homeowners, but the presenter can discuss ways to prevent or slow erosion in natural areas.

This family-friendly event is open to all ages, and admission is free.
Registration is required. Reserve your spot today:

<https://tx-corinth.civicplus.com/3501/Erosion-Control-for-Your-Lawn>



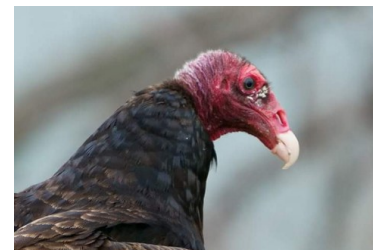
Volunteer Opportunities

DFW Wildlife Coalition

Looking for Volunteers

- Volunteer for a two- or three-hour shift
- Once a week from your home
- Six hours of online training

If interested or for more information, contact Beth Bargar or Andrea Dixon through the Membership Directory.



Inside Outside News

Volunteer Opportunities



Greenbelt General Maintenance and Natural Resource Volunteers Needed

The staff of the Greenbelt Unit of Ray Roberts Lake State Park serve as the management team for the Greenbelt and the natural resource team for the Ray Roberts complex. We are looking for general maintenance and natural resource volunteers to assist us in maintaining the greenbelt and conserving the natural resources of the area.

General maintenance volunteers have multiple service opportunities based on their areas of interest and the park's operational needs. Opportunities include but are not limited to a variety of maintenance tasks, special projects, and customer-related service.

Natural resource volunteer projects could include bluebird box monitoring, firebreak preparation, invasive species management & habitat restoration.

This opportunity is available year-round and provides a flexible schedule. No minimum hours per week are required. Campsites are not included.

Please contact Greenbelt Manager Matthew Moore at matthew.moore@tpwd.texas.gov for more information.

Minimum age of volunteers: 16 (if under 18, volunteer will need to print a parental release form and bring a completed copy to the park). Criminal background check is required for non-TMN members.

PO60212: RM Ray Roberts Lake, Bluebird nest box monitoring would be PO60212: FR

Inside Outside News

Volunteer and AT Opportunities

Ray Roberts Lake State Park, Johnson Branch Nature Center



Summer is in full swing at Ray Roberts Lake State Park and the Johnson Branch Nature Center. We are really needing volunteers to host at the nature center during the week. If we are not there, our beautiful nature center can't be utilized by the public. It is a great place for young and old to get in touch with nature. I will also add it is one of the few climate-controlled projects TMN-EFC has. Please sign up through the chapter's calendar on SignUpGenius.

Also, Ranger Celia is looking for volunteers who would like to hold other events at the center or in the park. This is from Celia: "For summer programs, I am always looking for an extra set of hands as well. I spoke to Lin Hampton while she was here this past Saturday about hosting watercolors at JB in July. I would like to have others come out and host programs, like for a bioblitz or naturalist talk. I would like to add more options especially for our early risers."

If you would like to host a program or talk please contact Celia at (940) 783-6793 or through her email: Celia.Flores@tpwd.texas.gov

*Be sure to check Plan Your Week
and the [Elm Fork Chapter Website](#) and [Calendar](#)
for More AT and Volunteer Opportunities!*

Elm Fork Chapter

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[Join Our Chapter](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)
[Activities](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Members Area](#)
[Donate](#)

References

Today < > August 2026 Month

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Aug 1
10am Ray Roberts L	9am LLELA Monday 9am Clear Creek Wk 10am Ray Roberts L	9am Beulah Acres A 9am Green Acres W 9am LLELA Trailhea 10am Ray Roberts L	9am Beulah Acres A 9am LLELA Wednes 10am Ray Roberts L	10am Ray Roberts L	10am Ray Roberts L	9am AT - Living Wilt 9am AT - Early Bird 10am Ray Roberts L 10am LLELA - Guidi
10am Ray Roberts L 2pm AT - Botany Ski	9am LLELA Monday 9am Clear Creek Wk 10am Ray Roberts L 1pm Roots for Wi	9am Beulah Acres A 9am Green Acres W 9am LLELA Trailhea 10am Ray Roberts L	9am Beulah Acres A 9am LLELA Wednes 10am Ray Roberts L	10am Ray Roberts L	10am Ray Roberts L	9am AT - Furneaux 10am Ray Roberts L
10am Ray Roberts L	9am LLELA Monday 9am Clear Creek Wk 10am Ray Roberts L	9am Beulah Acres A 9am Green Acres W 9am LLELA Trailhea 10am Ray Roberts L	9am Beulah Acres A 9am LLELA Wednes 10am Ray Roberts L 6:30pm AT - Texas	9:30am Board Meeti 10am Ray Roberts L 1pm AT - Beaver Sci	10am Ray Roberts L	10am Ray Roberts L 10am AT - Drawing I

Wild About LLELA

Sue Yost, Class of 2017

Make some tracks to LLELA! Most wildlife at LLELA is nocturnal and is never seen by visitors or even volunteers, but they leave clues they have been there! There are clues like scat, tree markings, leaf trails, and leaf chewing, but the best are the tracks! Especially after it has rained! The best track trail is the Redbud Trail. The base has a sandy soil since it is close to the river. The beginning of the west entrance of

the Blackjack Trail and the left side of Cottonwood Trail can also produce good tracks. Most tracks left behind are the whitetail deer. They are also the most recognizable. Even the toddlers can spot and I.D. them! Next are the raccoon and opossum tracks to discover. During summer camp, we have a track and scat day. The campers are provided with track I.D. keychains, and we walk the trails looking for tracks and then study them and make an I.D. Is that a coyote track or a bobcat track? We also let campers make their own plaster track to take home. There is a sand tray in the visitor center to make imprints of tracks. Tracks are just fun for all ages.

Take a hike on the Redbud Trail and look for the clues. As a good master naturalist knows, leave nothing but footprints on the trails as you discover wild things at LLELA.



Photo credit: Sue Yost

Features

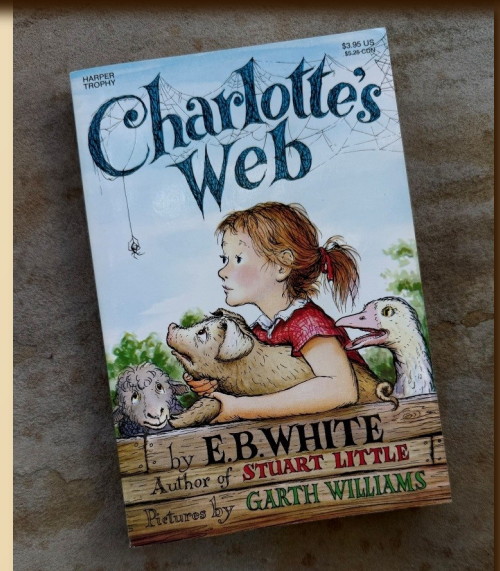
Charlotte's Web to Desert Solitaire—Shaping a Naturalist Ethos

By Jerry Hamby

When I was in third grade, Mrs. Branson gathered our class in a semicircle and read aloud from *Charlotte's Web*. For the next month, she teased out the plot a chapter a day. From the first pages when eight-year-old Fern tries to wrench an ax from her father's hands, I was hooked on the story of Wilbur, a pig in danger of being slaughtered, and the spider whose mission is to save him. E. B. White's classic story is the first of many books that shaped my worldview, particularly in the way I viewed nature.

Charlotte's Web introduced me to several universal themes, including love, friendship, loneliness, and loss. Decades later I am still moved by the chapter "Final Day" when the narrator recounts Charlotte's last hours. After entrusting her egg sac to Wilbur, she dies alone at a county fair. White resisted his publisher's pressure to write a more upbeat ending but softened the blow through Wilbur's acceptance of Charlotte's fate and his promise to protect her eggs until they hatch.

Before writing *Charlotte's Web*, White spent a year researching spider behavior and eventually worked relevant details into his book. When Wilbur comments on Charlotte's hairy legs, for example, she explains how they allow her to navigate and maintain her web and then teaches him the seven sections of her eight legs. The protagonist's name, Charlotte A. Cavatica, is a subtle reference to the binomial name of a barn orbweaver, *Araneus cavaticus*. Young children might not pick up on such a detail, but adult readers will appreciate that level of sophistication. White's fiction endures, in part, because he challenges his readers; in a *Paris Review* interview, he said, "You have to write up, not down" to children.



Charlotte's Web



Spotted orbweaver

My appreciation of spiders, with all their beauty and mystery, started with *Charlotte's Web* and continues to this day. I recently found a spotted orb-weaver (*Neoscona crucifera*) suspended in my bathroom window, and knowing she was unlikely to survive indoors, I moved her to the more suitable habitat of my backyard.

Last summer while monitoring bluebird nest boxes in the LBJ National Grassland, I spotted a red hourglass on the ventral side of a spider, alerting me that she was a black widow (*Latrodectus hesperus*).



Western black widow

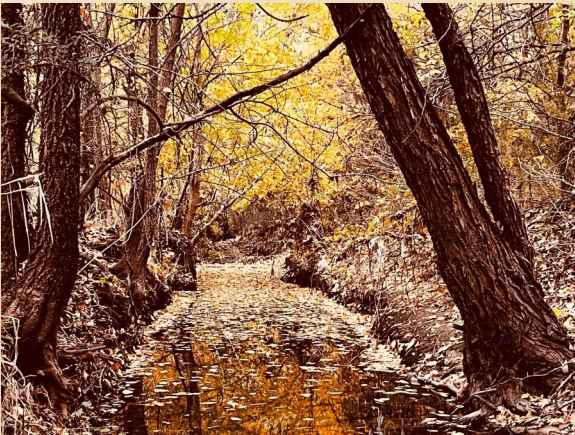


Charlotte's Web to Desert Solitaire—Shaping a Naturalist Ethos (cont.)

Black widows and brown recluses are the only venomous spiders in Texas. Because there are 900 species of arachnids in the state, spiders are easy to spot. Years ago at Armand Bayou Nature Center (in Southeast Texas), our guide ended a night hike on a viewing platform, where she instructed the group to hold our flashlights next to our heads. In the prairie below, we saw hundreds of eyes glowing back at us, a phenomenon known as “eyeshine.”

In college I performed in the outdoor musical *Texas*, which is set in Palo Duro Canyon. One night while a group of us crossed backstage through an underground passageway, a stagehand shined a flashlight on the wall, revealing dozens of slow-moving tarantulas. They were males, I learned years later, moving en masse in search of mates.

The next year a friend gave me a copy of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Annie Dillard's nonfiction book about her exploration of the creek behind her Virginia home. In Chapter 1, Dillard encounters a green frog, and as she kneels down for a closer look, the frog collapses, “formless as a pricked balloon,” before sinking below the surface. Beyond it she sees the shadow of a giant water bug, which had paralyzed and liquified the frog. She returns to this spot later and recalls the light of life disappearing from the frog's eyes. More than an observer, Dillard muses on the philosophical and spiritual implications of violence and beauty in nature.



South Lakes Park



Western ratsnake skin
(photo by Susan Hamby)

Following Dillard's advice to cultivate a sense of wonder, I have found small epiphanies all around me, crouching, for instance, in the tall grass of the Nash Prairie in Southeast Texas, as I waited for an eastern pondhawk (*Erythemis simplicicollis*) to return to its perch, which happened to be my shirtsleeve. In South Lakes Park (in Denton), I found the shed skin of a western ratsnake (*Pantherophis obsoletus*), which I took home and left beneath a live oak tree. Over the next two days, the shed moved from branch to branch, carried, I imagine, by a bird. Weeks later I found pieces of the snakeskin lining the nest of a Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*).



Eastern pondhawk
(photo by Brian Schrock)

Perhaps the most astute observer of nature was Henry David Thoreau. In *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*, he famously places combative red and black ants under a glass and watches them devour one another's limbs and feelers. *Walden* provided the



Charlotte's Web to Desert Solitaire—Shaping a Naturalist Ethos (cont.)

clearest inspiration for *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Like Thoreau, Dillard compresses events to cover a calendar year and plumbs humanity's relation to nature.

In his younger days, Thoreau paddled to the center of Walden Pond, lay on his back, and, “dreaming awake,” let the boat drift to shore. He describes being “rich, if not in money, in sunny hours and summer days, ... [which he] spent ... lavishly.” Near the end of her book, Dillard offers similar advice: “*Spend* the afternoon. You can't take it with you.”



Thoreau cabin site, 1996

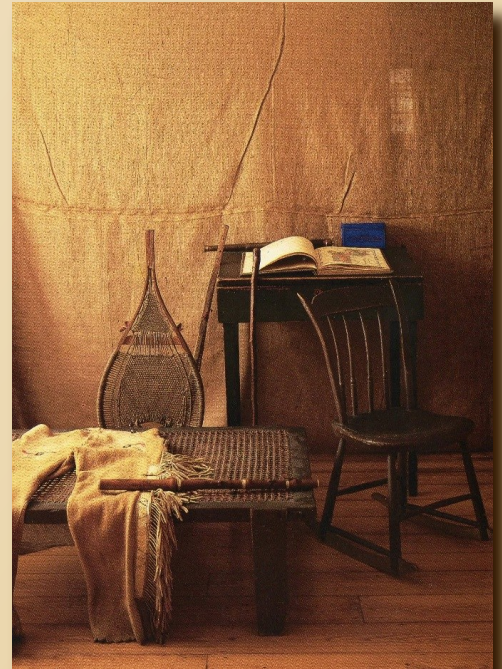
When I visited Walden Pond thirty years ago, the shore was crowded with sunbathers, but I had the woods to myself. I was looking for the spot where, in 1845, Thoreau built a 10' x 15'-foot cabin. All that remained were a chimney foundation, discovered by an amateur archaeologist

in 1945, and granite blocks marking the footprint of the building. I had seen Thoreau's furniture and furnishings in the Concord Museum yet struggled to imagine how he lived for more than two years in such a small space.

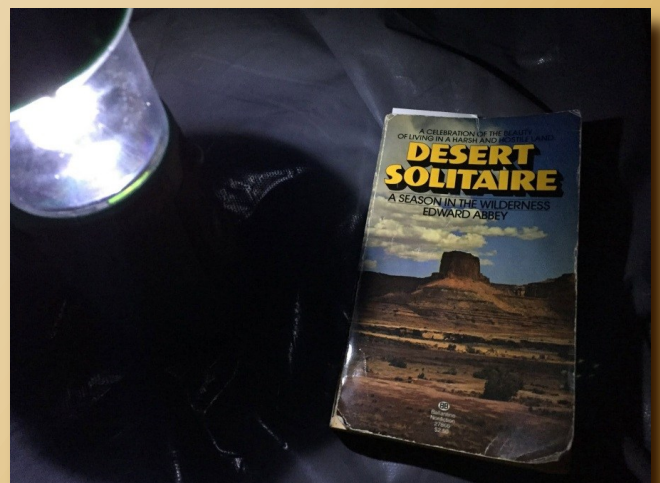
Twenty years later I made a literary pilgrimage to Arches National Park in Utah, where Edward Abbey was a ranger in the 1950s. Although he spent only two seasons at what was then Arches National Monument, his name has been synonymous with Arches since 1968, when he published *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*. He lived in a “little tin government house trailer” he characterized as “[a]n iron lung ... with windows and venetian blinds.” Like Thoreau's cabin, Abbey's trailer is long gone, and its exact former location has never been revealed.

Abbey was a fierce critic of how the park was developed in the years after he left. When he was a ranger, he followed a survey team that had marked the first five miles of paved road and pulled up their stakes and plastic flags. He knew it was a futile act, but it supports a central argument of *Desert Solitaire*, that the rights of the wilderness outweigh public access to the national parks. In a chapter-long polemic against “industrial tourism,” he says, “[I]t is the primary responsibility of the national park system to preserve *intact and undiminished* what little remains.”

Abbey's concerns about Arches were well founded. In 1957, when camping was primitive and trail access was



Thoreau cabin artifacts
(Concord Museum postcard)



Desert Solitaire



Charlotte's Web to Desert Solitaire—Shaping a Naturalist Ethos (cont.)



Delicate Arch

limited, there were only 25,400 visitors. Two years later, after the first road was paved, visitation jumped to almost 60,000. By the time I was there in 2016, the number of visitors had swelled to nearly 1.6 million.

Arriving at Arches before the peak of tourist season, I still encountered crowded parking lots, and I joined a long line of hikers on the 1.5-mile trail to Delicate Arch, the most popular natural feature in the park. Traveling deeper into the park, I saw fewer people, but even the Fiery Furnace, a labyrinth of narrow passageways that requires an Exploration Permit and advance orientation, was showing the effects of foot traffic. The fragile biological soil crust that supports most life in the desert environment was trampled in places.



Photographing Delicate Arch
(photo by Susan Hamby)

My appreciation for Abbey's defense of wilderness has grown since I read *Desert Solitaire* in graduate school. Having volunteered in places with limited public access, I understand the need to protect them. In *The Journey Home*, Abbey makes a more succinct argument: "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders."

I also appreciate the lens through which Abbey views the unfiltered power of nature. Unlike Dillard and Thoreau, who perceive a divine presence in nature, Abbey believes in a secular, earth-based spirituality. In *Desert Solitaire* he maintains that "forests and mountains and desert canyons are holier than our churches." The wilderness offers spiritual renewal more directly than religious institutions and inspires awe and humility.



Fiery Furnace (photo by Susan Hamby)

I have returned to *Desert Solitaire* many times over the years. Flying into Grand Junction, Colorado, the first stop on my weeklong trip to Arches National Park, I held the book in my lap, and camping in Palo Duro Canyon, I read about the search for a body and Abbey's admiration for how the dead man left this world, "in the open, under the sky, far from the insolent interference of leech and priest, before this desert vastness opening like a window onto eternity" I sometimes consider replacing my worn-out copy of the book but find comfort in reading the margin notes I scribbled forty years ago as I grappled with the same questions I continue to ask.

Photographs by Jerry Hamby
unless noted otherwise

Tweet of the Month

From Sue Yost, Class of 2017

It's hot. It will be for months to come. But hot in Texas means lots of insects, and lots of insects are a good thing if you are a bird! Nesting is pretty much finished, but insects played an important role in the diet of all those nestlings/fledglings. (Doves are the only birds in our area that do not feed on insects but produce a crop milk for their nestlings.) Once birds fledge, they will start to feed on foods like seeds, berries and more insects.

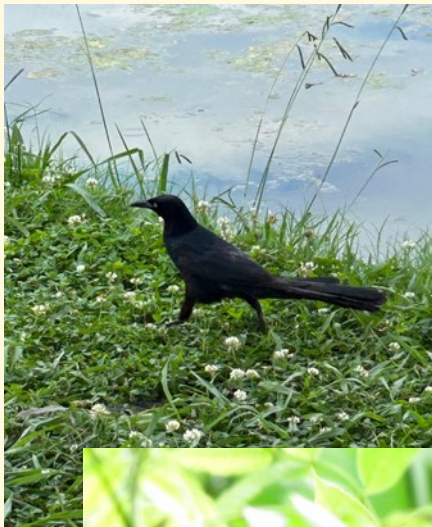
Birds with a strict insect diet are called insectivores, and we have plenty of those in North Texas. The list is long, but I will name a few common in the area: Eastern Bluebirds, Scissortail Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, Purple Martins, Barn Swallows, White-eyed Vireos, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Phoebe, Chimney Swifts, Common Nighthawks and Prothonotary Warblers.

Many birds eat both insects and fruit, a diet combining insectivorous and frugivorous habits. Notable examples include our state bird, the Northern Mockingbird, Robins, Waxwings and Orioles and numerous Warbler species.

Some birds eat everything! Some examples are Painted Buntings, Indigo Buntings, Grackles, Cardinals, Wrens, Chickadees and Titmice.

Offering a wide variety of foods in your yard attracts a wider variety of birds, and don't forget fresh water!

Photo credit: Sue Yost.



This Month's Contributors



Gale Bacon



Barbara Beane



Becky Bertoni



Pat Bragg



Jerry Hamby



Cindy Jones



Bryan Lewis



Susan Richmond



Fran Witte



Sue Yost



Betty Zajac



Carin Zeman



Brynne Bryan



Delia Croessmann



Mary Morrow

*And a big thanks to
Brynne Bryan,
Delia Croessmann and
Mary Morrow for proofing!
(Karen DeVinney was on
vacation!)*

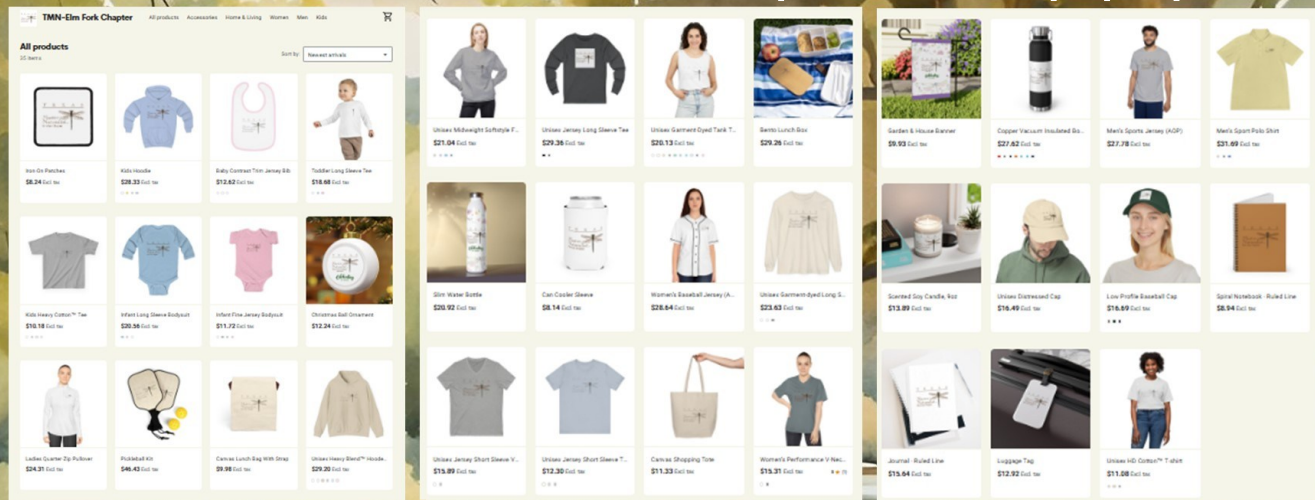
Almost the Last Word

Funny Finds From Sue Yost!



Almost the Last Word

Remember to visit the Elm Fork Chapter's online pop-up store



* New *
items

<https://tmn-elm-fork-chapter.printify.me/products/1>



**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**

*Please follow us at
elmforkchaptertmn and check
out all the neat photos
from our chapter.*

Show your project workday
on Instagram! Send
one to three photos to
socialmediateam@efctmn.org



Tammie Walters,
Editor

Thank you all for your amazing
articles and photos for the
Naturalist News!

We couldn't do it without you!

Please send submissions to:
newsletter@efctmn.org

September 2026 submissions are
due by:

Monday, September 7th



Who We Are



Texas Master Naturalist—Elm Fork Chapter

<https://txmn.org/elmfork/>

OFFICERS

President - Brenda Martin

Vice President - Sharon Betty

Treasurer - Ginny Richards

Secretary - Debbie Nobles

BOARD POSITIONS

Immediate Past President - Bryan Lewis

Member-at-Large - Open

BOARD DIRECTORS

Membership - Sharon Betty

VMS - Jim Gerber

Initial Training - Marissa Shaw

Communications - Susan Richmond

Volunteer Service Projects - Rob Blake

Advanced Training Programs - Delia Croessmann

Outreach/Adult Education - Sue Ridnour

New Class Representative - Kevin Shaw

CHAPTER ADVISORS

AgriLife - Erin Smith

Texas Parks and Wildlife - Mindy Shumate

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Our 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."

Our Vision

"In our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist will be recognized as a primary source of information, education, and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future."

Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m.

Chapter meetings are open to the public.

Board Meetings

The board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Monthly board meetings are open to members.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is committed to participant accessibility and will provide reasonable accommodations. Please contact the Denton County AgriLife Office horticulture department at least 10 business days in advance of the program.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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