

 α

Merry Christmas



www.pinterest.com

On the web: www.txmn.org/elmfork

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/TexasMasterNaturalistElmFork/

\triangle \triangleleft \bot \bigcirc \leq \propto \bigcirc ___ \geq ATURALIS Naturalist News Z \simeq <u>Ш</u> S \triangleleft \geq \sim \triangleleft \times ш ___ \bigcirc PUBLICATION

 \propto ш

Special points of interest:

- Recognitions in November meeting
- Some Interesting things happening
- Feature articles galore!
- AgriLife office has gained new faces from Elm Fork Chapter



Cinnabar-Red Polypore Pycnoporus cinnabarinus (Polyporus cinnabarinus) photo by — Jonathan Reynolds

Cinnabar-Red Polypore

Identification: Orange-red, broadly attached leathery cap

Season of fruiting: Summer-fall

Ecosystem function: White sapwood rot of dead hardwoods

Edibility: Inedible

Fungal note: Some fruit bodies can produce spores into the



Inside this issue:	
November Meeting Recap	3
Coming Up	4
Projects in the Community	5
Read and Learn-Features	9
Field Notes in Focus	16
Of Interest	17
NN Contributors this Month	21
Almost the Final Word	22
Who We Are	24

Page 3 NATURALIST NEWS

Recap November Regular Monthly Meeting

Initial Certifications:

Gale Bacon, Susan Hudiburgh, Denver Kramer

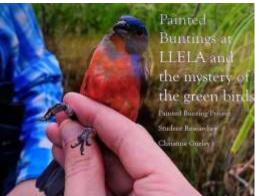
Re-certifications:

John Carpenter, Gay Campbell, Carolyn Richard, Joan Stanley, Brenda Tucker, Diana Watt

Milestones:

250 hours Robert McLaughlin, Francine Witte; 500 hours Danny Prins; 2000 hours Tom Mills; 3000 hrs. Mary Morrow, Susan Myers; 3500 hrs Scott Kiester













Photos from Denise Remfert





Page 4 NATURALIST NEWS

Coming Up—December Monthly Meeting

COME JOIN US FOR THE

EFCTMN HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

10.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M.

FRIENDS OF LLELA

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE RAPTOR CENTER

TEXAS NATURE CONSERVANCY

UGLY SWEATER, WEAR IT!

FRIENDS, FOOD, FUN! PHOTO-OP BRING A SMILE!

Projects In the Community

Article & photos from Van Elliott

New Members of the AgriLife Office MN Volunteers Support Team

In October, 12 members of the 2018 class completed the AT necessary to become members of the AgriLife Office MN volunteer team. They join the 34 other chapter members who are involved with the project.



This project [P160211:PO] provides support to our Texas A & M AgriLife Extension partner, Janet Laminack and her assistant Nikki Johnson. The primary function is to meet and greet members of the public who want to connect with AgriLife agents, provide directions to other offices within the Carroll building and around Denton. Additionally, we help with other administrative tasks which can be done while focusing on service to the public. The shifts run from 10 am to 2 pm, 5 days a week which allows members of the Ag office response time for other issues.

Betty Mullenweg coordinates the volunteer scheduling and Nancy Waldo is our training representative.

What was first a trial project in 2014 has now grown into a valued service for Denton county. Our members bring skill sets perfect for interaction with the public and members of the Ag Office. Plus, they get to learn about the Ag Life function and the relationship with TMN. It is also a year—round project offering service opportunities during weather that is too hot or cold to be outside comfortably.

Janet and the AgriLife office support our organization, give access to meeting rooms, storage for equipment and administrative support for MN functions. Our service is one way to express our appreciation to them.

If a project like this one interests you, drop us an email and let's connect.

Van Elliott Project Manager velliott2105@msn.com 972-539-4350 - phone



October 4 AT AgriLife Office Volunteers class Left to Right: Nikki Johnson [Ag Office Admin Assistant], Mary Thomann, Jeff Davis,

Center: Nancy Waldo [MN Ag Office Volunteer Training Rep], Deb Rucker [barely visible behind Nancy], Michele Rawleigh, Dooley Rucker,

Front next to Nancy: Barbara Beane, Caroline Finley, Jerry Betty and Lisa Rosenberg

October 25 AT AgriLife Office Volunteers class Left to right: Nikki Johnson[Ag Office Admin Assistant], JB Spalding, Alan Schiegg & Joyce Yarnall-Smith

Center: Nancy Waldo [MN Ag Office Volunteer Training Rep]
Not pictured: Betty Mullenweg [Scheduling Assistant] and Van Elliott [Project
Manager]

Projects In the Community

Article & photos from Marilyn Blanton







The Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2018

ore than 700 pictures were entered in the Texas Native Plant Art Exhibition 2018. The artwork was created by Denton ISD fourth grade students. It has been judged and 241 ribbons awarded. The Denton Senior Center hosted the first display. The exhibit will be at the TWU Blagg-Huey Library during December and January.

The artwork makes everyone smile! The students made creative, colorful pictures of so many of our beautiful wildflowers.

Marilyn Blanton, project manager





VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Elise Spain

Projects In the Community

DISD SCHOOL DAYS AT CLEAR CREEK

There was a rainy start for the fall DISD School Days at Clear Creek, but we prevailed. What a pleasure to work with Master Naturalists! Various students wrote that it was "awsom" "asom" "awesom" and "awesome" and we agree. A teacher from Ryan Elementary School sent this note to DISD: WE had THE best time today! What a treat this was! We all agree this was the best Clear Creek trip we have ever had. It was so organized, and relevant, and absolutely awesome to have the master naturalists guiding us all day!



Hats off to everyone who staffed the Art, Artifacts, Pelts, and Stream Trailer Stations and who hiked with the classes. Special thanks to Claire Kamego, Shannon Bushong, Karen Peden, Allen York, John Williams, Kim Wootton, and Carolyn Trivette who helped plan the stations and train volunteers. A big thank you to Janet Laminack and Colleen Carpenter from the Agrilife Office who joined us for several days at Clear Creek. Thanks again to Gay Campbell for the hand-painted banners which were well used and will be used again!

A total of 35 MNs were involved, many of them for several days. We all have stories about this adventure and not enough room to tell them here, but just ask us! I thought my favorite stories were in the bag and then the last day topped them all, when we had some hearing-impaired students and an interpreter signing for them as they went through the stations; I was moved by the animation and joy expressed in his sign language as the kids enjoyed the day.

It's been a great year for DISD School Days at Clear Creek. With 2200 visitors this fall added to the 2193 in the spring, we helped 4393 school visitors enjoy their field trips this year. BIG THANKS to these fall volunteers:

Adelaide Bodnar, Allen York, Angela Lindsey, Bill Coleman, Carolyn Trivette, Cheryl Ellis, Chuck Swatske, Claire Kamego, Daniel Arenas Richieri, Dave Ford, Elise Spain, Fran Witte, Gale Bacon, George Slack, Jane Duke, Jerry Betty, John Carpenter, John Williams, Jonathan Smith, Karen Peden, Kathy Webb, Kim Wootton, Lisa Rosenberg, Maggie Dodd, Mary Morrow, Mike Danner, Mindy Anderson, Nadine Beall, Nancy Waldo, Shannon Bushong, Sharon Betty, Sharon Sahm, Sue Yost, Susan Hudiburgh, and Toni Benjamin.

Thanks and welcome to 2018 MN Class graduates, Jerry and Sharon Betty, who will be leading the DISD School Days at Clear Creek project next year with help from many project veterans and any other MNs who want to join in the fun.

















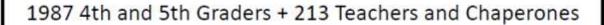




DISD SCHOOL DAYS AT CLEAR CREEK-FALL 2018

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

20 Days, 2200 Visitors











VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Read and Learn—Features

WHAT HAPPENS DURING WINTER TO OUR NORTH TEXAS REPTILES AND AMPHIBANS?

By Chuck Swatske
Master Naturalsit Class of 2018
November 20, 2018



S we move into winter from fall we are now in the time of <u>BRUMATION</u> for our North Texas reptiles and amphibians. Just to be clear reptiles (snakes, turtles, lizards), and amphibians, (frogs and toads) do not <u>HIBERNATION</u>. <u>HIBERNATION</u> and <u>BRUMATION</u> are closely related as they bring on periods of dormancy where the animal becomes less active, metabolic processes slow down and growth stops.

One of the biggest differences between <u>HIBERATION</u> and <u>BRUMATION</u> is reptiles and amphibians will need to drink water to avoid dehydration during <u>BRUMATION</u> allowing them to survive the winter. A mammal in true <u>HIBERNATION</u> will not need to drink water to survive the winter.

Reptiles like mammals will use stored fat for energy during <u>BRUMATION</u>, but different from mammals, reptiles will also rely on stored up sugars (called glycogen) that can be used for energy. Reptiles will not go into true sleep as will some mammals. Reptiles and amphibians will also have some activity during <u>BRUMATION</u> such as looking for food and water sources during periods of warmer winter weather.

Both reptiles and mammals will slow their metabolic processes during <u>HIBERNATION</u> and <u>BRUMATION</u>, but reptiles are better suited to survive in low oxygen environments. This is useful since many reptiles and amphibians bury themselves in the ground during the winter with very low oxygen levels.



As mentioned, another big difference between reptiles and amphibians is that they do not sleep for the duration of their <u>BRUMATION</u>. They go into a period of dormancy but will increase their metabolic activity (thanks to stored sugars) with periods of activity. So, if we look at our snakes as an example in North Texas, if there is a nice warm winter day they will slither out of their dens to sun or bask on a rock or log and then return to their dens to resume <u>BRUMATION</u> after taking on water and a nice meal.

<u>HIBERNATION</u> and <u>BRUMATION</u> are confusing terms and as I talk with people about our North Texas reptiles and amphibians the terms are often used incorrectly. Lots of animals go into periods of inactivity during the winter which are interrupted by waking. But, the differences between <u>HIBERATING</u> mammals and <u>BRUMATING</u> reptiles are significant.

As we as Master Naturalists work on our winter projects we must be aware that warm winter days will not give you a free pass from our slithery snake friends. As I always preach to people I talk with, do not fear our North Texas snakes. Just take the opportunity to observe, photograph and teach when the opportunity presents itself. But always be SNAKE AWARE even in the middle of our North Texas winter.

Page 10 NATURALIST NEWS

Read and Learn—Features

Wings in Winter Sue Yost Class of 2017

ver the next few months we will be in "winter" according to the calendar, but that doesn't mean it will be cold, icy and snowy. Whatever the weather, here are some tips for feeding the birds in the winter.

Birds are able to regulate their body temperatures in order to stay cool or warm. To do this they must keep their feathers clean and in order. It is essential to have fresh water available every day for them. On those days and nights that the temps will be freezing or below, bird bath heaters can be put in the bath to prevent the water from freezing. It also will protect the bowl from cracking or breaking. Whether it is glass, ceramic, concrete or plastic, frozen water can cause damage. As soon as our first freezing temps are forecasted I get out the heater and plug it in. I leave it plugged in all winter. That way I do not have to go out in my jammies at 10:20 pm [after the weather broadcast] and dump the water out and then go back out first thing in the morning to refill it! Worry-free! Birds will hit the water first thing in the morning so keep it thawed!

Birds expend a great deal of energy foraging for food. Make feeders filled with high fat bird products easily accessible. Black oil sunflowers, sunflower chips and safflower are seeds high in fat. Nuts and suet products also have a high fat content. Oil sunflower—high calorie/ounce ratio due to its high fat and protein content and its relatively thin shell. Sunflower chips are even easier as they come with no shell! Everyone's favorite is, Suet—high energy, pure fat substance which is invaluable in winter when insects are harder to find and birds need many more calories to keep their bodies warm. Wrens, Woodpeckers, wintering Warblers and Nuthatch, Peanuts—high protein and fat levels and are often an ingredient in suet products. Blue Jays, Titmice, Woodpeckers, Wrens and Chickadees, Live mealworms can also help those insect eaters in your habitat. When it's cold outside insects usually hide or die off making it more difficult for birds like Wrens, Bluebirds wintering Warblers and Kinglets to find food.

Birds will also combine territories during the winter. There is more protection from predators and it's easier to find food. So you will see larger flocks of Cardinals, Chickadees etc. feeding together.

"Caching" in.....Chickadees, Nuthatches, Titmice and Jays begin hiding food in the fall to retrieve and eat later in the season. This behavior is called "caching." Caching helps birds survive during bad weather and when food sources are low. These birds can store hundreds of seeds a day. Each seed is placed in a different location and they generally remember where each one is, even months later. I can't even remember what I had for dinner; how do they do it?

And don't forget to plant berry-producing trees and shrubs! My Possumhaw is loaded with red berries as are the Yaupon Hollies, favorites of Robins, Bluebirds, Mockingbirds and Cedar Waxwings.

Birds expend a

great deal of ener gy foraging for

Roosting boxes, nest boxes or natural plant covers can also help the birds seeking protection from winter weather. They also help protect them from natural predators. Be sure to clean out any old nesting material

that may have parasites or bothersome insects hiding in a nest box. Put fresh cedar shavings in Screech Owl boxes as they will also be looking for a place to roost during the daytime hours.

Join Project Feeder Watch and WATCH your yard come alive with bird activity! You never know what just might show up! FYI: All Master Naturalists [as well as Master Gardeners] get a 10% discount at Wild Birds Unlimited in Flower Mound. Just show 'em your badge!!

Read and Learn—Features



Daytime roosting Eastern Screech Owl photo by Sue Yost



Winter wings to look for.

Wintering warbler; Orange-crowned Warbler eating suet photo by Sue Yost



Wintering Fox Sparrow; ground feeder photo by Sue Yost



Male Red-bellied Woodpecker eating suet Photo by Sue Yost

Read and Learn—Features

A WEST TEXAS CHRISTMAS

Remembered

By Bob James



ack in the middle of the previous century when I was a young boy my family spent the Christmas Season with my Grandparents in Stephenville, Texas. They owned a large house south of town on the old Hico highway. All our family were there, my mother's four sisters, their husbands, all my cousins, my sister, mom and dad and of course my Grandmother and Grandfather. It was a marvelous time as we prepared for the Christmas celebration. We were all members of the Methodist Church and, of course, there was church on Christmas Eve.

Before Christmas there was always the search for the Christmas tree. At that time there were few Christmas tree lots selling trees. My Grandfather and several uncles, with the kids in tow, would go out of town and hunt for a cedar tree in

someone's pasture. Generally, we would turn off onto a county road with all of us looking for the right tree.

I remember on one occasion we spied the perfect tree. We called them cedar trees then but they are really Ashe Junipers (scientifically classified as *Juniperus ashei*) photo 1, Mountain Cedar or Mexican Juniper among others. These trees are found in the rocky limestone country from central to west Texas. They are the dominant tree in the Texas Hill Country. The bark is rough and can be pealed off in long strips. The trees have a wonderful cedar scent with large blueberry like berries that are consumed by birds and other wildlife. Cedar pollen can also be terrible during the fall of the year. When viewed under a microscope cedar pollen looks like miniature cockleburs (*Xanthium strumarium*) photo 2. You can just imagine what these things can do to your nose and sinuses.

These Juniper trees also provide habitat for the Golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) that is an endangered species, photo 3. These beautiful birds

migrate to Southern Mexico and Central America in the winter. They range up into the Cedar country in Cen-



(1) Ashe Juniper

tral Texas during the spring and summer where they breed. They are the only species with a breeding range confined to Texas. With the loss of the large mature Junipers the birds are slowly declining in numbers. If you are out wandering in a Juniper forest you might also watch out for another beautiful bird that frequents these areas, the Cedar Waxwing photo 4. They travel through this area in flocks during the winter.



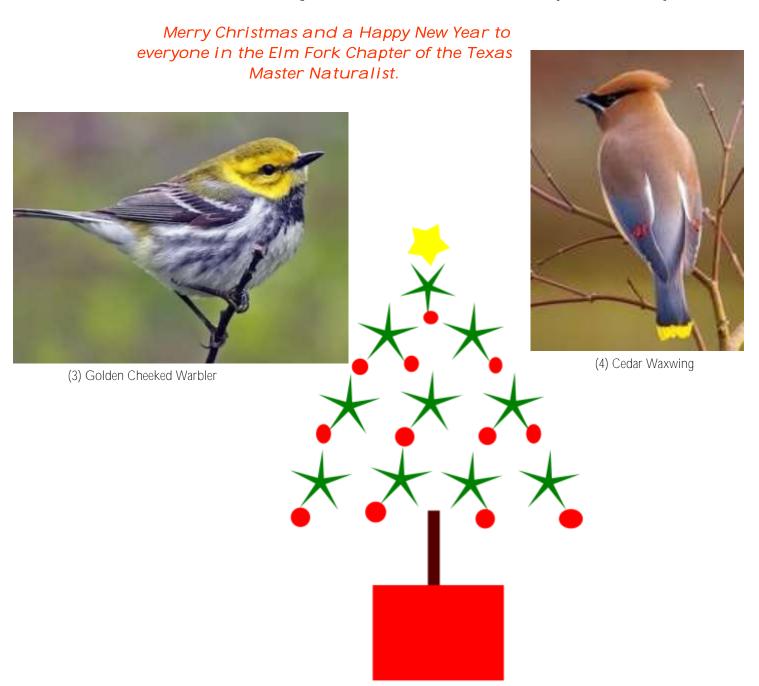
(2) Cockleburr

Page 13 NATURALIST NEWS

Read and Learn—Features

After finding the perfect Juniper my Grandfather drove up into owners driveway. We were out in the country and the old house looked vacant. We were immediately greeted by several barking dogs that came out from under the front porch. An elderly gentleman in overalls came out on the porch and my Grandfather and uncle got out of the car. My Grandfather knew the man and asked him if we could cut one of his Cedar trees. He told my Grandfather, "Ya'll cut down whatever you want. Why don't ya'll cut down all those trees in the pasture. I hate 'em"? We said we only wanted one and my uncle paid him a dollar for it. The man refused at first but took it reluctantly. A dollar was a lot of money at that time.

We took the tree home, mounted it on a stand and placed it against the wall in the living area. Then came all the decorations with cotton cloth around the base and a star on the top branch. There was candy, popcorn and hot apple cobbler to eat as we decorated the tree. It was a glorious time and has remained a rich memory of mine all these years.



Read and Learn—Features

Article and photos by Suzanne Sweeney

Holly the Basics

he Holly family (Genus *Ilex*) is in the *Aquifoliaceae* Family with 400 species of shrubs and trees worldwide, except for Australia. Holly is primarily an evergreen usually with alternative simple leaves many with wavy margins tipped with spines which can range from a shrub to a tree of 50 feet or more. Most species are dioecious, requiring a male and female plant to product berries – which are actually drupes. Color of the berries can be red, yellow, white, or black and usually are found in groups of 3-5. There are thousands of cultivars. Chiefly found in the tropics, sub-tropics, and tem perate region, llex is among the few plants that can grow in all USDA plant hardiness zones (or in all 50 U.S. states). The Pilgrims noted the presence of American holly in Massachusetts when they landed in 1620.





The National Audubon Society's Field Guide to Trees, indicates there are 14 native trees and 2 native shrub species in North America. The USDA plant database list ten hollies that are native to Texas while the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center lists nine, leaving out the Georgia Holly. These include American Holly (*Ilex opaca*), Carolina Holly (*Ilex ambigua*), Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Dahoon (*Ilex cassine*), Gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), Georgia Holly (*Ilex long-pipes*), Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), Myrtle Holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*), Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*), and Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*)



Yaupon holly was used by Native American to make a tea containing caffeine. The plant is the only known indigenous plant to North America that contains caffeine. It was mistakenly thought to induce vomiting when used in spiritual cleansing ceremonies lending the plant its species name, *vomitoria*. The berries of holly plants are slightly toxic to humans.

While holly berries (also leaves and bark) are not so good for humans, birds love them. Birds can handle the mild toxicity while humans and pets cannot. Research suggests that the berries lose some of their

toxicity after the first frost, which is when birds tend to eat them.





Page 15 NATURALIST NEWS

County removed the 35-40 year old eastern red cedar that has served as the Christmas tree for the Denton Holiday Lighting Festival for nearly 30 years. It was not doing well. The new tree planted is a holly tree! Not just any Holly tree but a seedling of the highly prickly Chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta*) that was found growing at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. in 1900. Ms. Stevens planted it at her farm in Maryland and crossed it with a English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) In 1953 while remodeling the owner's garden, it was "discovered," and become a popular addition to southern gardens. Not a native, Nellie R. Stevens holly tree (*Ilex x* "Nellie R. Stevens") is evergreen with dark shiny green leaves, orange-red berries, drought tolerant, adapted to North Texas, and can reach 20-30 feet in height with a width of 10-15 feet. It will make a gloriously beautiful Christmas-tree-shaped

Holly in general attracts a number of birds. Ducks, mourning doves, bobwhite quail, wild turkey, cedar waxwing, American robin, northern mockingbird, white-throated sparrows, bluebirds, woodpeckers, cardinals, catbirds, thrushes, and thrashers all find holly berries part of their winter diet. Mammals like armadillo, American black bear, gray fox, raccoon, and skunks also eat holly berries. Foliage and

twigs are browsed by white-tailed deer, opossums, and raccoons. The foliage of the holly provides cover for songbirds and mammals. The flowers are also attractive to bees.

Lucinda Breeding of the Denton Record-Chronicle reported that in April 2018, Denton

evergreen and last for years to come.





Denton square – Nellie R. Stevens Holly.

Sources Consulted

"Christmas Holly is one of the most popular Christmas decorations" https://www.fantasy-ireland.com/christmas-holly.html

"Every Holly Tree has a Story." The Present Tree. Posted on Feb. 24, 2017 https://thepresenttree.com/blogs/news/holly-tree-meaning

"Interesting holly facts" Northwest Holly Growers Association. http://nwholly.org/facts.html

American Holly Ilex opaca Arbor Day Foundation. https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeGuide/treedetail.cfm?itemID=1071

Beaulieu, David "The Holly and the Ivy": History Behind The Song - Meaning of This Curious Christmas Carol." The Spruce, updated 06/08-18 https://www.thespruce.com/the-holly-and-the-ivy-2132340

Beaulieu, David "Growing American Holly and Related Plants." The Spruce. Updated 08/17/18 https://www.thespruce.com/christmas-holly-history-2131214

Beaulieu, David "Nellie R. Stevens Holly Shrubs: Good Specimen Plants, Living Privacy Screens." The Spruce Update 11/01/18 https://www.thespruce.com/nellie-r-stevens-holly-shrubs-2132076

Breeding, Lucinda "New Christmas tree might be small now, but will fill out." Denton Record-Chronicle, Nov. 20, 2018 https://www.dentonrc.com/entertainment/new-christmas-tree-might-be-small-now-but-will-fill/article_26b8998d-b4d2-552c-8efe-3fe150738b16.html

Ilex vomitoria Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ilvo Ilex vomitoria. Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/llex_vomitoria -

Keffer, Ken "Berries for Birds." Birds and Blooms. http://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/attracting-birds/plants-and-trees-that-attract-birds/berries-birds/

National Audubon Society. Field Guide to Trees – Western Region N.Y.: Alfred A Knopf c1980

Oder, Tom "10 berries that birds love." Mother Nature News, Nov. 1, 2013 https://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/10-berries-that-birds-love

Sperry, Neil "If I could have only one shrub, it would be ..." Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Nov. 28, 2017 https://www.star-telegram.com/living/home-garden/neil-sperry/article186850853.html

Staake, Jill "Five Fascinating Facts about ... Holly" Birds and Blooms Dec. 21, 2013. http://www.birdsandblooms.com/blog/five-fascinating-facts-about-holly/

USDA plant database - ILEX https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=ILEX

Wells, Diana Lives of the Trees: an uncommon History. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, c 2010

Page 16 NATURALIST NEWS







"Elf on a Shelf" Bird Watching — Comes From the Gallery of Sue Yost (& granddaughter)



Featuring Master Naturalist photographers—flora and fauna (& occasional elf) as you see them

Page 17 NATURALIST NEWS

Want Ads



Of Interest

From Jan Deatherage



Part-time, rewarding job with flexible hours. *Excellent opportunity to win friends and influence people.*

Job Description: Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists are recruiting team members for the 2019 Training Committee.

Skills needed are all those basic skills you have naturally honed as an adult.

Communication skills

Ability to organize chaos

Sense of humor

Coordination of scheduling about 20 speakers over 12 weeks

Logistical support for getting people in the right place at the right time

Record-keeping to make sure team is on track

Availability for team meetings, March through August

Interest in others and desire for success of all team and class members

If this sounds like you, please reply to jan.deatherage@gmail.com.

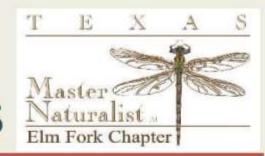


Page 18 NATURALIST NEWS

Of Interest

Election of Chapter Board of Director Members to be held at December Meeting. Nominations are as follows:

2019 SLATE OF OFFICERS



PRESIDENT

Adelaide Bodnar

VICE-PRESIDENT

Robert McLaughlin

TREASURER

Brenda Wellenreiter

SECRETARY

Kathryn Wells

Nominations will be taken from the floor and there will be a vote on Member-at-Large

Of Interest

Meet the Candidates



ADELAIDE BODNAR - PRESIDENT

Master Naturalist Class of 2007
2007-2009 Wildlife Coalition Hotline volunteer
2007-present Monitoring Project, co-chair with John Bodnar since 2009
2008-present Water Quality Monitor with Texas Stream Team
2009-present nest box monitor (for 2 years coordinated data input)
2015-present with Bird Banding Projects

Longtime member of Cornell Laboratory Feeder Watch.

Worked for 35 years in various medical laboratories, the last 16 years as a Toxicology Supervisor responsible for the Gas Chromatography/Mass

Spectrometer operations. President in 2018.



KATHRYN WELLS- SECRETARY

Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter, 2017 Class Co-Representative

- -Denton County Master Gardener Association, Communications Director
- ~Keep Flower Mound Beautiful, Marketing Coordinator
- ~Town of Flower Mound-Environmental Conservation Commission, Commissioner-Place 10 Previous Work Experience:
- ~Corporate Training, Mass & Media Communications, Public Relations, Writing/Editing

ROBERT MCLAUGHLIN- VICE PRESIDENT

Master Naturalist Class of 2017 Co-Class Representative Retired public school Administrator whose major responsibilities included Purchasing & Contracting, Energy Management, and Student Safety.

Volunteer at the Ray Roberts SP Nature Center and the 2nd Grade DISD Days at Clear Creek project.



BRENDA WELLENREITER -TREASURER Master Naturalist Class of 2014.

Her work background was in oil and gas accounting and financial planning. She also has experience in non-profit accounting with the Denton County Master Gardeners, Denton Freedom House and horse associations. She was EFCMN Treasurer in 2017 and 2018.







Those Who Built this Issue of Naturalist News



w odum, editor NN, class 2005



Elise Spain class 2017



Marilyn Blanton class 1999



Van Elliott class 2009



Denise Remfert class 2015



Mary Morrow class 2014



Gale Bacon class 2018



Dorothy Thetford class 2001



Chuck Swatske class 2018



Bob James class 2017



Jan Deatherage class 2011



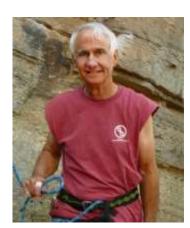
Sue Yost class 2018



Suzanne Sweeney class 2014



Brenda Wellenreiter class 2014



Jonathan Reynolds class 2014



Big Bend National Park

- 1. Big Bend is the biggest protected area in America for its Chihuahua Desert topography as well as its ecology also. This is because there are more than 75 different species of mammals, almost 450 different species of birds, 56 different species of reptiles and 1200 species of plants.
- 2. The land of the park covers eight hundred thousand acres and is bigger than Rhode Island. Artifacts that were found were thought to be almost 9 thousand years old and that the land-scape shows signs of life from the 19th century.
- **3.** The Rio Grande forms the international border between America and Mexico and along the 1000 mile border; the park covers almost 250 miles of that distance.
- **4.** It is thought that Native Americans lived in the area thousands of years ago. It is thought that the Native America groups of the Comanche, the Chisos and the Mescalero's lived in the area. However, over the years, Mexican, Anglo, Irish and Spanish settlers moved to the area and started to mine, farm and ranch the area also.

Above information from : www.basicplanet.com/big-bend-national-park/

Big Bend photos comes courtesy Brenda Wellenreiter







A very special and heartfelt thank you to Dorothy Thetford who served as the NN proofreader while Judi (regular proofreader) and Van Elliott were out of town.



A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS



ave a holly, jolly Christmas;
It's the best time of the year
I don't know if there'll be snow but have a cup of cheer
Have a holly, jolly Christmas;
And when you walk down the street Say Hello to friends you know and everyone you meet

h ho
the mistletoe
hung where you can
see;
Somebody waits for you;
Kiss her once for me
Have a holly jolly Christmas
and in case you didn't hear
Oh by golly
have a holly
jolly Christmas this year



Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Joseph A. Carroll Building 401 W. Hickory Street Denton, TX 76201—9026 940-349-2883



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT—Adelaide Bodnar
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT—
Don Fikes
VICE-PRESIDENT—Brent Farler
SECRETARY—John Williams
TREASURER—Brenda Wellenreiter
CLASS REPRESENTATIVE—
Kathryn Wells & Robert McLaughlin
MEMBER-at-LARGE—Bill Coleman

Communication: e-mail Donna Wolfe; website Martha Peet; Naturalist News

Wanda Odum

Opportunities/Projects: Diane Kohlhase

Publicity: Jan Deatherage Training: Jan Deatherage

Programs & Field Trips: Rita Lokie

Membership: Mary Morrow Hospitality: Linda Cox Resource Room: President

ADVISORS:

Janet Laminack, Extension Agent TPWD—Ricardo Torres

Our mission . .

to develop a corps of well-informed volunters who provide education, outreach, and

service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community"

Our vision . .

"In our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will

be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service t support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future."

May the Holidays bring you joy!



Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings

9:30 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Chapter meetings are open to the public.

Next meeting on December 13, 2018

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December meeting at:

701 Kimberly Drive

Denton, TX 76208-6301

Denton Elections Technology Services Bldg.

Board Meetings

The Board meets each second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Board last met December 6, 2018. Next monthly Board meeting is January 10, 2019

Monthly Board meetings are open to members.