



# The Dragonflyer

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Volume 16  
September—October 2007

## North Texas Master Naturalists in Action

A Photographic Review by Carroll Mayhew and Sara Beckelman



Circle Ten Scout Show May 2007

Photo by Beckelman



Alligator release, Ft. Worth Nature Center and Refuge

### Master Naturalist Class of 2007 Field Trip

The class was treated to an exciting field trip to the Fort Worth Nature Center in March. An osprey flew directly over the class with its lunch. The Center released an American alligator into their wetlands. All this excitement without a single new Master Naturalist being eaten.

Photos by Mayhew

## Osprey with fish

Ft Worth Nature Center



Tiger Butterfly

### Butterfly Farm

A trip to the Butterfly Farm in South Dallas was enjoyed by all. All stages of the butterflies are raised at the farm and shipped to schools and nature centers.

Photo by Mayhew



Fort Worth Nature Center  
Aquatic Field Trip August 2007

Photo by Beckelman



Seed Ball Party at Cedar Ridge Park

September 2007

photo by Beckelman

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## Texas Tree Trails Coordinator Needed

The Texas Tree Trails organization is a cooperative effort between the Texas Forest Service, the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition, the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council and the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, among others.

The mission of this project is to find, locate, recognize, measure, photograph and gather data on all significant trees in or near the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. Our Goal is to showcase the importance of these botanical, historical and cultural treasures and to preserve their presence for future generations. Texas Tree Trails will accomplish this by presenting the data on a website with "virtual tours", promotions and publications plus development of various "tree trails" within the program.

Our Significant trees are subdivided into four unique categories so they may be cataloged. These categories are Species Significant, Historic or Heritage, Champion Tree, and Big Tree. They all have specific requirements. At the present time, we have most of the major trees in the area categorized and listed. However, there are always new nominations to check out. We also need to help find areas where "tree trails" can be established, such as Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park or local nature centers or parks. The "tree trail" is then posted on the Texas Tree Trails website at [www.texastreetrails.org](http://www.texastreetrails.org)

The North Texas Chapter has approved the activities of this organization as a project for our members. There will be a training class some time in the fall to train volunteers on measurement techniques in accordance with the State and National measurement criteria for champion trees. The classes are always fun and we have a hands on demonstration of how to gauge the height of a tree as well as the canopy size and special instructions for measurement of the trunk. Pictures are taken of the tree, the bark, the flowers and fruit, if any, and a GPS location is established. If the tree is historic or can be categorized as a Heritage Tree, additional information is needed to verify the historical significance.

We are currently looking for a Coordinator for this project. The Coordinator's job is to communicate information from and to the North Texas Chapter and the Texas Tree Trails project leaders: Matt Grubisich, Courtney Blevins, Doug Pierson, and Sarah Brackin. Most communication is handled through email, but there will



**Osage-Orange DFW Regional Co-Champion**  
This tree shares the status as the largest of its species in the DFW regional area measured to date.

be periodic meetings when needed to discuss information on current activities and needs. The coordinator would then pass this information directly to the participants in this program that are in our Chapter. When a "tree trail" is requested at a single location, it is probable that all the participants will be notified so the measuring, pictures, etc. can be completed in one day. This is a great training exercise and helps everyone feel more confident about their own skills in measuring trees.

If you are interested in participating in this fun and interesting program, please contact Sarah Brackin: [sbrackin@arborilogical.com](mailto:sbrackin@arborilogical.com) and copy me. I will let you know when the training is scheduled. Perhaps, after you have attended the class, you will be inspired to participate in this project as the Coordinator.

Our mission is to find and catalog each of these special treasures in order to preserve their integrity for future generations - before they all disappear. If you know of a significant tree that should be considered for one of the above categories, please nominate the tree at <http://www.texastreetrails.org>. Help recognize our Dallas area Historic and Champion trees.



## North Texas Master Naturalist in Action

*continued from page one*



**North Texas Master Naturalist build  
bluebird houses at Spring Creek Preserve**

### Building of Bluebird Houses

Barbara Baynham led a group in building blue bird houses at Spring Creek Forest Preserve. Despite the cold weather the job was completed for the arrival of the bluebirds in early spring. *Photo by Mayhew*



### Trout Lily Walk February 2007

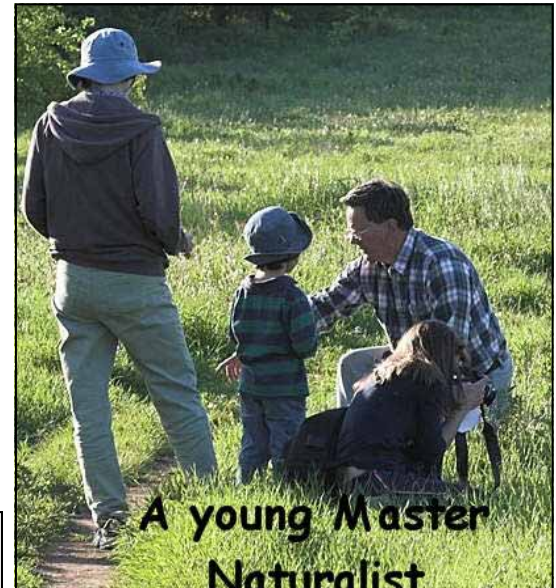
North Texas Master Naturalists with some 25 or more people took the Trout Lily walk at Spring Creek Preserve. The lilies were in abundance and hiding in the leaves just off the trails. *Photo by Mayhew*



North Texas Master Naturalist help  
Arapaho Classical Magnet School plant  
a butterfly garden

### Butterfly Garden April/May 2007

The North Texas Master Naturalists worked with the students and teachers at Arapaho Classical Magnet School to build a butterfly garden. The students chose various plants that attract butterflies to plant in the garden. The garden survived the summer and butterflies greeted the students at the beginning of the new school year. *Photo by Mayhew*



### **A young Master Naturalist**

### Flower Walk at Spring Creek Forest Preserve

Jim Varnum shows the flowers of the Preserve to a future Master Naturalist. The rains this year have yielded a bumper crop of flowers. *Photo by Mayhew*

### " Don't Forget the State Fair!!"

"Melissa Martin, Executive Director at Texas Discovery Gardens (TDG) informed me that they still have openings that have not been filled by volunteers for the afternoon shifts on Saturdays and Sundays during the Fair, which runs from September 28th through October 21st. They therefore need volunteers for those time slots.

TDG is one of our partners so those of you who need volunteer hours, please consider calling Joan Youngblood, at 214-428-7476, Extension 27 to volunteer. Not only will you enjoy the fair but you will learn many things about Butterflies through volunteer service in the Butterfly House or in the Butterfly Garden. There are other jobs still open, also.

*Texas Discovery Gardens provides many opportunities during the year for advanced training and for volunteer hours for our Chapter. This is our opportunity to pay them back for all their efforts and we get volunteer hours to boot!!! What a deal!!!*

Sara Beckelman



### National Night Out Glenn Heights August 2007

*Photo by Beckelman*



## "Mammals of the Blacklands"



### **October 3 NTMN meeting presentation by Brett Johnson**

We will be exploring how the blackland prairies and associated riparian areas have changed since 1825. As a result of these habitat changes, the suite of mammals found in the area has changed over the years. We'll look at times when the prairie was dominated by bison, the rise of the steel plow, and the advent of urban development. In the end, we'll look at how we got the mammals we see today.

Our presenter is Brett Johnson, our urban biologist for Dallas. Be sure to hear this interesting presentation at our October 3rd meeting.

## "Trash Talk"

### **November 7th NTMN meeting presentation by Gwen Harper**

"One person's trash is another person's treasure", or so the old adage goes. But when it comes to our own household garbage, "Out of sight, out of mind" is probably more applicable – our only concern being to get it out in time for collection. Does anyone ever think about what happens after it gets collected?

What does our landfill consist of really, what are the hidden costs, and is it safe to live near one? And what about recycling – what happens to that, does it really get turned into new products, or does it end up in landfill anyway? Why do some cities recycle some items, and not others? Why are some city planners forecasting a 'waste crisis'? These are relevant issues for every city citizen – a good part of your City's resources goes towards waste management...or does it?

To hear the sometimes surprising answers to these questions, join us on November 7th to 'talk trash' with Gwen Harper, Environmental Communications specialist, a.k.a. Garbage Gwen!



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Butterflies, Bugs and Botany at Fair Park

The State Fair is almost here and as usual Texas Discovery Gardens has lots of opportunities for volunteers to share the wonders of our natural environment with thousands of visitors. New this year is a seasonal Butterfly House filled with native butterflies. It is right next to Benny's Canyon and our Butterfly Display Garden.

We need volunteers in the Butterfly House, in the Butterfly Garden and throughout the Gardens to talk about the plants and animals that visitors will encounter here. For more information, please contact Joan Youngblood at [jyoungblood@texasdiscoverygardens.org](mailto:jyoungblood@texasdiscoverygardens.org) or 214-428-7476 ext. 27.

We have had many wonderful applicants and have now filled the Director of Horticulture and Marketing/PR and Weekend programs Coordinator positions. We are still looking for a part time gardener.

Director of Horticulture, Randy Johnson- Randy, has been an organic estate gardener in Dallas for many years. He is very knowledgeable in all aspects of horticultural maintenance and as a hobby cruises around the Dallas area looking for prairie remnants. He has been collecting seed and growing cutting from native plants found in this area for years. His passion is teaching and he loves to show visitors, volunteers and staff all the amazing wildlife that lives here in Texas Discovery Gardens. He needs help on Saturdays in the Gardens.

Weekends Program and PR/Marketing Coordinator, Sarah Gardener, comes to us from Luthy Gardens in Illinois. She was the "all around girl" there, coordinating the volunteers, teaching both children's and adult education, taking care of public events and writing articles for the newsletter. She also worked previously in Texas for Texas Parks and Wildlife in PR/Marketing.

We are very lucky to find these two wonderful people who understand our mission and have a passion for horticulture!

Sandy Hooper is back supervising the Greenhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can use some help propagating native and adapted plants.



## NTMN Needs YOU At the STATE FAIR

*Volunteers are still needed to work the North Texas Master Naturalist booth at TDG during the State Fair.*

The North Texas Master Naturalist will be having a booth at the State Fair. Our booth will be located in the Grand Hall at Texas Discovery Gardens. Our goal: (1) share knowledge about best practices in natural resource management and (2): promote the Master Naturalist organization. Here are the volunteers we need:

### Booth Leader(s)

Picks up the display and brochures from the Extension Office and takes them to the Grand Hall at Texas Discovery Gardens either Thursday, September 27 or Friday, September 28. Sets up the booth. Ensures the booth remains adequately stocked with materials throughout the duration of the State Fair. Returns the display and extra brochures to the Extension Office on Monday, October 22.

### Booth Workers

Greet visitors to the booth, distribute handouts, and answer questions.

These are the open spots still available:

Week 1 : Saturday, September 29: 12:30 – 4:00

Week 2 : Saturday, October 6: 12:30 – 4:00

Week 3 : Saturday, October 13: 12:30 – 4:00

Week 4 : Saturday, October 20: 12:30 – 4:00

**To volunteer, contact:** Kay Hampshire

North Texas Master Naturalist Public Relations Officer  
214-607-4408 or [kay.hampshire@tx.rr.com](mailto:kay.hampshire@tx.rr.com)

### Last Chance This Year to Order Logo Apparel!!"

Logo apparel, including T-shirts, polo shirts, caps, long-sleeve and short-sleeve denim shirts, sweatshirts and back packs can be ordered at the monthly meeting, on Wednesday, October 3. We must have your check or cash in payment of the apparel before the order goes in on October 12th. All the information to order logo apparel is on our members only website and order forms and color charts will also be available at the October meeting. There is a minimum order of 50 items so if there is a possibility that you will need one, please put in an order. Check the website for colors and styles to choose from as well as for contact information for our logo apparel person, Karen Eaker, who will be happy to answer any questions.

Thanks for your cooperation.

## "Slate of Officers for 2008/2009 Term of Office"

"Just a note to advise you that the slate of officers prepared by the Nominating Committee for the 2008/2009 term will be announced at the October monthly meeting. Election of officers will be held at our November Monthly Meeting, November 7th. If you know of someone who would be a great officer or you would like to volunteer personally, please contact Barbara Baynham ([Baynham@nortel.com](mailto:Baynham@nortel.com)), Mary Frances Stevens ([NIGHTOWL99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:NIGHTOWL99@sbcglobal.net)) or me ([sbwormlady@aol.com](mailto:sbwormlady@aol.com)) asap. Also, please note that you can get someone to nominate you at the November monthly meeting and get on the ballot at that time, also. Thanks for your consideration to help your Chapter with administrative duties.

Please remember that help is needed to keep your Chapter running smoothly. We will be electing 4 of our 9 Board members this year. The other five will be elected at the end of 2008.

I hope as many members as possible will participate in the election process so you will all feel that the new Officers are your Officers, which they most certainly are. Thanks for your participation in this process.

Sara Beckelman



### Aquatic field trip to Fort Worth Nature Center

Yes, that's our President in the middle of the photo, getting thoroughly wet in the middle of the marsh at Fort Worth Nature Center.

Can you guess if she was:

- being pulled under by an alligator,
- recovering after stepping into a hole,
- trying to get a laugh out of Rob Denkhous on the left holding the seine net, leader of this August aquatic field trip to Fort Worth Nature Center.

submitted by Jim Folger



## Growing the Seeds....

by Julie Collins

Before winter was finished in early March, there was an opportunity to attend an environmental educator's workshop in East Texas. I'm not a teacher and I'm not trained in environmental education, but I thought what the heck, I'll attend this conference. So, off I went to Camp Olympia near Trinity. Never heard of Trinity? Me either. It's about 20 miles NE of Huntsville, nestled among the pines. It turns out that several of our chapter's members, who actually are environmental educators, attended the **Growing the Seeds of Environmental Education Conference** as well.

This is the kind of setup I like. No hassles, no worries, just show up, plop your stuff down at home base, and just relax and learn. All lodging, meals, workshops, activities, and entertainment are included in the fee. The food was good. The showers were hot. The place was clean although not fancy, I mean, after all, we were at an outdoor facility. Speaking of the outdoors, it was incredibly peaceful. There were several trails among the pines, some leading to ponds, streams and lakes and others to just quiet places. The conference had plenty of workshop choices and evening activities.

The Friday afternoon workshop I chose was "Walking in the Footsteps of Naturalists" lead by Dr. C.E. Knapp. We did some active thinking through some outdoor activities. One exercise was to go outside and find one object that best describes something about yourself. I chose a branched stick with bark peeling, 2 kinds of lichen, dirt and some moss on it. For me, this represented my current place in life as a dabbler, not very focused, but having several things going on at once, always searching for that ONE thing I can grab on to. Dr. Knapp commented that naturalists do tend to be dabblers. So maybe I'm not as lost as I thought.

During one of the other activities we did, I found myself quite busy studying a stump with mushrooms on it. I found myself measuring the width of the mushrooms from the top of the stump to the bottom, noting temperature changes from various sizes of mushrooms, mushroom color according to location on the stump, textures of the small vs. large and cool vs. warm mushrooms. While this was great fun, I came to no earth-shattering conclusions, but had many questions of "Why?"

Saturday morning we listened to keynote speaker John Herron of the Nature Conservancy talk about "Conservation: It Ain't Easy". He talked of future trends that will tax the earth environmentally and possible solutions, none of which are a cure-all. It ain't gonna be easy. My workshop choices of the day were Aquatic Invertebrates and Butterflies, Birds and Fire. For the aquatics session we went out to the lake, put on the muck boots and tried different methods for collecting living species such as dragonfly nymphs, tadpoles, fish, those diving wa-

ter bugs, and even the stuff that's hard to see with the naked eye. We went back to the lab and took an up-close and personal look at our collection under the microscope. At the end, one student chose to put the small fish in with the big fish in the aquarium kept in the lab. The little fish were gobbled up immediately. There's nothing like watching nature in action.

Butterflies, Birds and Fire was presented by Dr. Craig Rudolph of the U.S. Forest Service. Although we ran out of time and did not go outside, it was interesting nonetheless. We all know that fires are a useful tool and Dr. Rudolph provided several examples of some studies being done on the benefits of fire on wildlife. He noted that bird communities vary depending on the presence or absence of fire. Fire affects the understory which in turn affects seed development and abundance. Birds requiring specific habitats, such as the Red Cockaded woodpecker, may have to go elsewhere to find forests with diminished understory, due to fires, to find suitable housing possibilities.

While I did bypass the recreational activities offered in the late afternoon, I didn't want to miss the live entertainment provided by the Sidehill Gougers bluegrass band. This was quite a treat and the backdrop at the amphitheatre was spectacular, illuminating the tall pines behind the band. The air was pretty darn chilly, but the band and audience toughed it out.

At one of my Sunday workshops we were enlightened with a few tips and ideas for leading a nature hike with kids. Joseph Cornell provided us with much food for thought on keeping kids entertained on a hike. We went on a treasure hunt, hiked along a trail while closing our eyes and using only a rope to guide us. Obviously, these require lots of set up beforehand, but could be very appealing to kids. Some concepts covered were to teach less and share more, be receptive, experience first - talk later, and focus attention without delay. One such exercise was to walk a predetermined distance and ask hikers to count how many sounds they hear along the way.

While most of the workshops were focused on helping kids to experience the natural environment with joy, a sense of wonder, and an open mind, I could see how this could apply to some adults lacking in experience with the natural world as well. I met such a variety of people, not just your traditional teachers, but non-profit educators, even non-teacher/educators just interested in learning more, just like me. This was definitely a different type of conference, but one that allowed me to open my mind to a different view of sharing nature with others. In fact, when they announced that the TAEF fall conference, September 28-30, was going to be held in Matagorda Bay, I got all giddy inside. They are also talking about having a bus take those coming from the DFW area on a geology tour on the way down to Matagorda. Sounds like fun to me!



## The Dragonflyer

### NTMN Administration (Officers and Committee Chairs)

\* **President:** Sara Beckelman - [sbwormlady@aol.com](mailto:sbwormlady@aol.com) , 214-445-3171 (wk), 972-252-7098 (hm)

**Programs & Special Events:** Catherine Rogers - [cat\\_rogers@yahoo.com](mailto:cat_rogers@yahoo.com) , 972-717-4672

**Hospitality:** Carolyn Rozier - [ckrozier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ckrozier@sbcglobal.net) , 214-352-9000

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**Funds Acquisition Committee:** Dusty Vaughn - [dusty@lisaanddusty.com](mailto:dusty@lisaanddusty.com) , 325-665-8412

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\* **Volunteer Rep:** Lori Siegelman - [lseigel@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:lseigel@rockwellcollins.com) , 972-771-9932

\* denotes Executive Board Member (Officer)

Meetings are held at Texas Cooperative Extension, 10056 Marsh Lane, suite B-101, Dallas, TX.

- Chapter Meetings: The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM, with refreshments and fellowship at 6:30 PM .
- Board Meetings: Monday before the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

### North Texas Master Naturalist 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 our local communities.

- Primary objective:: develop a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer network that can be self sufficient.