



The Dragonflyer

Newsletter of the North Texas Chapter of Master Naturalists

Junior Master Naturalist Program

Begins September 3!

See page 2 and 4 for information about this important program for young naturalists



Volume 59, August, 2015

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John Wilt's talented son, Billy, recently shared this beautiful picture. Do you know this species and why it's orange? **Look for our pollinator articles in the next issue.**



In other cool bug news.. the 17 and 13 year cicadas emerged in North Texas this summer. Search texasento.net/Periodical_Cicada

Thank you Mike Quinn for sharing this uncommon event

Announcements

Chapter Meetings

We warmly welcome non-members to our monthly meetings. Please join us!

Locations and Speakers

September 2

Center for Community Cooperation
2900 Live Oak St. Dallas 75204

Chris Jackson presenting
“DFW Urban Wildlife”

Chris Jackson, software engineer by profession, has become a skilled amateur author, naturalist and photographer by passion. Exploring the natural world and native wildlife, Chris will share the diversity of urban wildlife living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

His website is: dfwurbanwildlife.com

October 7

Location TBD

For updated location information visit our website: ntmn.org

Patty McGill presenting
“How Birds Work”



Perot Museum of Nature and Science proudly offers the Junior Master Naturalist program for 4th-6th graders. This is a sub program of the North Texas Master Naturalists. Learn about this important program to educate our children:

**PEROTMUSEUM.ORG/
JUNIORMASTERNATURALIST**



Monarch migration is underway!
Watch for these beautiful butterflies this fall as they travel to Mexico.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/northtexasmasternaturalists



Thank you for your patience...

while we determine our permanent location for our monthly chapter meetings. A survey will be taken in the coming weeks and an announcement will be made soon.

In Memoriam

The Dragonflyer has respectfully added this section to honor members who have passed.

Please forward information and obituaries to newsletter@ntmn.org

Chapter News

Annual NTMN Summer Social

By Ellen Guiling

Master Naturalists enjoyed another great year of friendship, fun, food and games at Texas Discovery Gardens in Fair Park on July 8 for our annual summer social potluck dinner.

Thanks go to new member Laurie Hero for being our overall summer social organizer, and to new student Tamara Brooks and Jean Hill for getting our food set up beautifully! Lots of tasty dishes made it easy to fill up our plates. New student Dan Kinkade gets "Best Presentation" for his clever cheese dip with almonds; styled to look like a pinecone. Bob Richie was our games master with a



Photo courtesy of Stalin

fun new MN bingo this year. He also donated honey and homemade Meyer lemon marmalade (a jar full of sunshine) as prizes.

Julie Collins and returning champion Doug Guiling won the cherry pit spittin' contest.

Trunk leaders brought the newly refurbished Mammal Trunks and Prairie Trunks for our enjoyment. The Butterfly House was also open for viewing.

An impressive 80% of our new students were awarded with class completion certificates. And 30 of those have already finished their VH and AT and were "pinned" with their official nametags! Congratulations!



Photo courtesy of Stalin

Overall it was a nice time for fun and conversation with new and old NTMN friends.

For next year, well.... the new NTMN members are learning many things, but they now know to practice their cherry pit spittin' skills for the summer social!



Photo courtesy of Brad Criswell



Photo courtesy of Stalin



Photo courtesy of Stalin

Chapter News

The Urban Wildlife Conference

By Brett Johnson

The Urban Wildlife Conference on July 29 was extremely successful this year and we couldn't have done it without the help of the North Texas Master Naturalist volunteers. We had about 80 animal control officers, pest control operators, and city environmental health and parks professionals from around the DFW area. Our guest speaker, Timmy Madere from the City of New Orleans spoke on rodent control and rodent ecology. His talk was very eye opening, and probably our most talked about presentation. He even complimented our busy volunteers. Janet Hurley, Texas A&M AgriLife-School IPM Coordinator, and myself were extremely pleased with the NTMN volunteers accomplishments before and during the conference. We ran a tight schedule and things worked out right down to the minute. In the case of lunch, literally noon on the dot, we started the line.

Again, I want to extend a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that made the day successful.



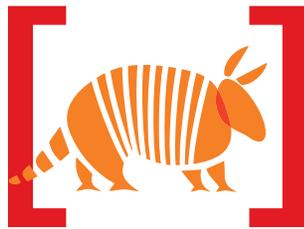
Thank you to Judy Parsons for these great photos

Chapter Programs

Announcing the Texas Junior Master Naturalist Program A Sub-Program of the North Texas Master Naturalists.

Classes Begin September 3!

<http://www.perotmuseum.org/events-and-programs/children/jr-master-naturalist/index.html>



JUNIORMASTER
naturalist

Perot Museum of Nature and Science



Explore the true nature of Texas.

Do your kids get excited about catching bugs, collecting rocks or tracking wildlife? For 4th-6th graders who can't get enough of the great outdoors, the Junior Master Naturalist program offers a whole new way to explore and protect the natural wonders of Texas!

Led by Perot Museum education staff and North Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, this program combines engaging classroom training with inspiring field-based discovery to help kids develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of Texas ecosystems.

Classes take place during First Thursday Late Nights at the Museum – and on select Saturdays at different parks in the North Texas area.

Hurry, classes begin September 3! Learn more and register at
PEROTMUSEUM.ORG/JUNIORMASTERNATURALIST



Museum of Nature and Science

The Perot Museum of Nature and Science is an AAM accredited institution, supported in part by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Satellite image of globe used within the Perot Museum logo provided courtesy of NASA. Photography by Jason Janik.



Feature Articles

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TREE!

By Tremendous Tom (A.K.A. Steve Houser)

Ever wonder what it is like to be a tree?

Gently swaying in the breeze or standing at attention to survive all that Texas weather has to offer. The sunshine would make you smile but an ice storm would make you frown. A snowstorm could give you some very cool clothes but too much white would not be a good thing.

Being a tree, you would never have to deal with politics, money, taxes, unreasonable people, or idiot drivers.

Buying insurance or dealing with relatives...not a worry.

I could grow to like this tree gig thing.

I think I would much rather be...a tree.

I wanted to be a tree for so long...I eventually became one.

Not all at once. First there were a few leaves that appeared in the hair and I tried to ignore it. As my skin started to turn to bark, it became tough to ignore. I always wanted to be a tree but...I never thought I would **grow** into one. It seems to happen only on the night before an Arbor Day, Earth Day, or Farm Day event. I wonder if there is always a full moon on the night before or if it is just a coincidence?

Ok, I am just teasing.

Someone needed to develop a tree costume because the one that shows up at Earth Day Texas each year stands on stilts and scares the hell out of the children. Not the ideal image of trees for children. Surfing the Internet did not find anything close to looking like a **nice** talking tree. The first costume designer that was contacted wanted to cover the costume in ivy leaves, but a Swedish ivy blob was not our goal. She just did not understand that a tree man must look like a cool tree and not a houseplant. Eventually, a seamstress and friend that had done some costume work, Christie Yarbrough and another friend, Ruth Ann Jackson, offered to help.

As various parts were developed, we decided not to build a “frankentree” suit but rather, a nice talking tree that handed out “Trees are the Answer” bumper stickers to educate others about the benefits of trees. Sounds easy but developing an ivy blob is not the same as a talking tree that actually has a root flare.

According to some, the first versions of the costume looked more like a “camouflaged sniper.” Not quite the look we were going for. My daughter laughed and made me swear not to tell anyone my real name. Not a good sign. Others gave a look that was worth a thousand words...call the men in the white coats. Needless to say, being a tree sounded more psychotic than fun.



I Always Wanted To Be A Tree

Continued from page 6

To avoid embarrassing family and friends, we developed a name and proclaimed him to be “Tremendous Tom, the Tree Education Guy.”

The first steps of Tremendous Tom involved carefully walking into the crowd at Earth Day Texas to avoid any root damage. Most were laughing and accepted a bumper sticker. Other reactions:

- Most of them wanted their children to hug the Tree for a photo. One small girl had her photo taken but happen to see my boot sticking out from under a root. She yelled out loud “Mommy look at that, he is not a real tree...there is a boot under there.” We laughed until we cried.
- A few would see me and run the other way to avoid having to deal with some crazy tree guy who must be selling something.
- Some just had a look that says, “You really need some serious help there pal.”
- A few passed and yelled “I am groot” and a limb was raised in recognition. (Makes no sense unless you saw the movie “Defenders of the Universe.”)
- As a few friends approached, I asked if they wanted a sticker. Afterward, I would say something that only a friend would know about. They always responded by saying “Do I know you?” Of course my response was something even more personal and they responded with “Who the hell are you?” By this time, the laughter was hurting my sides, especially when they figured out my identity.
- Folks with displays wanted a photo of Tremendous Tom in their booth to post somewhere. Likely with a note that says “It appears one of the Austin weirdos was in attendance.”

It was cool being a tree for a day but the dogs that came near my roots started to become a worry. I may look too much like a tree!! All I need next year is a few little acorns and saplings to walk with me.

By the way, my botanic name is *Quercus houserii*.
Tremendous Tom

(A.K.A. Steve Houser, Arborist Tremendous!)



Photos are courtesy of Steve Houser and his tremendous photographers

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.

North Texas Chapter Administration

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- Past President Stephanie Timko pastpresident@ntmn.org
**Denotes Executive Board Member (Officer)*

Chapter Meetings

First Wednesday each month
At 7:00PM. Social time and refreshments at 6:30 PM.

Board Meetings

The Monday before the first
Wednesday each month at
6:30PM.

Meeting locations vary!

Visit www.ntmn.org for
monthly location and
speaker schedule.

T E X A S

