

NTMN VOLUNTEER PROJECTS
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

AQUATIC ALLIANCE FOR TEXAS STREAM TEAM

Leader: Richard Grayson

- Added 16 certified water monitors for a total of 70 active monitors collecting data; over 50% of them are North Texas Master Naturalists
- Added 3 new monitoring sites for a total of 60+ active sites in North Texas
- Conducted 4 full Texas Stream Phase 1-2-3 training classes (50 participants)
- Conducted one Advanced Training class (8 participants)
- Trained and certified 3 monitors through innovative On-Job-Training program
- Continued alliances with SMU/Engineers Without Borders and FTLOTL
- 780 Volunteer Hours

BEGINNING BIRDING CLASSES (Birding 101)

Leader: Natha Taylor

- Held two training classes, one in spring and one in fall. Each consisted of one classroom training session with overview of binoculars, field guides, anatomy and ID techniques, and 3 field trips (John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, Trinity River Audubon Center, White Rock Lake); 20 participants were trained
- 34 Volunteer Hours

BIG SPRING AT PEMBERTON FARM

Leader: Richard Grayson

- Conducted 6 plant surveys under the guidance of MN Jim Flood
- Added over 25 plant species to the inventory of native and non-native plants, for a total of over 300 plant listings
- Conducted 12 straight monthly water quality monitoring events
- In the spring, planted over 100 native plants provided by Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility (LAERF)
- In the fall, as part of a Big Chapter Project, over 60 Master Naturalists planted over 600 plants, including 200 milkweeds, which were previously rescued in the Texas Horse Park vicinity. The other plants, which represented 40 other native plants and grasses, were provided by LAERF.
- Big Spring Conservation Area has been nominated for Landmark status.
- 479 Volunteer Hours

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE RAPTOR CENTER

Leader: Chuck Zubarik

- Improved facilities by completing building projects and plumbing and cage improvements
- Maintained trails
- Cleaned out park lake weeds and trash
- 38 Volunteer Hours

BOB JONES NATURE CENTER

Leader: Terry Chaler

- 7 Volunteer Hours

BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS – BRIT

Leader: Jim Varnum

- 177 Volunteer Hours

BRINGING NATURE HOME EDUCATIONAL HANDOUT

Leader: Janet Smith

This project was completed and closed.

BUCKEYE TRAIL

Leader: Jim Flood

- Maintained trails periodically, including invasive plant removal
- Held class forest field trips and public guided walks
- Project temporarily suspended due to City of Dallas problems
- 88 Volunteer Hours

CEDAR RIDGE PRESERVE

Leader: Rose Mercer

- Held monthly Conservation in Action workdays, which include removal of invasive species and general trail and garden maintenance
- Hosted training events, including bird walks, trout lily walks, invasive species identification
- Held Hike-a-thon fundraiser
- Hosted field trips and nature hikes for student groups from area schools
- Held Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
- Hosted DISD Rising Seniors workday
- 1,067 Volunteer Hours

CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWERS

Leader: Natha Taylor

- Conducted observations at the towers at Trinity River Audubon Center and Cedar Ridge Preserve
- Confirmed that towers are being used for both nesting and roosting sites
- 8 Volunteer Hours

CITIZEN FORESTERS

Leaders: Sara Beckelman and Stan Altshuler

- Conducted classes for new members in tree physiology, tree identification, planting and pruning, insects and diseases, and care and maintenance
- Provided booth/educational displays at Oak Cliff Earth Day
- Participated in the Dallas Mavericks Trees for Threes project
- Planted trees at DISD schools
- 112 Volunteer Hours

CONNEMARA CONSERVANCY

Leader: Mark Yarbrough

- Held guided birding walks and plant identification walks
- Restored areas of native prairie
- Maintained trails
- Held a "Maze Madness" fall event to encourage walking in the meadow
- 279 Volunteer Hours

COPPELL NATURE PARK

Leader: Judy Parsons

- Maintained 5 miles of trails
- Held 12 AT opportunities, including plant identification, water conservation, geology
- Served 1,400 school students in the education/outreach program
- 325 Volunteer Hours

DALLAS COUNTY HERBARIUM

Leader: Carolyn Rozier

- Collected plant specimens; pressed, identified and verified them; entered specimens into a database and mounted them
- Held 5 collecting walks and 10 mounting and ID sessions
- Showed specimens at 4 outreach events
- Of a total of 1,100 specimens collected, 1/3 went in permanent collection, 1/3 in the educational collection, and 1/3 to Botanical Research Institute of Texas
- 558 Volunteer Hours

DALLAS ZOO

Leader: Donald Thornbury

- Prepared animal food in the Animal Nutrition Center
- Held events such as Science Day at the Zoo, Savanna Wildlife Weekend and Wild Earth Action Days
- Served as docents
- 583 Volunteer Hours

DFW WILDLIFE COALITION

Leader: Kathy Milacek

- Maintained a volunteer-operated hotline which assists callers with wildlife questions and concerns, providing one-on-one education about native Texas wildlife and making referrals to wildlife rehabilitators as needed
- Held an educational booth at the Texas Humane Legislation Network 2015 annual conference in Las Colinas
- Held educational booth at Night Out event for City of Highland Park
- Provided support for cage building for rehabilitation of native Texas wildlife
- 226 Volunteer Hours

DISD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Leader: Carol Nash

- Led DISD school students on interpretive trail walks through the Dallas County Post Oak Preserve
- Cared for live animals in the petting farm
- 13 Volunteer Hours

DOGWOOD CANYON AUDUBON CENTER (DCAC)

Leader: Julie Collins

- Held monthly Habitat Workdays
- Improved/restored prairie, including installing/transplanting native plants, removing invasives and maintaining gardens
- Improved and maintained 2 miles of trail
- Served as education docents for school children in a program which focuses on science concepts and the local ecosystem
- Served as docents to visitors to the Audubon Center, maintained a nature store and assisted with other duties
- Assisted with Scout badge programs and overnight camps; led night hikes
- Provided education to the public through outreach events such as Earth Day and onsite festivals
- 1,535 Volunteer Hours

ENVIRONMENTAL FAIRS/OUTREACH EVENTS

Leader: Rose Mercer

(The following activities are in addition to the outreach activities reported by specific chapter projects.)

- Provided booths/informational displays at 10 festivals and community events, including Farm and Ranch Day, Oak Cliff Earth Day, Earth Day Cedar Hill, ecoCoppell Earthfest, North Texas Irish Festival, and Whole Foods Market
- Assisted with hikes and other activities at several Trinity River/L.A.N.D.S. Field Investigation Days
- Provided educational/informational presentations and led hikes/guided walks at venues including schools and educational institutions, nature parks and other organizations
- 483 Volunteer Hours

FAIR PARK WILDSCAPE

Leader: Jim Shouse

- Maintained the wildscape garden during the year by cleaning out dead leaves and removing volunteer saplings, weeds, and trash, and by planting new native plants
- Held an outreach booth during the 4 weekends of the State Fair of Texas, to inform Fair visitors about using wildscape ideas in their backyards and about the Master Naturalist program
- 139 Volunteer Hours

FARMERS BRANCH BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Linda Argo Bertl

- Not active in 2015 – no volunteer hours reported

FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAKE - FTLOTL

Leader: Joanne Parker

- Participated in monthly Shoreline Spruce-up Days by cleaning up trash in White Rock Lake and Park
- Helped at the sign-up tables at the FTLOTL office on clean-up days
- 142 Volunteer Hours

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER AND REFUGE

Leader: Jim Varnum

- No volunteer hours reported in 2015

HEARD MUSEUM

Leader: Megan Hurth

- 98 Volunteer Hours

HAGERMAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: David Parrish

- Helped estimated 200 guests at the Hagerman N.W.R. Visitor Center
- Assisted Monarch Joint Venture Intern with tagging 63 Monarch butterflies; collected 25 Monarch spore samples for the Monarch Health Study
- Cleared hiking trails following severe flooding at the refuge
- 101 Volunteer Hours

HISTORIC TREE PROJECT

Leader: Sara Beckelman

- 1,003 Volunteer Hours

INNER CITY OUTINGS PROGRAM OF DALLAS SIERRA CLUB

Leader: Lynn Marple

- Led 5 outdoor nature programs and hikes for urban youth at these venues: Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, Texas Fresh Water Fisheries Center, Cedar Ridge Nature Preserve, Beaver Bend State Park and Trinity River Audubon Center
- 26 Volunteer Hours

INVADERS OF TEXAS

Leader: Dana Wilson

- Gave presentations on invasive species and/or led invasive species removal activities at Cross Timbers MN, Blackland Prairie MN, Denton NPSOT, NTMN at Harry Moss Park
- Conducted 3-4 hour workshops in Humble, Midland, Cedar Ridge Preserve and for Coppell high school seniors
- Supervised Eagle Scout candidate in 2-day project in Spring Creek Forest preserve
- 31 Volunteer Hours

IRVING ECOTOURISM

Leader: Jim Varnum

- Led 3 night hikes and a night hike training session
- Assisted with Irving BioBlitz
- 64 Volunteer Hours

JOHN BUNKER SANDS WETLAND CENTER

Leader: Jane Ramberg

- 369 Volunteer Hours

JOHN BURKE NATURE PRESERVE

Leader: Jim McIntosh

- 20 Volunteer Hours

KIEST PARK TRAIL RESTORATION

Leader: Sara Beckelman

- 118 Volunteer Hours

LAKEWOOD OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA

Leader: Ann Willis-Brown

- Maintained the learning area trail and provided for stream quality assessment during the year and assistance with invasive species control
- Held annual LOLA Night outdoor education event for children and families, which included the MN Bird Trunk

- 103 Volunteer Hours

LEWISVILLE LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING AREA (LLELA)

Leader: Allison Fletcher

- Maintained trails, grew plants in the nursery and replanted on the prairie, and removed invasive species
- Held guided walks/hikes
- Assisted at activities open to the public on weekends
- Served area students in the education/outreach program
- 383 Volunteer Hours

NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NLCP)

Leader: Carol Feldman

- Hosted four day-long NLCP classes for a total of 120 students in Levels 1-3, including classes on design, development, Installation and maintenance of native plants
- Identified 45 native landscape plants to students in each class; students completing all 3 levels learned 135 native plants for landscape use
- 432 Volunteer Hours

NATIVE PLANTS AND PRAIRIES DAY

Leader: Rose Mercer

- Held public event for several hundred people at White Rock Lake
- Provided exhibits focused on native plants and animals of the Blackland Prairie, speakers for indoor and outdoor talks, prairie field trips, story tellers and children's activities
- Handled all planning, scheduling, and publicity for the event
- 1,023 Volunteer Hours

OAK CLIFF NATURE PRESERVE

Leader: Lee Kelton

- Collaborated with Texas Land Conservancy on National Trails Day, which included trail maintenance and cleanup and a guided hike through the preserve
- 13 Volunteer Hours

PEROT MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Leader: Melissa Martin

- Conducted the fall semester of the Junior Master Naturalist class, a joint educational program of Perot and NTMN, consisting of a series of classroom training and field trips about Texas ecosystems
- Assisted with botany booths at Perot public events
- 131 Volunteer Hours

PRESERVATION SOCIETY FOR SPRING CREEK FOREST

Leader: Barbara Baynham

- Removed invasive plants, refreshed nature trails, and did general cleanup
- Led nature walks, including an annual Trout Lily walk
- Hosted a children's event to make wild bird feeders
- Sponsored a plant rescue project
- 261 Volunteer Hours

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

Leader: Stephanie Varnum

- Observed and counted birds in 2 events: Project Feeder Watch, November-April, and Great Backyard Bird Count in February
- 586 Volunteer Hours

REVERCHON PARK RESTORATION

Leader: Steve Houser

- Held annual Reverchon Park Roundup, including organizing and planning the event, a project to remove trash from the grounds and Turtle Creek
- Planted a commemorative bur oak and installed a granite monument as part of the park's 100th anniversary celebration

- Maintained the historic Iris Bowl
- 180 Volunteer Hours

SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY HABITATS

Leader: Bob Richie

- Consulted with local schools and community groups regarding the development of school gardens, pollinator habitats, native plant restoration and education
- Helped develop school garden/native landscaping for Episcopal School of Dallas at their Dallas campus and at their school-owned ranch in Anna
- Developed a school garden project in Richardson (NTMN class of 2015 project)
- 290 Volunteer Hours

SCOUTING – BOY/GIRL SCOUTS – OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Leader: Linda Bartley

- 37 Volunteer Hours

STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL

Leader: Bob Richie

- Helped organize and run the school's annual habitat/garden fundraiser
- 6 Volunteer Hours

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE: TRUE TO TEXAS

Leader: Sara Beckelman

- No hours reported in 2015

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE SUPPORT

Leader: Dick Coupe

- Led student groups at Farm Day at the Fair
- 192 Volunteer Hours

TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Leader: Linda Bartley

- 150 Volunteer Hours

TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS

Leader: Judy Meagher

- Maintained the Benny Simpson Native Plant Garden with 2 workdays each month controlling aggressive plants, cutting back perennials, and general cleanup
- Replaced non-native with native plants in the Benny Simpson Garden
- Provided docents in the Tropical Butterfly House
- Prepared and planted the new, expanded Outdoor Butterfly Garden
- Provided volunteers for special events
- Provided outreach booth at the State Fair
- Propagated and repotted plants used on the grounds and sold in the annual Plant Sale and advised Plant Sale shoppers
- 2,109 Volunteer Hours

TEXAS NATURE TRACKERS – AMPHIBIAN/MUSSEL WATCH

Leader: Barbara Turner

- Monitored species of Cricket, Green Tree, Bullfrog and Gulf Coast Toad at White Rock Lake and reported to Texas Parks and Wildlife's state project
- 41 Volunteer Hours

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE SUPPORT

Leader: Dick Coupe

- Served as Science Fair judges
- Assisted at Texas Master Naturalists State Meeting
- Assisted at Urban Wildlife Management Conference
- 345 Volunteer Hours

TEXAS SPECIES DETECTION AND MONITORING, CACTUS MOTH AND MONARCH

Leader: Barbara Turner

- Monitored traps at various locations bi-monthly and sent data to Texas A&M
- 37 Volunteer Hours

TINY TREKKERS

Leader: Sandy Stinson

- Led 12 walks in local parks and nature areas for children ages birth - 5 and their parents and/or grandparents
- Provided education to parents and an introduction to children about natural areas in the Dallas area and topics that included birds, seasonal changes, and textures in nature; mailed information monthly to 42 families
- 202 Volunteer Hours

TRINITY BIRD COUNT

Leader: Stephanie Timko

- 188 Volunteer Hours

TRINITY RIVER AUDUBON CENTER (TRAC)

Leader: Casey Cutler

- Served 23,000 school students from over 150 schools in the Eco Education program, including hiking, animal adaptations, river geology, pond water observation and experiments
- Held Second Saturday Habitat Restoration work days every month
- Maintained trails, eradicated invasive plants, managed butterfly garden
- Held River Adventures
- Participated in events such as Earth Day, Owl-o-Ween, Celebrate Birds, Christmas Bird Count, Savanna Wildlife Day
- 1,128 Volunteer Hours

TWELVE HILLS NATURE CENTER

Leader: Marcie Haley

- Removed invasive plants and planted native plants and seeds
- Collected seeds of native grasses at Bluestem Nursery
- Rescued plants from small prairie remnants slated for development
- Assisted with nature walks for all Rosemont Elementary School students led by fifth-grade Nature Leaders
- In the Nature Leaders Program, taught 10 after-school classes on the Blackland Prairie ecosystem and how to lead nature walks to fifth-grade students
- Led and assisted with bird walks, a butterfly walk and other guided nature walks for the public
- Held a Nature Appreciation Day as public outreach and to recognize fifth-grade Nature Leaders and landscape sponsors and which included nature walks, an entomology display, a mammal trunk display, and a barred owl from Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Began a monthly nature activity for preschool-age children and their parents. It involves exploration of a nature theme with hands-on activities, a story, a walk, a yoga-type movement activity, and a craft.
- Registered as an iNaturalist Project. Volunteers made 201 observations of 145 species in 2015.
- Awarded a TPWD Conservation License Plate grant for 2016 to restore four 20'X20' plots in different habitats to native chalk prairie
- 1,133 Volunteer Hours

URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Leader: Sara Beckelman

- 169 Volunteer Hours

UTA AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE DIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER

Leader: Jim McIntosh

- Placed tags on specimens and provided other assistance to the curator
- 13 Volunteer Hours