



THE OAK & ACORN



Facility update

We are making headway on the future site of the Nature Center. At its April meeting the Park and Recreation Board asked the city staff to proceed with more detailed drawings and costs for the renovation. Thanks to all who attended the meeting to show your support! At their May meeting, the Board recommended the approval of funding for the Bob Jones Nature Center Conceptual Plan and to amend the agreement with Shrickel Rollins to design and engineer the plans. The unanimous approval was very much appreciated! The next step will be approval by the Southlake Park Development Corporation (SPDC) and then City Council. There will be several more times we will need to call on all of you to attend upcoming Park Board, SPDC and City Council meetings. We also need you to write or call board members and City Council members to let them know of your support of the Nature Center as the process develops toward final approval of the funds. Contact information for these members is found on the City's website www.ci.southlake.tx.us. For more information on the process and specifics on the renovation, please call Emily Galpin, 817.421.5648, or Julie Dove with the City of Southlake, 817.748.8400.

The Bob Jones Nature Center received recognition in February by the Alliance for Community Trees and the National Arbor Day Foundation by receiving a Community Tree Leadership Award donated by the

USDA Forest Service to strengthen executive skills and knowledge of urban forestry leaders nationwide. Emily Galpin was able to attend the excellent meeting held at the National Arbor Day Foundation's beautiful headquarters in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Again, thanks to all who have supported the Nature Center by your words of encouragement, your membership and donations, your attendance at programs and board meetings, and your help with projects and programs.

The BJNC would like to especially recognize Diana and Jim McPhail who will be moving to Kansas City this summer. The McPhails and their sons have been involved with the Nature Center since before the board of directors was first formed. Jim has been on the board as our fearless treasurer. He was a leader in the development of our 501(c)(3) status and the development of our strategic plan. Diana took over the reins of the newsletter and has developed what we think is an exceptional informational and educational product. As the communications coordinator, she has been responsible for the press releases and the distribution of the newsletter around the city. They make just about every hike and volunteer for just about every project. Thank you, McPhails! You will be missed!



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Our future headquarters, the Tucker House, as it looks today - we will keep you posted on the plans and renovations as they progress!

EVENTS

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 6th, 8 am - Birds of the Spring Migration Hike

May 13th, 8 am - informal birdwatching session

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 2nd, 8pm - Star Party

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 1st, time TBA - Geocaching at Night

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Upcoming Monthly Hikes

Birds of the Spring Migration

May 6 - Saturday

8 am

Bring your binoculars! Enjoy the sights and sounds of the birds at the peak of the spring migration on a beautiful Texas morning walk with Dr. Ray Chancellor at Southlake's Bob Jones Park. Dr. Chancellor has over 40 years experience as a birder and 25 of those years were spent banding birds for the Federal and State Wildlife Departments. He is an avid bird photographer, painter and naturalist and has done over 500 presentations on the birds of Texas. Dr. Chancellor is a past president of the Central Texas Audubon Society. The walk will be slow paced and will run approximately an hour and a half.

May 13 - Saturday

8 am

Meet Dr. Chancellor at the Amphitheater parking lot for an informal birdwatching session. See facing page for more information about a new Ornithological Society and contact information.

Star Party / Talk by the Fort Worth Astronomical Society

June 2- Friday night

8 pm

The FWAS was formed in 1949 as an adult spin-off of Charlie Mary Noble's Junior Astronomy Club, one of the first amateur astronomy clubs in the United States. The FWAS has members of all ages and all levels of expertise ranging from absolute, total beginners to folks that were first star struck when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and telescopes were made from sticks and stones. Collectively, their interests span virtually everything in astronomy, visual astronomy, digital and film photography, telescope making, and even a stray radio astronomer or two.

Geocaching at Night

July 1 - Saturday night

Learn more about the newest twist to geocaching the night cache! Finding a geocache is always an experience, but

finding a geocache at night can be a real adventure! More and more cachers are trying their searching skills in the dark, and some have even hidden caches solely dedicated to be found at night. We will go in search of one near Bob Jones Park at dusk. Look for details on when and where to meet for this adventure in the local newspapers and on our website www.bjnc.org.

All these free events take place at Bob Jones Park, located north of Dove on White Chapel Road. They begin at the Day Camp / Amphitheater parking lot that is located on South Field Road just past the Bob Jones Park Softball Complex. Follow the signs on the park road to the parking lot area. For more information, contact Cindy Gaither at 817.329.4673.

Harvestfest Hike

October 2006

Can you help with this fun event?
We need help!

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The Oak&Acorn is published quarterly by the Bob Jones Nature Center, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. For membership, comments and donations contact us at:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Jim McPhail
Patty Plantés

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST **LIASON:**

Elizabeth McCracken
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Diana McPhail

Muddy trails and cloudy skies did not deter this group of hikers from finding the elusive warblers and buntings at Bob Jones Park on May 6th. **Dr. Chancellor**, left, led this brave band of seekers on their quest for **Birds of the Spring Migration**.



... by the way, are you into birding?

If you want to be on a mailing list for information about informal birding walks or would like more information about a new **Ornithological Society**, e-mail Ray Chancellor at raychancellor@aol.com Leave your name, address, telephone number & email address and Dr. Chancellor will reply with pertinent information.



Coming Next Fall: More BJNC Discovery Classes

Texas Master Naturalist and Montessori teacher Patty Plantes demonstrates how to make a wildflower bookmark to Gage Roberts (4) and Mark Anthony (6) at the Bob Jones Nature Center Discover the Wonders of Wildflower class held Saturday, April 22nd. Watch the Oak&Acorn and the Southlake Scene for more classes next fall. For more information contact Patty at 817-329-8985.

LOOK US UP:
bjnc.org



Really Hike! Old and young alike enjoyed the trek into the wilderness of Bob Jones Park in April with **Nick Martin and Benny** as our experienced trail guides (Benny's the short black one in front; Nick was taking the picture).



Did you know that tracking animals involves more than just tracks? These teeth and bones that were found during the **Animal Tracks Hike** led by **Michelle Villafranca** in March proved this point, much to the fascination of those who attended.

THANKS, PROGRAM LEADERS

Each one of our friends who have led our monthly hikes and various programs are greatly appreciated. Their knowledge and enthusiasm are indispensable to our programs. An especially BIG thank you to **Michelle Villafranca** for leading our **Animal Tracks Hike** in March, to **Nick Martin and Benny** for leading the **Really Hike!** outing in April., and to **Ray Chancellor** for leading the **Birds of the Spring Migration** in May. You are all awesome!

Enjoying Bird Migration Using “Power Birding”

By Dr. Ray Chancellor

For birdwatchers, a visit to Bob Jones Park in the springtime is like enjoying the Holy Grail of outdoor experiences. The Park and Corps Property commonly offer views of Indigo and Painted Buntings, Red-Eyed and White-Eyed Vireos, Ruby-Throated and Black-Chinned Hummingbirds, Red Shouldered and Cooper’s Hawks, along with Mississippi Kites. With these are almost 200 other species of birds, all using the park as a station for further migration or for staking out nesting territories.

The casual birder will question these numbers when all they see on outings are green trees. They will also be disappointed in that they do not get to see this wonderful parade of birdlife that blesses Bob Jones Park each year. Actually, they are experiencing nature’s protection for birds. It may be unique feather variations that can mask colors, special disruptive colorations that make a bird appear “blended” with its surroundings, or simple color shades that make birds virtually invisible against the leafy background.

How do we overcome this obstacle and get to enjoy all these birds? Actually, it is relatively easy to do. Yes, the new green of the trees virtually makes most of the small birds invisible. But, as all these birds work daily to define feeding and nesting areas, they do it by singing in their most glorious tones. It is this special singing that makes spring the ultimate birding season. I call it the season of “power birding”.

To become a “power birder” follow these learning steps:

a. Find a good bird list for the area that gives the inclusive dates when birds are expected to be found.

b. Make a list of about 20-30 birds that will be in the area during migration excluding those birds you already know well. (e.g. Cardinal, Mockingbird, etc.)

c. Use an acoustical software program like “Raven” produced by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (cost: \$25) to create a personal sound file library of the 20-30 birds you want to observe. If you do not want to purchase an acoustical program, you can go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/>. At this site, call up any bird on your list and listen to its song.

d. Spend some time listening to the songs of the birds on your list until you are comfortable in at least classifying the sounds you hear.

e. Go into the park and begin using your new sound skills. Listen, classify the sound, and then slowly follow the sound until you get a visual confirmation.

During migration periods, this approach will allow observers to “see” many more birds than they will ever find by just using visual techniques. It is with these techniques that new sightings, including the Baltimore Oriole, Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Hermit Thrush, Black and White Warbler, Virginia Rail and myriad others, are easily possible.

This learning aid, with continued learning about habitats, migration variables, and nesting characteristics, will make even the most novice birder a “power birder”. The effort of learning is returned manyfold in just being able to see that beautiful part of nature that would otherwise pass you by. Let this year be your year to enjoy this natural trust we call “Southlake Cove” Ecosystem not just with your eyes but with its whole new world of beautiful sounds.



Bob Jones Park is located in the major Central Flyway for many migratory species. Listen for the variety of birds that you will hear any time of the year, but especially during peak migration seasons during late April and all of May and again during the fall months.

Thank you to Buddy Cole for our Naturalist articles. Buddy has been a certified Texas Master Naturalist since 2001 and is a long-time Denton resident. In his own words, "I have a good amount of Pilot Point info on hand after living here for 30 years. I haven't been mayor here but have served on the city council a couple of times, was president of the chamber and one time they gave me a plaque that said I was a distinguished citizen. Now, I'm just an extinguished citizen. I did serve as Denton County Judge and Denton

County Commissioner once upon a time."

For more articles and information about the Texas Master Naturalist program (including how to achieve your own certification), log onto www.efcmn.org to view the Elm Fork Chapter's website. There you will also find links to other TMN chapter's websites as well as to more informational and educational sites. The Texas Master Naturalist program has chapters in Denton, Fort Worth and Dallas, providing classes and meetings at various times depending on the chapter.

Rattlesnake Master

Rattlesnake master *Eryngium yuccifolium*, is an unusual wild plant belonging to the Apiaceae family which includes Queen Anne's Lace, parsley, dill, poison hemlock and others. It is a perennial growing from a tuber and may be found in native prairie areas, including woodland edges, usually on a slope where water may drain. The ones I've found have been located toward the lower or bottom part of a slope in sandy, rocky and clayey soil.



The most noticeable feature is the 1 inch diameter compact ball of tiny white flowers with small, narrow sharp pointed bracts hanging underneath the flower ball. Slender leaves can be as long as the flower head stem and some have sharp spikes about a quarter inch long spaced along the outer leaf edge. These spikes are larger at the base of the leaves and become smaller toward the tip which is also sharp pointed.

The common names are derived from Native Americans' use of the leaves, flower heads and roots for a variety of medicinal purposes including making poultices for treating snakebite. Butterflies visit these plants when in bloom, usually from May to August in our area. I found these in June.

The Wheelbug

Wheelbugs, *Arilus cristatus*, belong to the order Hemiptera. The common name comes from the spiny, wheel shaped hump on their back. I found this one on shrubbery at my house. It's 1.25 inches long and three eighths



Rescue Central

Found a wild animal that looks like it needs help? Call **Susi Steele** at any time day or night for wild animal rescues or advice. Start with the first number - if she doesn't respond in 10 or 15 minutes, go to the next.

1. Office 817-748-8106 (Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.)
2. Pager 817-407-3213
3. Cell 817-235-7462
4. Alternate cell 817-308-2325
5. Home 817-551-6505

Still no response? Start over!

If Susi's out of town or otherwise unavailable, you'll hear voice messages giving you the number to a local rescue group's hotline. They'll call you back within 10 minutes. Really!

inch wide. Its tiny, narrow head is one eighth inch long. They are gray to brown in color, winged and have two antennae about half an inch long.

Like other insects in the Hemiptera order they are true bugs with a simple life cycle of egg, nymph and adult. Females lay tiny eggs on twigs in fall and the red nymphs hatch in spring. Wheelbugs feed on a wide variety of insects and may be found on just about any kind of green vegetation. They look ferocious but they are not poisonous and have no bad odor but they can give you a painful bite.

They are considered beneficial bugs because they consume insects but because there are not a lot of them they are unable to seriously dent any particular insect population.



Girl Scout Troop 4027 is diligently working on a **butterfly garden** at the Tucker Property at Bob Jones Park, our future headquarters. Thanks, ladies, for all the hard work and dedication to the BJNC. Watch this space for a photo of the completed project!

Birds and Blooms *a book club for naturalists*

Do you love to read? Do you love to discuss what you have read with others? You are invited to participate in Birds and Blooms, a book club for naturalists. Following is a preview of the books that have been chosen to be discussed through November.

Friday, May 19, 2006

Book: *To See Every Bird on Earth: A Father, a Son, and a Lifetime Obsession.* Dan Koepfel, Hudson Street Press, 2005.

Friday, July 21, 2006

Book: *In the Company of Crows and Ravens.* John M. Marzluff & Tony Angell, Yale Univ. Press, 2005.

Friday, September 15, 2006

Movie Night: Deep Impact

Friday, November 17, 2006

Book: *A Tour of the Prairies.* Washington Irving, 1833

All these books are available in libraries, online bookstores, and some are available on CD-Rom.



Welcome to our newest “dues” members:

Robert & Tina Johnson
Dean & Charlotte Campbell
Lynda & John Stewart
Ken, Gloria, Derek & Devon Land
Pat Noell
Jeanmarie & William Rogers
Suzanne Huffman & August Schilling

Memorial Donation

A donation has been made in memory of Rick Aasen. He was the husband of Julie Alden, BJNC volunteer, and died in March.

We will meet at the home of Dr. Pat Noell in Grapevine for a light supper followed by discussion of the books. Reservations are required. You are welcome to bring a spouse/significant other or a friend with you. Please RSVP to Dr. Noell at p.noell@yahoo.com or by telephone at 817-722-8533 (home) or 214-222-8214 (office).

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Planning Committee - Monthly meetings begin in May.

Sponsors - Five sponsors needed! Can you be a sponsor or help us find one?

Tickets and T-shirt Sales - Night of the event

Station Helpers, Trail Help - Night of the event

Contact Cindy Gaither at 817-329-4673 or cjgaither@mac.com

Photo Contest

September 1, 2006 - April 30, 2007

Have you been wondering if you missed the kick off of the annual photography contest? Well worry no more! The event has been moved this year to begin on September 1 and end on April 30, 2007. Judging and the Winner's Reception will be held in May 2007. Clean up your lenses, grab the tripod, and send us those great shots taken at Bob Jones

Park. Entry forms will be available at www.bjnc.org on September 1st.

Thank you to Monica Hutchins-King for coordinating the photography contest this year and her helpers, Jay Hartman (sponsors), Devin Van Horn (brochure and poster design) and Tamara McMillan (winner's reception).

New! Brown Bag Lunch Talks

On Thursday, April 27th at the Southlake



Senior Resource Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Susi Steele presented a lively talk on "Living with Backyard Wildlife ." As always, her stories and solutions to animal and people interactions were heartwarming and helpful.

Upcoming Brown Bag Talks - Take a break from your regular work day routine and join us for our next Brown Bag Lunch Talk to be held at the Senior Resource Center on Thursday, July 20. Our guest speaker will be Steven Chamblee, Horticulturist for the Chandor Gardens. Chandor Gardens is located in Weatherford's Historic District approximately 25 miles west of Fort Worth. Check out their web site at <http://www.chandorgardens.com/> Guests of all ages are welcome to come listen and share their own experiences.

Dean Campbell's first place photo in the Adult division of this year's 2nd Annual BJNC Photo Contest

How to make a Portable Plant Press

Patty Plantes, BJNC Board member, Montessori teacher and Discovery Class teacher, shares this craft that she used in a recent BJNC Discovery Class (see page 3). Young and old alike will enjoy preserving nature with this easy, transportable version of a plant press.

What you need:

- a large piece of cardboard
- 4 thick rubber bands
- sheets of old newspaper



- scissors
- flowers and leaves

What to do:

1. Cut the cardboard into four 4" x 4" squares.
2. Cut the newspaper into twelve 4" x 4" squares.
3. Place 4 sheets of newspaper in between each cardboard piece.
4. Place the four rubber bands around the outside of the cardboard, so that the contents are secure and tight.

And then:

1. Gather the flowers and leaves that you would like to press.
2. Cut the plants so that they are no bigger than 4" x 4".

3. Separate the sheets of newspaper and neatly place the plant in between four sheets of paper (2 sheets on top, 2 on the bottom). Spread out the flower petals and leaves. (The newspaper absorbs excess plant moisture.)
4. Place the newspaper between two pieces of cardboard.
5. Repeat the process until the plant press is full.
6. Secure the press with rubber bands. the tighter the press the better.
7. Place the press in a dry place and do not open for at least 48 hours. (More time would be better.)
8. After 48 hours, you may remove the plants and mount them on paper using glue or tape.



Plant press instructions courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - www.tpwd.state.tx.us



MEMBERSHIP and DONATION FORM

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I would like to become a member of Bob Jones Nature Center at the following level:

- Benefactor "Cross Timbers" \$1000
- Sustainer "Post Oak" \$ 500
- Patron "Red Bud" \$ 250
- Friend "RoughLeaf Dogwood" \$ 100
- Contributor "Bluestem" \$ 50
- Family \$ 25
- Individual \$ 15
- Senior \$ 10
- Student \$ 5

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to Bob Jones Nature Center for the amount of:

\$ _____

Mail to: **BOB JONES NATURE CENTER** P.O. Box 92044 Southlake, TX 76092



Bob Jones Nature Center
P.O. box 92044
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