

Nature journalist speaks at next lesson

■ Dr. Susan Tomlinson from Texas Tech University will be at the Sibley Nature Center Saturday, Aug. 7 as early as 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. to set up for the public talk about nature journaling. Master Naturalists should bring binoculars, a journal, and a pencil to draw with. She will begin her talk at 10 a.m. She will bring about 50-60 books to sell and sign.

Advanced training will be in the afternoon from 1-4. Then she'll talk about all forms of nature journaling and will go outside so everyone can experiment with it.



Please send your stories and jpeg photos to cherrytree@sbcglobal.net for the next newsletter. The newsletter is edited by Barbara Cherry.

Congratulations, Sandy!

Passion for teaching nature results in surprise award for excellence

From Charlotte Burke

Sandra Elms received a surprise recognition at the Texas Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching which was at the Center for Science & Mathematics Education at University of Texas in Austin



Odessa teachers Charlotte Burke and Sandra Elms at the Austin Texas Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching conference.

this summer. Teachers and administrators statewide were there to see her named for the accomplishment.

She earned a plaque and \$750 from Shell for "Science Teaching Excellence." She was nominated by her Region 18 supervisors and her school principal. She teaches in Odessa.

While there, Sandra led a presentation entitled "XplorIt," including science journaling, field study tools, and observation skills for creating outdoor ventures for children in investigating one's own eco-region. She tirelessly espoused the Texas Master Naturalist program, encouraging participants to seek it out in their regions.

Convention attendees shared ideas, listened to national speakers, attended workshops, and through it all worked to build partnerships and support to keep a STEM (science/technology/engineering/math) focus for educators.

A Day at the Pond

Dave Taylor

This year's summer trip to the I-20 Pond was right after rains that have been prevalent as of late. A few of the Naturalists group were wearing waterproof boots, (me for one), which was very handy to have on a day like that day. Most of the group stayed on the west side of the pond because the pond was more like a lake. I decided to follow the trail all the way around the pond. The trail was completely flooded but I persevered.



A view of the entrance from the gate



The Parking Lot



A Killdeer near the gate feigning injury to draw the viewer away from the nest



Looks like a lake off I-20

Burr polled the members about using a new GPS photo tagger he was testing for use by the Master Naturalists to locate their pictures when posted on the web to assist others as to the location of the shot to help identify the location of certain species of Flora and Fauna.

I have had experience with the newer GPS units designed for cameras and I told Burr I would be glad to experiment for him. I will write a review in the near future.

MN group revisits I-20 pond

Summer study reveals aspects not in line with stereotypical Midland



*Photos by
Annette Moellering*



Lots of mushrooms were growing because of the recent rains in July

Orange skipperling



Bordered patch caterpillar on a leaf
it's been eating

Mourning cloak butterfly
on mesquite



Creepy crawlers come out of the dark in Advanced Training talk with David Kattes

By Annette Moellering

David Kattes was guest speaker for the Master Naturalists on July 17. A professor of agronomy and horticulture at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, he specializes in entomology and integrated pest management.

Agronomy is the science and economics of crop production. Entomology is the branch of zoology that deals with insects.

As a youth David was interested in bugs, and in 1970 he chose the field of entomology. His book, *Insects of Texas*, is basically class notes which cover the most common insects. Besides being a teacher, David also is involved with research on the common house fly at Fossil Rim and Erath County.

With many of his overheads on the screen in front of us, he spoke



David Kattes with his book on July 17

on how to distinguish the difference between arachnids, i.e. spiders, scorpions, whipscorpions, harvestmen, mites and ticks, pseudoscorpions, and windscorpions; crustaceans, i.e. sowbugs and pillbugs, crayfish and crabs, millipedes, centipedes; and insects, i.e. springtails, silverfish, mayflies, dragonflies and damselflies, walkingsticks, grasshoppers, katydids, crickets, mantids, cockroaches, termites, earwigs, webspinners, stoneflies, booklice and barklice, chewing lice, sucking lice, true bugs, aphids, cicadas, hoppers, thrips, antlions, dobsonflies, lacewings, beetles, scorpionflies, fleas, flies, caddisflies, butterflies, moths, skippers, wasps, ants, and bees. The above

was copied from pages 18 & 19 of his book mentioned above. These are common arthropods and are identified by how many legs, wings and segments, just to name a few characteristics, that distinguish them one from another.

David gave us some interesting facts about bugs, one of which was about the spider. It spins its web to catch an insect, and when one is caught, he spins a web around it to preserve it until he is ready to eat it. YUM!

About the black

widow and the brown recluse, he said to be careful to watch for nests (webs) in areas you haven't frequented in awhile. The brown recluse may be found in dusty, undisturbed areas which have not been disturbed in years.

Another interesting fact is that only 1 percent of insect's eggs survive. Consider that insects lay a lot of eggs, can you imagine what the world would be like if they all survived?

There is so much more to tell you about David's lecture but space won't let me rattle on and on so, I suggest you obtain a copy of his book, *Insects of Texas*. It is filled with pictures and information to help you identify that funny looking creature crawling up your leg. I promise that you will enjoy gleaning the information contained in this book.



Slim and others with Kattes