

A Busy month for the Education Chair

Jim Jones, the FWAS Education Chair, has been busy these last 8 weeks sharing who Fort Worth Audubon Society is at several Earth Day and outdoor nature events in our area.

Back in February, Chuck Baskin, Lyndsey Jones and Jim Jones staffed the Bird Blind area at River Legacy's Environmental Learning Area's Great Backyard Bird Count. We spoke to a number of folks and shared how fun it is to spot birds.



On March 1, Jim had a display at the semi-annual Yard Smart Conference at the FW Botanical Gardens. The 200+ attendees included many Master Naturalist, Texas Wildflower Association members, and folks exploring how to make their yards and gardens more green while saving water. Many were excited about the Merlin app, several asked about the FWAS weekend bird walks and activities.



Later in March, Jim and Shiela Shallcross set up a FWAS display table at the Annual FeatherFest at Acton's Nature Center. There were over 280 attendees at the day's event with many 111 children. A popular display is the wild bird handlers with their Barred Owl and Harris's Hawks. Jim also hosted two presentations sharing his knowledge of birding in north Texas and how technology helps us understand bird migration.

In early April, Jim gave a presentation for beginning birder's at Kennedale's Public Library. He then gave a presentation to the Cross Timbers Master Naturalist's April meeting at the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens. They asked for information about the Spring Migration and how technology has become a great tool to enjoy bird watching even more. Jim spoke about historical record keeping via journals; then TexBirds; then the introduction of the EPA's EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) in 2000 which inspired several universities and organizations to explore utilizing the many millions of citizen science observations to track wildlife. eBird was one of those programs which many of our members use. BirdCast.org was developed using those billions of observations and correlating those sightings to actual real time radar.

On Earth Day, Joy Havner, Jill Freer and Jim took part in Lockheed-Martin's Earth Day Celebration. The company asked many conservation groups in the Fort Worth area to participate in this mid-day event. Our tables were set up inside their construction facility near the employee's lunch cafeteria. The organizer sent a note later that approximately 3,000 employees attended. The event was held during their lunchtime from 10:30 to 1:00 PM. All three of our volunteers were busy speaking to someone for the entire event.



Continuing the celebration of Earth Day, Jim set up a table at Dinosaur Valley State Park's Spring Wingding. Despite a very early morning weather forecast calling for doom and gloom storms, the rains stopped in time for us to set up and greet over 400 attendees. From the original birds to their descendants!



Finally, on the last Saturday of April, FWAS was at two events. Vicki and Bob Moore set up a display at the Fort Worth Nature and Refuge Center's annual NatureCon, and Jim had a table at Grapevine's Earth Day celebration at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens.

Jim has a few more events this summer. Mostly bird talks. But next Fall outdoor nature events will start again. *We need volunteers!* Watch our Events Calendar for announcements.

