

# ELE Newsletter

JULY 2018



Who knew? Within a mile and a half of ELE there exists the perfect site for escaping into the quiet relief of nature.

The **Southwest Nature Preserve (SWNP)** is a unique natural area representing a rare surviving remnant of the **Eastern Cross Timbers ecosystem**, characterized by woodlands and savanna grasslands. In addition to the large area of Eastern Cross Timbers, the SWNP also encompasses three additional habitat zones: riparian, prairie, and ponds with their fringe vegetation, providing habitats supportive to a wide diversity of wildlife.



For example, on any visit, you might see, among other things, some of the 45 species of birds that have been identified at the preserve, a fox, bobcat, coyote, any of a wide variety of insects, including several rare species of dragonflies, or any of the resident reptiles & amphibians. SWNP has long attracted professional and amateur botanists who have identified over 400 plant species on site and continue to regularly add to this list.



Because this 58-acre site is a preserve, not a park, it is for the most part, natural and undeveloped. There are, however, a few nice amenities, including a short, wheelchair or stroller friendly hard surface trail, a fishing pier on one of the four ponds, a few picnic tables and a terraced outdoor seat-

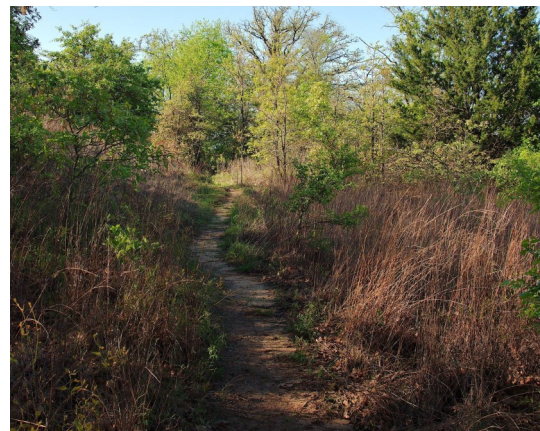
ing/education area.

The SWNP was designated as a Great Texas Wildlife Trail by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2016. The trails are easy to moderate in difficulty, vary in length, and will take you to a wide variety of viewing pleasures, including forest, iron stone bluffs, ponds, black jack & post oak trees, at least one of which is more than 200 years old.

*Con't on pg. 4*

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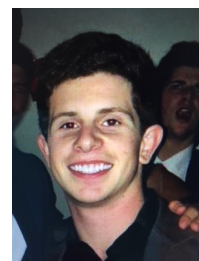


# MEET OUR LIFEGUARDS



**Courtney Shank** is Head Lifeguard and pool manager. She graduated from Martin High and is currently teaching at Young Jr. High. She has been a lifeguard for 10 years.

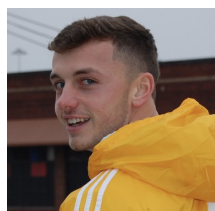
**Brett Taylor** is an All-State wrestler at Martin, and is going to Texas A&M in honors Biology to become an anesthesiologist. This is his second year as a lifeguard.



**Ryan Russell** is a 2016 graduate of Martin. He is studying Kinesiology and Exercise Science at the University of Arkansas. He has been a lifeguard for five years.



This is **Haleigh Trevino's** first year at the pool. A Martin graduate, she will be going to Oklahoma State University in the fall.



Meet **Will Grindstaff**. He studies business at Texas A&M/Corpus Christi. He has been a lifeguard for 2 years, and enjoys basketball, music and saving lives!



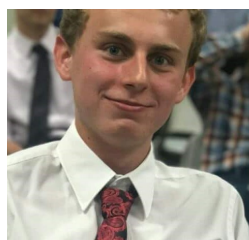
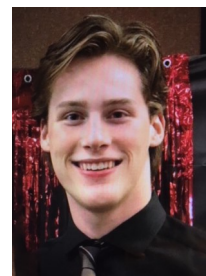
**Hillary Jorgensen** has been a lifeguard for two years and a water safety instructor for one. A senior at Martin, she hopes to study biology at Texas A&M.



Meet **Carson Moore**. A 2015 graduate of Martin, he will graduate UTA in Spring 2019. This is his second year as an ELE lifeguard.



This is **Adam Nix**. He a junior at Martin and this is his first year as a lifeguard.

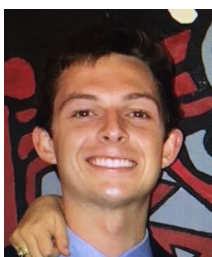


**Austin Miles** graduated Martin in 2017 and is going to UTA studying to be a CPA. This is his fourth summer as a lifeguard.



**Ashlin Jamie** attends Martin and she plays golf. This is also her first year as a lifeguard.

**Noah Bondurant** graduated Martin in 2015. He will graduate from Texas A&M in the fall of 2019. This is his fourth summer as a lifeguard.



**Krista Rude** is a senior Math major at UTA where she plays softball. An Arlington ISD alum from Ditto, Young JH, and Martin High.







## JUNE YARD OF THE MONTH

Carol and Mike Midkiff lived in North Arlington when they saw the house at 3505 Lake Champlain about 2 1/2 years ago. But they knew immediately that the house would be perfect for their 13 grandchildren! They went to work on the house and the yard. With the help of Christopher Freeman, landscaper, the yard, front and back, are perfect.

The kids love the salt water pool in the backyard, and use the front yard for games when they visit.



Mike and Carol have three grown children. They both

taught in Arlington schools, the last 20 years at Young Jr High. Mike coached football and track, while Carol taught



English, Art, and "anything else she was told". As coach, Mike opened Young Jr. High, Boles Jr. High, and Martin High School as a coach.



Sadly, the world lost Mike this past February. He was coach, friend and inspiration to so many people and is sorely missed.

Carol doesn't go long between at least some of the grandkids visiting. And when she's not busy with them, she spends time on the family ranch in South Texas that was given to her ancestor by the Republic of Texas as a land grant for his part in the Texas Revolution.



## JULY YARD OF THE MONTH



Brad and Maureen Maidlow are long time ELE residents — over 29 years. Their home at 3512 Lake Tahoe nestles under the tall oak trees as if it's been there forever.

Maureen says that she and Brad share the yard work, but while she does the flowers, Brad does the heavy lifting. While the yard looks cool, green and beautiful, they are fighting the heat and lack of rain this summer.

Maureen is an Investment Advisor with Override Wealth Advisors in Fort Worth. Brad works as an Engineer at Lockheed. It was his job that brought them to Arlington from California.

They are active in their church, Lake Arlington Baptist. In their spare time they enjoy the water, snow skiing, and enjoying the music at Levitt Pavilion in downtown Arlington with other ELE neighbors.



Their two children are grown and away from home, leaving them with their Jack Russell, Lexi.



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#### CURRENT ELE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| ENTIRE BOARD:       |                    | allboardmembers@elehoa.com |

#### Final Thoughts:

—We're halfway through the summer, and before we know it, September will be here. Kids will go back to school, the pool will close, and the ELE Homeowners' Annual Meeting will be held along with an election to replace the retiring ELE board members. So, think about giving back to your neighborhood. Perhaps take a position on the board or volunteer to assist with one of the positions. We'll have more on this and the open seats in the next newsletter. Fresh eyes and new thoughts will to help keep our neighborhood thriving and enjoyable.

—If you have an interest in learning or teaching games, such as **Mahjong, Bunco, Bridge, Poker**, or other table games, please give Dorothy Tejada a call at 817-228-8200. There are some that already play Mahjong in the neighborhood, and there's always room for more.

## SOUTHWEST NATURE PRESERVE (Cont'd from pg. 1)

The preserve is part of the City of Arlington Parks system and is supported by a volunteer 'Friends' group. This group provides frequent public education, outreach activities and programs; builds and maintains trails; works to control & remove invasive plants; and is currently restoring what was an unattractive corner of the Preserve as an attractive pollinator habitat and land restoration demo site. The goal will be a self-sustaining 2 acres of restored wildflower prairie, a site for public education with interpretive signs along a mean-

dering trail.  
The Friends of Southwest Nature

Preserve is open to all and several of your ELE neighbors are active members and participants in the group. Follow us on Facebook or on our website, **SWNP.org** to find out about our programs, native plant walks, birding events and more.

Thanks to **Lynn Healy** for this article, and to **Bob Brennan and Michael Smith** for the use of their photos..

