

Principal Submitters:

Royce Milam

Author of Biodiversity Inventory for Elm Fork Preserve

Naturalist, Eco-poetist

Royce has had a lifelong dedication to exploring the natural world. He began interpreting nature for groups as a junior trail guide in 1975 at the Heard Natural Science Museum in Fairview, Texas.

While living in mainland China, he explored rainforests in many countries and has taken numerous solitary backpacking expeditions to meet tribal cultures in rainforests in Southeast Asia and South America to document plants used for food and medicine. After returning to Texas, he has continued to actively research new uses for native plants.

In 1995 Royce began a freelance environmental education service, Wild Vision - Adventures In Observation, with his wife, LuCretia and two sons, Alec and Cory. LuCretia worked for Wild Vision for many years, persistently indispensable, handling all of the office administration as well as designing the web site. She has since shifted her sights to the legal field, providing a stable income and thus allowing Wild Vision great freedom to pursue projects of interest. Alec and Cory have both served as Ecological Services Assistants.

Under the aegis of Wild Vision, Royce has offered a variety of nature-oriented programs for many types of organizations, from private schools to scouts. He has also assisted numerous land owners to broaden their understanding of the natural processes occurring on the land for which they have stewardship. Over the years, Wild Vision has offered an ever-increasing range of ecological services including: Creation of and restoration-of-dynamic-balance in backyard ponds; wildscape/permaculture design and implementation; trail creation & maintenance; mapping of preserves using GPS coordinates interpolated into topographic and satellite imagery; eradication of invasive, alien species within preserves; and biodiversity inventories of conserved land.

In 2002, Royce began using the title, 'Eco-poetist' to describe his work. An Eco-poetist may be defined simply as: One who assists in the creation of new ecologies.

Currently, Royce is teaching algorithmic biomimicry, ecological literacy and tree climbing for grades 1-6 for the Allen Independent School District. He also serves to monitor the ecological health of over 1500 acres of conserved land in north central Texas for Connemara Conservancy Foundation.

Tzila “Z” Duenzl

Principal Submitter

Tzila “Z” Duenzl has spent many years living in and around wilderness areas in Texas, Oregon and California, and has amassed a large collection of Nature photos taken in these areas. She enjoys seeking out the small ‘jewels’ of local parks, open areas, and preserves, where she finds a wide variety of ‘critters’ to photograph. Her motto: ‘In Nature Everywhere’.

Jim Varnum

Principal Submitter

Jim is a self-taught student of nature where his interests range from birds to plants. He spends much time searching for native plants out-and-about the DFW Metroplex. Jim and his wife Stephanie have recently purchased an old ranch in Hunt County and have begin to restore it back to a native prairie. Jim is a Texas Master Naturalist and on the board of the Native Prairies Association of Texas and the Texas Land Trust Council. He also teaches and leads trail walks on birds, trees, wild flowers and prairies. He is chock full of interesting nature trivia and a few bad nature jokes.

Jimmy Walker
Principal Submitter

Jimmy moved to Texas in 1965 from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He began working for a professional potter in 1983 and started his own pottery business in 1985. Jimmy exhibits his ceramic art at various showings throughout the Nation. Prior to developing his pottery business, he worked at local zoos with many years spent in the reptile house at the Dallas Zoo. As a lifelong Naturalist, Jimmy donated his skills for over 10 years to The Dallas Nature Center and has worked as a Wildlife Interpreter for Wild Vision since its inception.