

BOOK REVIEW

AMY MARTIN. 2023. **Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature in and Around Dallas-Fort Worth.** (ISBN 978-0-268-203665, pbk; 978-1-64326-084-6). Timber Press, Inc., The Haseltine Building, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** timberpress.com; also available through shopbritpress.org). \$25.99 US, 372 pp., color photographs throughout, index, 6.5" × 9".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Amy Martin is a lifelong Texan who has explored the Dallas-Fort Worth and North Texas area for many years. Her career background is in journalism and includes more than 35 years as a writer and author of botanical subjects. She is currently a senior feature writer for Green Source DFW and has contributed popular articles for the *Dallas Morning News*, *Dallas Observer*, *D Magazine*, among others.

Wild DFW explores the natural wonders of the Dallas-Fort Worth area and highlights a paradise of places, plants, and animals if you know where to look for them. The book begins with Natural History and Ecology divided up into one- or two-page vignettes titled Wild Dallas-Fort Worth, East-West, Natural Dallas, Natural Fort Worth. Each area is described in general ecological terms without giving the scientific names of the plants and animals but leaving the reader with a sense of wonder of native prairies, forests, and riparian habitats.

Beauty is in “the eye of beholder” and the author highlights the special beauty and attributes of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Maps and habitat photographs serve to document where the Eastern Cross Timbers meets the Blackland Prairie. The Trinity River System includes the topical headings, Bound by the Trinity, with subtexts of different river branches. The geological history of the area is described in Shores of an Ancient Ocean. Violent weather is featured in Tip of Tornado Alley. Native Species highlights the plants and animals of the area, including lichens, and a special topical section Where Native Plants are Exalted, includes discussion on the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) campus and adjoining Fort Worth Botanic Garden, and other local learning institutions. The sections on Migration (birds and butterflies), Creeks and Watersheds, Citizen Science (e.g., The iNaturalist Community) will be of special interest to readers especially the Citizen Nature Brigade.

The section Field Guide: North Texas Species To Know, comprises pages 106 to 175 that includes Bird Species, Insects and Spiders, Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, and Crustaceans, and Plants (Wildflowers and Trees). There is a special section on 25 Adventures covering pages 186 to 350, representing the largest thematic section of the book. Included in this section are forest preserves, parks, refuges, special trails, wetlands, museums, meadows, nature preserves, natural areas, and lakes. Adventure 25, Village Creek Drying Beds and River Legacy Parks has special interest for me because I live less than half a mile from this park and the Living Science Center building. The drying beds is a misnomer because this is a wetland area in North Arlington with many species of waterfowl migrating from the Central Flyway southward in the fall and northward in the spring. You have to see it to believe it, but the waterfowl species diversity is a sight to behold. Another example is a small waterway next to our backyard that has Wood Duck and Mallard Duck pairs in springtime. The Wood Duck male drake featured on page 119 is probably one of the most beautiful of waterfowl species.

This book will be a popular read for about eight million people that live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The modest price has resulted in fantastic book sales so get your copy sooner rather than later.

—Harold W. Keller, Professor Emeritus, Botanist and Mycologist,
Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.