



## Next DCLS Meeting This Saturday, 3/20/03

The next meeting of the Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society will be this coming Saturday. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. (sharp!) at Harry Moss Park. A map and directions are on page 2.

While it is still very early in the season, many species are already on the wing (check out the "What's on the Wing" section on the DCLS website). We should be able to find at least two of our early spring species — Henry's Elfin (*Callophrys henrici*) and Falcate Orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*) on Saturday. These two species, as well as a couple of others, are only on the wing for a few weeks each year.

As an added bonus, DCLS member



Henry's Elfin on its host plant, Redbud.

Mike Moore of Wild Bird Center in Plano will be bringing a group of his birding colleagues to the meeting so this will be a good opportunity for all of us to gain a little insight into the birds we see while we are looking for butterflies.

With all the rain we've had be sure to wear shoes you won't mind getting muddy. Bottled water is always a good idea as well. We will hike around the park for approximately an hour and a half.

As I write this, the long range weather forecast looks good for Saturday, but if the weather is questionable, please check the website ([www.dallasbutterflies.com](http://www.dallasbutterflies.com)) on Saturday morning for any changes. In the event of bad weather we will meet at the Dallas Museum of Natural History for a program.

The Dallas County Lepidopterists' Society Est. 1995

Purpose: To provide a forum where people may gather who share an interest in butterflies and moths, whether that interest takes the form of collecting, gardening, photography, study or casual observation.

Admission is free.

## Future "Butterfly" Dates to Remember

April 10th - 10:00 a.m. - **DCLS field trip**. Location to be announced.

April 10th - "House of Butterflies" opens at Scarbrough Faire.

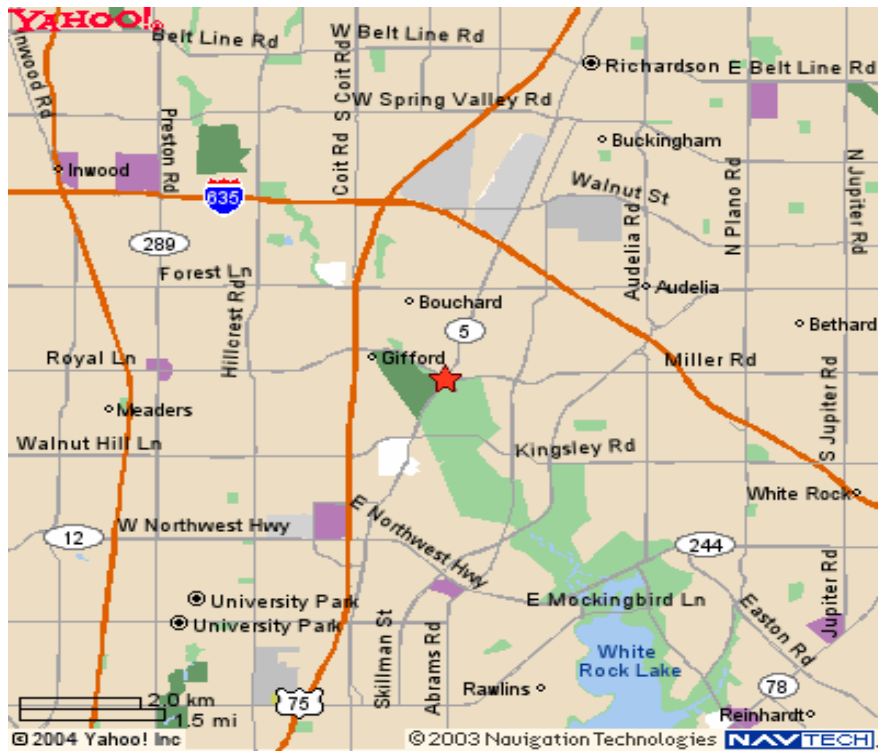
April 24th - Elm Fork Nature Fest, 11:00 - 3:00 at Elm Fork Nature Preserve, Carrollton, Texas.

May 1st , 10:00 a.m. - **DCLS field trip** to LBJ Grasslands in Wise County, TX.

May 5th and May 8th - Butterfly Gardening Workshops at Texas Discovery Gardens. 9:00 - 12:00.

May 15th - Butterfly Walk at Texas Discovery Gardens. 10:00 a.m.

See Calendar of Events on Website for more information on events.



Take 75 (Central Expressway) and exit on Royal Lane. Go east, crossing over Greenville Avenue. Harry Moss Park will be on your right. Continue east and turn onto Arborside. Proceed mid-way down the block and park on Arborside. Look for the net waving in the wind! We will set out sharply at 10:00, so please be punctual.



# The Butterfly Garden

## *Forestiera - The Spring Heralds!*

by Tina Dombrowski

Spring Herald is just one of the common names for an often overlooked genera of woody native plants. As this common name implies, the plants bloom in the spring, providing a rich nectar source for the early season butterflies and pollinating insects. Other common names include Texas Elbow-bush, Downy Forestiera, Tanglewood, Devil's Elbow, Chaparral, and Desert Olive. According to Benny J. Simpson's book "A Field Guide to Texas Trees" five species of *Forestiera* occur in Texas, four of them shrubs and one a tree. *Forestiera* is in the Ash Family (Oleaceae) and the genus was named in honor of a French physician, naturalist and botanist, Charles Le Forestier.

The plants are deciduous, and the species range from 6' up to 30' in height. They are found in a variety of habitats in Texas and are highly sought after as browse by grazing animals. *Forestiera* is not commonly available in the commercial nursery trade, partly due to the fact that the plants are dioecious. The small male and female flowers appear on separate plants and both are needed for pollination and fruit set. While the clusters of bluish-black fruit are an attractive ornamental feature on female plants, especially to wildlife, both flower types attract nectar seeking butterflies. The male and female yellowish green flowers appear before the leaves in North Texas and are inconspicuous but for their very sweet fragrance easily detected within ten feet down wind!

*Forestiera* can be grown in full sun or partial shade to dappled shade. Most are drought tolerant and adapted to many soil types provided they receive good drainage. The exception is Swamp Privet (*Forestiera acuminata*) which naturally occurs in marshes and bottomland

areas. Regular pruning will help shape plants and increase flower production. Plants can be propagated by seed or cuttings. Harvest fruit in late summer through fall, remove the pulp and store in a cool, dry place until late spring when they can be planted outdoors. Germination takes place within four weeks. Softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings treated with rooting hormone and placed under mist will root within three weeks.

The Texas Discovery Gardens in Fair Park displays three species of *Forestiera* in the plant collection: Net-leaf Forestiera (*Forestiera reticulata*), Texas Elbow-bush (*Forestiera pubescens*) and Narrow-leaf Forestiera (*Forestiera angustifolia*). Nurseries specializing in native plants and local native plant sales may be retail sources for *Forestiera*. Now is the time of year to view this group of Spring Heralds and consider adding one to your habitat garden.

*Tina Dombrowski is the Director of Horticulture at Texas Discovery Gardens.*



**An Olive Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*) taking nectar from the tiny flowers of Spring Herald.**