

Nature Notes

February 20, 2020

A digital journal documenting the search for truth, beauty and goodness in God's lovely creation throughout the diocese of Fort Worth.

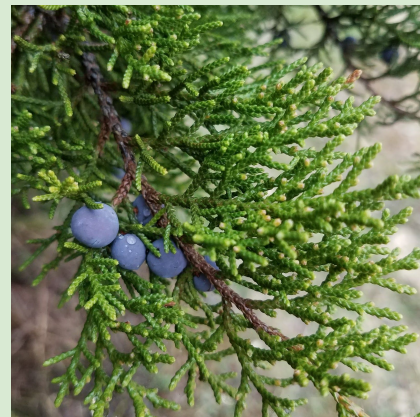
I notice

Spring is starting to make an appearance. Lots of trees around the campus and lake are putting out leaf buds. I noticed some of the Eastern red cedars by the lake looked a little rust-colored. Upon closer investigation, I discovered the leaves weren't turning colors, the tree was putting out flowers. [Male flowers](#), to be more precise! These flowers will release a smoky haze of pollen, the bane of many people in Texas who suffer from cedar allergies.

These trees rely on the wind (instead of animals or insects) for pollination, so they do not expend energy on making attractive or fancy flowers. Female eastern red cedars have tiny yellow flowers. When I went back down to the lake to look for female flowers, I found tiny buds at the leaf tips. It will be fun to watch these develop over the coming weeks!



Male cedar with flowers



Female cedar with tiny yellow buds and berries

I wonder. . . .

What kind of tree produces these flowers? I've been looking for leaf buds, but was surprised to see a tree starting to flower before it even put out leaves.



Leaf bud on the sweet gum tree by the convent



I guess we'll have to wait for full flowers and leaves to identify this tree!



New growth among the reeds by the lake

From the creation, learn to admire the Lord! Indeed the magnitude and beauty of creation display a God who is the artificer of the universe. He has made the mode of creation to be our best teacher."

-St. John Chrysostom

Courtyard Adventures



Wednesday morning we had a majestic visitor in the Activity Courtyard, a red-tailed hawk! He sat in the pecan tree for quite a while, perhaps checking for squirrels? Then he flew off towards the lake area. A huge thank-you to Mr. Ramirez for sharing this picture of him! (And I did see our squirrel later in the afternoon, so he is safe from the hawk for now.)

Where to find Mrs. Breclaw next week

Mon- 10-2, 4-8

Tues-9-2, 4-8

Wed- 10-1

Thu- 9-2

Nolan Outdoor Learning Headquarters

In the office immediately to the left of the teacher boxes in room D22.

Please come by anytime! Let's chat about how we can work outdoor learning into your lesson plans!

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