

Nature Notes

April 23, 2020

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

I Wonder. . .

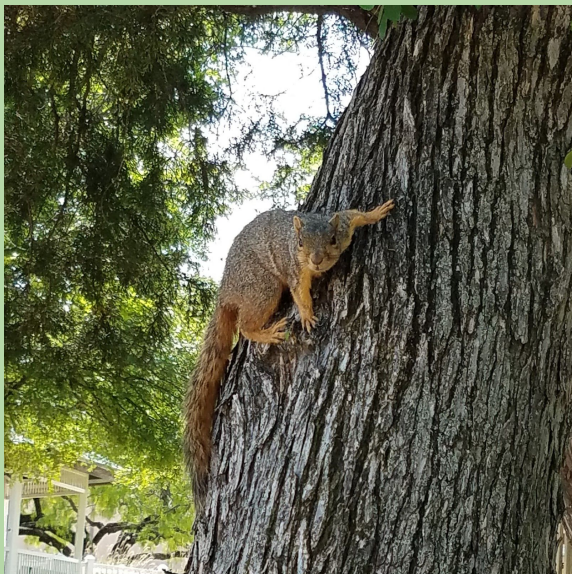
What are these lovely pink flowers? I keep seeing them on walks through the neighborhood. I googled "flower with five small pink petals, cloverlike leaves" and discovered that it is pink wood sorrel, one of the plants confused with clover, and often sold in stores as shamrocks. ("[Shamrock](#)") is a generic Irish word meaning "little clover." St. Patrick likely referred to white clover in his comparison of the plant to the Trinity, but lots of plants have leaves that look like clover). Have you seen a clover with small yellow flowers growing in your yard? That's yellow sorrel.

Reading up on sorrels and clovers, I learned that their leaves and flowers close up at night or when it's overcast. These kinds of plant movements are called [nyctinastic](#), or "sleeping movements." I can't wait to see if I can observe this when our clover gets a little bigger.



I notice. . . .

Squirrels in our neighborhood don't see people as a threat. I was nearly close enough to touch this guy, and he remained unconcerned. I wonder what he (or she) is thinking?



Let's have a little fun. . . Reply to this email with a caption of the squirrel's thoughts. Best caption will receive a prize, and a feature in next week's newsletter.

“Let me keep my mind on what matters which is my work which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.”

-Mary Oliver

Outdoor Adventures

While out walking this week, I heard the strangest noise coming from the trees. Looking closer, I found this squirrel. He kept making a sound like he was imitating a dog barking, and he would flick his tail in time with the barks. Of course he quit when I tried to take a video, but this one from the [Screech Owls blogspot](#) gives the same noises. (Just ignore the beginning of the video when he slows down the recording to better see the squirrel’s nose.) Have you ever tried to decipher squirrel chattering?



Where to find Mrs. Breclaw next week

Exploring nature and beauty from home. Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have, and stay tuned for daily “10 minute nature breaks” to help you through your distance learning adventures!

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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