

Nature Notes

November 21, 2019

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

I notice. . . .

This week I watched a flock of robins between the Robotics workshops and the convent. Perhaps because their distinctive coloration imparts familiarity, robins always seem friendly to me. American robins are technically members of the thrush family, but bear the name robin because early British colonists named the birds after the beloved Robins of their native country. European robins are about half the size of American robins, and sport red patches on their face and breast. Lots of British poetry and nursery rhymes attest to the friendliness of robins, and the bird's willingness to live near people.

Many people associate robins with the first day of spring. Here in Texas, however, greater numbers of robins are a telltale sign of winter approaching, as migrating robins come down to Texas to winter with our year-round robin populations.

<https://www.thespruce.com/american-robin-facts-4143588>

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/North-American-and-European-robins-share-a-2422226.php>



Images used for sketches:

https://journeynorth.org/tm/robin/fact_page.html

<https://www.britishbirdlovers.co.uk/facts-about-birds/facts-about-robins>

I wonder. . .

What is this tiny plant?

I stumbled upon it, literally, near White Lake at Nolan. It's a tiny groundcover plant, growing among grass and gravel at the shot put pits. From far away, it looks like little red specks, and up close, it looks almost like minute oak leaves. I'm sending

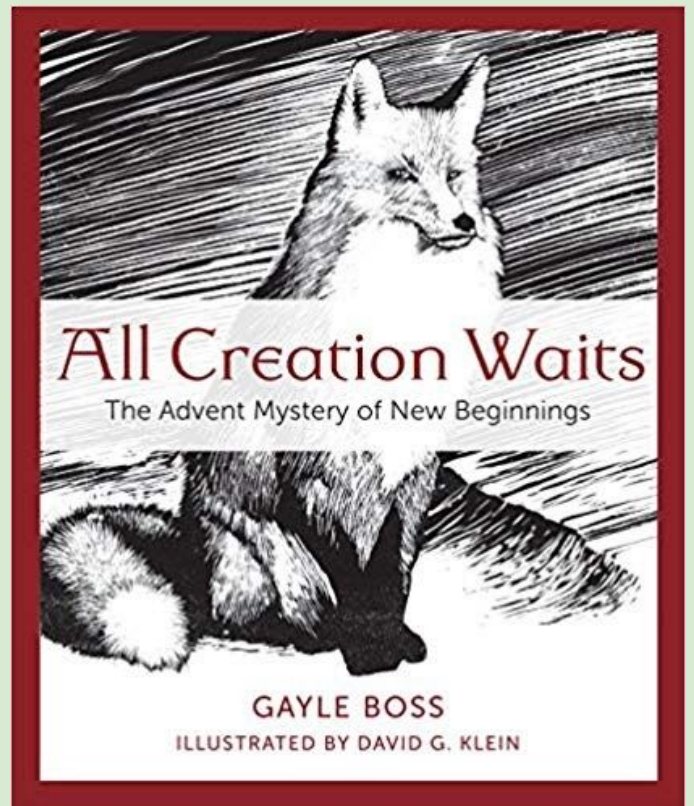


these images to BRIT, in hopes that their botanists can help me learn more about it. I'll keep you posted!

Good Reads

If you're looking for a unique set of Advent reflections, I highly recommend [All Creation Waits](#). Each day of advent features a different animal, and the story of that animal's preparations for winter. The stories become a metaphor for our spiritual journey, and our hope in times of darkness for the coming of Jesus Christ. For example, on day 6, the author shares the story of honey bees. During winter, the bees huddle inside their colony, a humming, shivering mass of 20,000 insects. Each one shivers, and while that tiny amount of motion does not generate much heat, all of them together provide enough heat to keep the bees alive and keep the honey from freezing, even when blizzards rage outside the thin walls of the hive.

How often can a smile, or kind word, seeming so inconsequential in itself, bring a little extra warmth to our community?



Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain.

Henry David Thoreau, "Excursions"

Courtyard Adventures



Dr. Hubbard's biology honors class took advantage of the gorgeous weather this week, and went outside to discuss Punnett squares and dihybrid crosses. They used the outdoor chalkboard for notes, and Dr. Hubbard discovered that if you angle your camera just right, the blackboard turns into a mirror. See, the outdoors is a great place for reflection!

Where to find Mrs. Breclaw next week

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Week of December 2

Monday 9:30-2

Tuesday out of office

Wednesday out of office

Thursday 8:30-4

Friday 8:30-3

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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