

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. . .

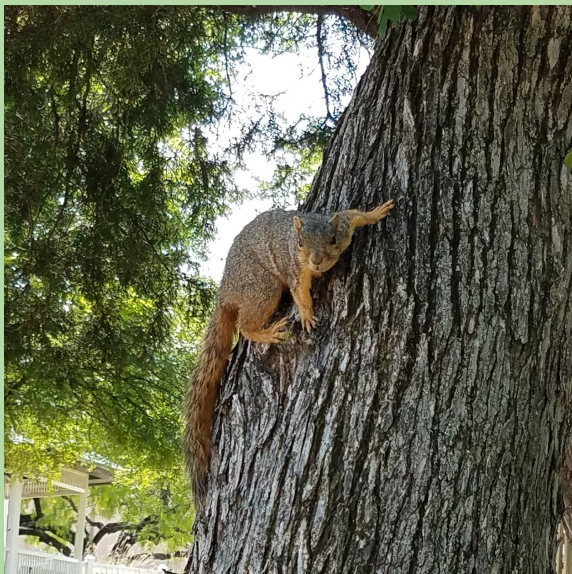
What are these lovely pink flowers? I keep seeing them on walks through the neighborhood. I googled "flower with five small pink petals, cloverlike leaves" and discovered that it is pink wood sorrel, one of the plants confused with clover, and often sold in stores as shamrocks. ("[Shamrock](#)") is a 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.

