

**Janet D. Smith – Natures Best Hope**

My program is based on the book *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy. You will learn how towns and cities came to have landscapes composed mostly of turf grasses and foreign plants; why it would be beneficial for all living things if we went back to a more natural landscape, and how urban and suburban homeowners can start doing it here in North Central Texas. A side benefit is that it would conserve water and reduce the use of chemicals, helping us humans save money!

**Bio:** Janet is a recovering plantaholic who considers the Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and native plant training as her 12-step program. She specializes in creating attractive landscapes that conserve natural resources and money; are good for the local ecology; and attract bees, butterflies, and birds. She loves helping others discover the thrill of having their own nature channel out their windows. Janet has been a Master Gardener since 2005, is Project Coordinator for the White Rock Demonstration Gardens, a North Texas Master Naturalist and has a Level 4 certification from the Native Plant Society of Texas. She has been recognized for over 5000 volunteer hours of Master Gardener service, Dallas, Dallas County Master Gardener Speaker of the Year, 2008, Texas Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year, 2010 and over 1000 hours of Master Naturalist service.