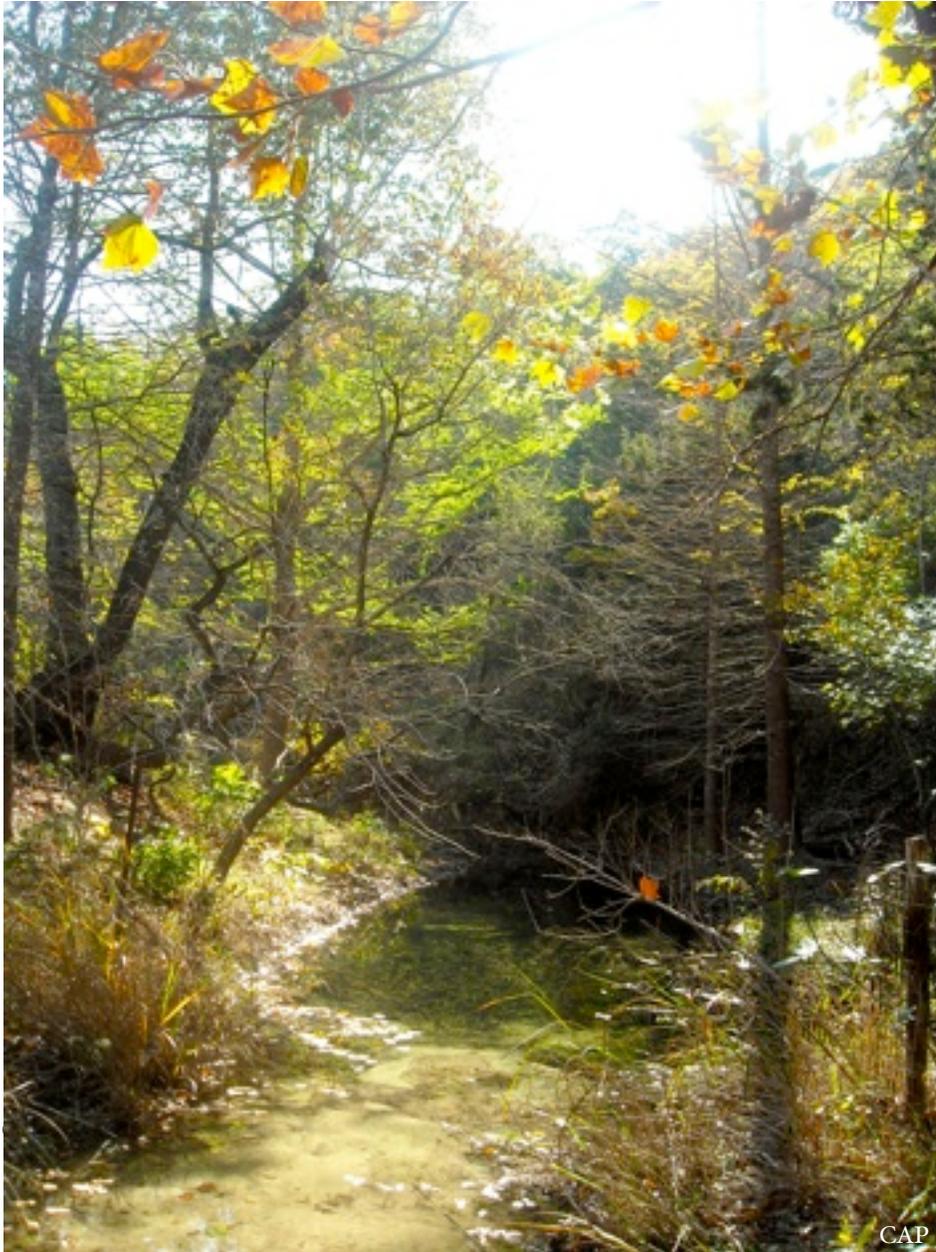


FIELD JOURNAL



Several CAMNers were among the thirty-five people from the Williamson County and Highland Lakes Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) Chapters who had a beautiful morning tour of Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve, south of Johnson City, on Veteran's Day.

If you know of the perfect spot for an outing, let one of the Board Members know and we will try and organize a CAMN field trip. Clearly now is a wonderful time to be out and about and it would be great to get together and see somewhere new. Let's get together and share nature.

Meeting

No Meeting in December due to Holiday Schedule.



Regular Monthly Meetings Resume In January 2010.

CAMN Board Meeting

No Meeting In December 2009. Join the Board of Directors for a spirited discussion about CAMN business on January 7th, 2010. Contact any Board Member for details.

Volunteer and Advanced Training Opportunities

Visit the CAMN website at www.camn.org and log in to the CAMN Volunteer Calendar to start fulfilling those volunteer hours.

The President and the Board would like to extend their warmest wishes to all CAMNer's for an extremely happy, safe and nature filled holiday season.

Citizen Science Strikes Again!

The Austin area, with all its colleges and state agencies, probably has one of the higher concentrations of professional botanists in the country. Nevertheless, a local citizen naturalist recently discovered a previously unidentified species that has existed right under their noses, in the Colorado River just below Lady Bird Lake. Businessman Robert Corbin, owner of Nomadic Notions, is an amateur in the best sense of the term “amateur,” one who pursues a vocation for love (Lat. *amat.*) rather than money. He has pursued his love of nature as a regular swimmer at Barton Springs and as a long-time board member of the Save Our Springs Alliance. Last summer, he was swimming and poking around in the river bottoms below Longhorn Dam when he first came upon the “new” species on an island in the Colorado. Corbin recently described the occasion for KUT radio, “So I actually swam out to the island, with my clothes on, carrying my backpack that had some gear in it above my head and got on to this island and started looking around. I came upon this plant that looked rather strange that I hadn’t seen before.” It was hardly obscure—the plants were up to six feet tall.

The plant discovery has now been published by Emeritus Professor of Botany Billie L. Turner in *Lundellia* 12:5-7 (Dec. 2009), the journal of the Plant Resources Center at U.T. Austin. It is named *Iva corbinii* after its discoverer. The plant is a member of the *Asteraceae* (which includes asters and sunflowers) with predominantly axillary single heads; genus *Iva* is kin to genus *Ambrosia*, the ragweeds. Corbin’s plant is apparently most closely related to *I. axillaris*, the Poverty Sumpweed, but has numerous differences including involucre composed of non-united bracts. Professor Turner says, “It’s mainly significant because it had never been found before and yet it was growing right here in front of numerous botanists over the years that had never even discovered it or seen it. It is also a very primitive member of the genus to which it belongs.” *Iva corbinii* appears to be restricted to one small stretch of the Colorado River. Professor Turner hopes that the species will be officially listed as endangered. He says Corbin found “the rarest of the rare.” All this from a passionate amateur who has again proved what an impact citizen scientists can have!

Austin, Home to Rarities!

As we all know we are so incredibly lucky to live here in Austin and environs. But did you know that many of our members regularly work at monitoring and protecting rare and endangered species?

For example, on one area of Waller Creek volunteers have worked in the past to protect two populations of *Physostegia correllii* or Correll's false dragonhead. At Bright Leave Preserve they are fighting to save a population of *Streptanthus bracteatus* or Bracted twist-flower and you could help! These opportunities are just a small part of what CAMN does.



Want to get Involved?

We have many Citizen Scientist programs you can become involved in or you can “strike out” on your own like Robert Corbin.

Texas Parks and Wildlife have numerous projects that MN can become involved in. For more information go to their website or look in past issues of the *Field Journal* for more information.

Last month the *Field Journal* included an article on conducting Bats and Bridges Surveys. This is a very new project and your help is needed. The plan is to check out as many bridges and coverts this winter to see which may be suitable bat habitat and to return next year and see if these areas are indeed being used. One use for the data taken will be used to try to ensure the bats are not disturbed if possible by road construction and such when they are in residence.

One of our own CAMNers and past editor of the *Field Journal* even set up her own project. Kim Bacon set up [Texas Bee Watchers](#) and you can read about her work there. The site is full of information on native bees, the latest research and what you can do to help Kims research or how to help bees in your own back garden. Kim has also established a discussion group at nativebees@yahoo.com.

None of these activities take your fancy? Well, Bill Carr of the Nature Conservancy (and a good friend of CAMN) can always use people to help locate rare species of plants and and monitor their growth and survival rate. Contact Bill through the Nature Conservancy at texas@tnc.org

A River of Raptors

One of the most dramatic natural events occurs every fall when changing weather patterns mark the migration of hawks (also called raptors, or birds of prey) from their summer nesting and breeding grounds to their wintering grounds in South America. While northward migration in the spring months is more sporadic and allows hawks to spread out over a larger geographic area, fall migration is the more spectacular of the two, with millions of hawks observed overhead in concentrated groups within a period of only a few months.

Scientists believe that hawks use a myriad of tools to find their way along migratory routes. First and foremost, they orient themselves by using a sun compass, or knowing where the sun should be at any given time of day. Some also use a polarization pattern of light for orientation, and are able to find the portion of the sky where light is uni-directional and utilize it to estimate the sun's position. Lastly, most hawks bring into play a magnetic compass, which allows them to orient themselves to the Earth's magnetic field. In order to get airborne and use these internal orientation systems, hawks find thermals, or large columns of warm air, and ride these rising air currents in a spiral, high into the sky. From this vantage point, they glide slowly down in the intended direction, and search for

the next thermal to help move them along their way. From these elevated perspectives, hawks generally navigate by large geographic features or landmarks, such as coastlines, waterways, and mountain ranges. The most common species of hawk that migrate over our area start with the Mississippi kite, continue with the Broad-winged hawk, and end with Swainson's hawk. Dark gray above and pale gray below with a red eye, long pointed wings, and a dark flared tail, the Mississippi kite hunts primarily insects, eats on the wing, and nests in loose colonies in woodlands and swamps in the southeast and south central United States. Brown-gray above with white underwings bordered in black, and a broad tail with black and white bands, the Broad-winged hawk breeds in the eastern woodlands of the United States and southern Canada. The largest of the three, the Swainson's hawk light morph is the color form that is most likely seen in our area. In flight, their long, narrow pointed wings exhibit a dark trailing edge and light leading edge, a dark chest bib, and light face and lower belly. These hawks hunt chiefly small mammals and insects in the grassland areas of the western United States and Canada.

Large groups of hawks flying overhead are called kettles. During fall migration, single kettles of 10,000 hawks are

routine, and single flights of over 100,000 hawks or more have been recorded. Occasionally, a strong cold front will ground several thousand hawks for the day and result in an overnight roost. Weather in the northern and eastern United States is one of the biggest factors in determining the timing of these migratory flights.

With the large number of hawks taking part in this annual event and the vast geographic areas that they cover, it was late into the 19th century before migration was beginning to be understood. With large populations of hawks shifting from breeding to wintering habitat, migration is a seasonal and predictable event that can be enjoyed year after year!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them



Kettle of hawks

Time for Bald Eagles!

Do you want to see Bald Eagles this winter — up close and personal? Well, they are back and can be seen daily at the extremely convenient viewing spot about 130 yards off State Highway 29 about eight miles east of Llano. The nest was first noticed in 2004 and because of the excitement the eagles have caused, the highway department has created a parking area to reduce the traffic hazard.

If you have never seen our local celebrities, this is the winter to go. Their nest is in a precarious situation and could easily fall in the next strong wind. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity.



FIELD PREP: BY CHERYL GOVEIA

2010 CAMN Class Begins

Could a whole year have passed so soon? It hardly seems possible, but the new CAMN class began with its Orientation on Saturday, November 21st. Twenty seven possible candidates were in attendance, including several alternates hoping to get into the groove. The class is set at 30 with 5 alternates. Students range from 9th grade to retired; there are three couples and a brother and sister team. Denali Kervella (14) is the youngest CAMN participant to date, but this class also has a Waldorf student in her

junior year. The furthest traveler is a commuter from the Woodlands who spends quite a bit of time in the hill country. The growing family extensions make this class unusually supported as two students from last year's class have family members attending this year and our Vice President's husband (who has been supportive all along) is also joining in the fun. Class organizers Kris Thorne and Patricia McGee kept the speakers on schedule and President Lynne Weber introduced and welcomed

everyone to what looks like an exciting year. The first class begins January 23rd at Wild Basin with an introduction to Nature Journaling and Nature Interpretation. The youngest member of the group will be documenting the process in a regular article to be featured in the newsletter monthly. If you would like to get involved or help with snacks please contact the class leaders or Cindy Durand, our food and fun volunteer. Welcome 2010 CAMN interns!

FIELD MEETING: BY DALE RYE

More Smoke Than Fire

The CAMN meeting on November 18 was entertained and informed by Jewell Pollard, speaking on "Texas Native Americans." He presented much the same material as has been a hit at Wild Basin for several years, beginning with the arrival of the first human beings in the Western Hemisphere and tracing the cultural history of Central Texas down to the arrival of the first Europeans. Perhaps most fascinating was his display of artifacts, from stone tools (circa 11,000 BCE) down to trade beads (circa 1860 CE). He showed the technology that enabled the first Americans to hunt mammoths and other megafauna, and that could then be adapted for the new ecological systems that developed after the Ice Ages. The crowd was particularly impressed by the demonstration of the operation of an atlatl, the spear-thrower that even the armored Conquistadores feared more than bow and arrows. He also had a set of those, as well as a whole toolkit of stone tools. As an accomplished flint-knapper, Jewell told us how to select and prepare flint for forming into finished tools. He also showed how the Indians prepared cordage for binding tools and handles together, among other uses. A key technology, of course, was fire. Since it was not always possible to keep an old fire going, there had to be ways to start a new one. One method was using a fire drill, a stick twirled rapidly against a wooden socket until the heat of friction generated a burning ember that could be placed in tender and used to spark a fire. The high humidity that evening meant that Jewell created more smoke than fire, but it was an amazing display nonetheless. In keeping with the Master Naturalist mission, the focus of his talk was on the interface between human beings and the rest of nature, and on the ways that earlier cultures in our area lived lighter on the land than we do today. All in all, it was a most informative presentation... besides being a great good time.



Jewell Pollard attempted for a considerable time to produce a spark for us — there was a lot of smoke and sweat but no flames. There was a lot of fun too!

FIELD SIGHTING: BY MARSHA MAY

15 Mussels Designated as Threatened in the State

I would like to share some great news with you. TPWD Commissioners approved the state listing of fifteen Texas freshwater mussels as threatened. This will protect these highly vulnerable species.

Here is a list of the species:

False spike (*Quadrula mitchelli*)

Golden orb (*Quadrula aurea*)

Louisiana Pigtoe (*Pleurobema ridellii*)

Mexican fawnsfoot (*Truncilla cognata*)

Salina mucket (*Potamilus metnecktayi*)

Sandbank pocketbook (*Lampsilis satura*)

Smooth pimpleback (*Quadrula houstonensis*)

Southern hickorynut (*Obovaria jacksoniana*)

Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*)

Texas fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*)

Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amplichaenus*)

Texas hornshell (*Popenaias popeii*)

Texas pigtoe (*Fusconaia askewi*)

Texas pimpleback (*Quadrula petrina*)

Triangle pigtoe (*Fusconaia lananensis*)

Marsha E. May

Texas Nature Trackers

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<<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker>>



Texas endemic *Quadrula aurea*, Golden orb. Guadalupe River, April 2006. Courtesy of <http://www.buffalostate.edu/greatlakescenter/x731.xml>



Texas endemic *Fusconaia lananensis*. Village Creek, September 2005. Courtesy of <http://www.buffalostate.edu/greatlakescenter/x731.xml>

The Capital Area Master Naturalists association with the Austin Nature and Science Center

In October I had the pleasure of attending the Texas Master Naturalist state meeting to give a short talk about the relationship between our chapter and the Austin Nature and Science Center. First, let me tell you that you don't need an excuse like that to go to the state meeting. If you have the opportunity to go, I assure you you'll have a good time. I discovered some information I didn't know as I prepared for my talk. For those of you who weren't there, here's a little history about CAMN and ANSC.

About 10 years ago Clark Hancock, René Barerra, and Kelly Bender put together the first CAMN group. The Texas Master Naturalist Association had not been formed yet but the process of forming the organization had started. They based CAMN on an existing chapter in San Antonio. Clark, Rene, and Kelly wanted to bring in experts for the programs at the Austin Science and Nature Center. The original committee that formed CAMN consisted of Jackie Pool from the Sierra Club, Clark Hancock, and representatives of the Austin Junior League. At that time there was an organization called the Austin Natural Science Association, an offshoot of the Women's Auxiliary. That

group focused on natural science skills and women in that group volunteered at the nature center.

The nature center has always focused on bringing nature to children (below left). But they also saw a need to have programs for adults. This is where CAMN comes in. CAMN was formed by, and initially for, the nature center. The relationship has evolved over the years and is more reciprocal now. They provide us with a permanent mailing address, a place for our monthly meetings and recently, space for our storage shed (above). Our volunteers help out at the nature center and in other areas in Austin. Our meetings serve as a public lecture for the ANSC. When CAMN first started, one of the first volunteer opportunities at the nature center were the roving interpreters. Our own Melissa McDougal was involved with that. The idea was that CAMN members would show up at the nature center and walk around engaging visitors who were



receptive to hearing more about the nature center.

Perhaps it was only natural that Melissa would go on to start the biodiversity surveys. In October they completed the fourth year of monthly biodiversity surveys. This project has attracted a core group of dedicated volunteers, from two to twelve people in any given month (not all but most are CAMN members, below right) who enjoy monitoring seasonal changes at the site and adding to the species lists. Melissa emails summaries of observations to CAMN, as well as the ANSC staff for use in their programs, and highlights are posted in the Naturalist's Workshop.



The CAMN's association with the ANSC

In Melissa's words, "I think this monthly biodiversity survey is an ideal way to spotlight this wonderful natural area in the center of the city while at the same time collecting valuable information. Having a regular date (first Saturday for us) and one person committed to being there every month have been the keys to our consistency and longevity. We started the surveys with just blooming plants and birds, but soon broadened to include all taxa. Volunteers are not required to have any particular expertise (although some do and it certainly helps!), so developing species lists has been our primary goal. That way we don't have to worry so much about what we are missing, but can rejoice in everything we find. In fact, it is often the less experienced

participants who notice something the rest of us have overlooked. I believe one of the virtues of our survey is its simplicity -- we walk around the site (usually very sloooooowly!) and record what we see. Everyone contributes, everyone learns, and it's big-time fun. Digital photography and burgeoning online identification resources (like BugGuide) are making it easier all the time to add new species to our lists. ANSC, especially Clark, seems to really value the survey, not just the information, but the fact that we are out there walking the trails on a regular basis. It has also provided a way to connect with other organizations, since some of the volunteers come from Audubon, Butterfly Forum, etc."

CAMN volunteers also assist at the ANSC Trading Counter. The trading counter was started when Margaret Russell obtained a Junior League grant to get it started. Now a full-time employee of the nature center, Mary Stuart Miller runs the trading counter. The trading counter at the naturalist workshop works like this: The child (or an occasional adult) finds something of interest outside. They learn as much as possible about the new nature item. They then bring the item to the trade counter and share what has been learned. An item can also be a drawing or photo or written description. Kids can earn points for their items or knowledge and finally they can use the points by trading for something from the trade collection. Some kids save the points for later.

Shown here in this photograph is a CAMN member, David Dunlap. He has worked at the trading desk for quite a while. He told me a story of a little boy who came in who wanted an ammonite fossil that cost 3000 points. He came in over and over and accumulated points until he was able to buy the item he wanted. I don't know about you, but I would've loved to have had something like this in my community as a child. Of course there are some rules. The naturalist workshop asked that the kids not bring anything that was collected on land where natural items are protected by law like state and federal parks. Also arrowheads or other cultural artifacts are not allowed. Neither are animal skins, birds, or bird parts, killed animals, or whole plants. One leaf is okay and obviously live animals or plants are not allowed. Some of the more common things that are brought in include clean bones, clean shelves, clean insect and crustacean exoskeletons, snake sheds, rocks and minerals, fossils, plant parts such as nuts and seeds pressed leaves and



flowers, antlers, casts of animal footprints and finally nature journal entries such as drawings, descriptions, and photos. They emphasize that you only need to take one of each of the different specimens that you're find. You only need a few to make a really good collection.

CAMN members volunteer in other ways at ANSC and our relationship continues to evolve. Of course CAMN could have been formed at some other point in time but the fact is representatives from the nature Center and other city employees in Austin were responsible for creating CAMN. Clark mentioned that the CAMN membership gave all of the original organizers an honorary Master naturalist membership. He says this is one of the things that he values most in his career.



The Davis Mountains Preserve Christmas Tree Hunt Saturday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 12

Bring your handsaw, gloves and tie-down rope and join The Nature Conservancy on Saturday, December 5, or Saturday, December 12, for the annual Christmas Tree Hunt at the Davis Mountains Preserve. There is no charge for this popular cut-your-own Christmas tree event, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days.

The 32,000-acre Davis Mountains Preserve is a "sky island" ecosystem, providing a home to animals and plants, some of which live nowhere else on Earth. Mount Livermore, one of the highest peaks in Texas, is found on the preserve, and the new Madera Canyon Trail offers spectacular views of regional landmarks such as Sawtooth Mountain, Chico Canyon and Pine Peak.

Regular tree thinning is essential to maintaining a healthy ecosystem in the Davis Mountains, so by cutting your own pinyon pine you're actually helping us manage this iconic West Texas landscape.

Participants can select a tree along the Madera Creek watershed where ponderosa and pinyon pines and alligator junipers are common. Please note that power saws are not allowed and pets are not permitted on the preserve. Hikers are also welcome to enjoy the preserve on these two open days. To get to the preserve from Fort Davis, take Highway 118 north past the Davis Mountains State Park and McDonald Observatory. About 10 miles beyond the observatory, the Lawrence E. Wood Roadside Park will be on the left. Just beyond the picnic area, turn left into the Davis Mountains Preserve gate, where there is a small Nature Conservancy sign. Once you enter the preserve, the McIvor Conservation Center is on the left. Participants are asked to sign in at the McIvor Conservation Center, where trail maps and other information about the preserve are available.

What a great idea — Field Trip anyone!



Nandina? Way Out Here with the Mushrooms?

Early one Sunday morning Christopher Fritel, Patty Collier and I set out to take part in one of the many CAMN activities and, in my opinion one of the most fun — is Invasive Species Removal. It may not sound like fun to you, but being out on pristine protected land where natural wonders appear at every turn, is my cuppa-cuppa... essentially I feel like a kid all over, exploring the woods only this time with a real mission. Christopher is our guide. He has attended all of the training classes and has the GPS to track and record our findings, and he knows the combination to the locks making him also the proverbial gate keeper.



You must have permission to be on the land, and you want to make sure you do that because on other tracts of the Balconies Canyon land Preserve (BCP) this weekend they were wild hog hunting.

Small *Palafoxia* (*Palafoxia callosa*) In bloom alongside the road was glowing in the morning light. *P. callosa* is popular for butterfly gardens and is gaining popularity in cultivation. It is a magnificent species when in full bloom.



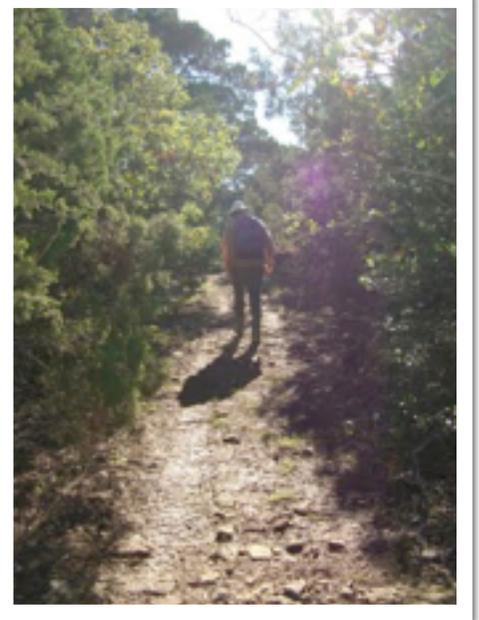
Corn on the ground just inside the hog pens.



You can see the tracks in the soft mud leading into the trap. They disperse the corn all around and the trip lines are actually quite a distance from the gate so that when it's triggered, the hogs can't get out before the door shuts. We found tracks throughout the morning that were fresh, but didn't see or hear them...or the hunters for that matter.



We hiked in about 20 minutes before finding the plot of land that Christopher has been clearing for some time now.



He's showing me here where we are, and half way across the map, where we were going to Track AA.



The forest floor was cover in moss and flowers, the sunlight playing on the insects made it seem like a faerie world.





Mushrooms and various fungi were everywhere. I searched for a name for this beauty and was getting frustrated until the same name kept popping up: Tom Volk, a mycologist and professor from Wisconsin. It seems that mushroom identification is one of the most difficult endeavors...considering there are over 70,000 species and more are being discovered all the time. What I wanted to know though, he had neatly written in a list of 10. Here are the 10 edible mushrooms...according to Dr. Volk:

Morchella esculenta ("morel"). This unusual pitted grayish to yellow mushroom is many people's favorite collectable edible. It is one of the harbingers of spring and is usually found in May to very early June. A good place to look for them is near dead or dying elms.

Grifola frondosa ("hen of the woods"). This delicious edible typically grows at the bases of oak trees where it forms large clumps resembling the many-layered feathers of a hen. The "feathers" are usually grayish-brown with white pores underneath.

Agaricus campestris ("meadow mushroom"). This is a wild relative of the common white mushroom found in stores. It can be recognized by its ring and its free gills which are pink when young darkening to chocolate brown in age. It is a firm, meaty mushroom with a white to brown, smooth to fibrillose cap. Typically, it grows in grass and the large smooth caps can often be seen poking out of the ground in yards or along curbs.

Cantharellus cibarius ("chanterelle"). This is a golden-colored mushroom with a flat

to sunken cap and blunt ridges rather than gills running down the stalk. The odor is distinctive and mellow fruity, somewhat similar to apricots.

Chanterelles frequently start to fruit in July.

Coprinus comatus ("shaggy mane"). This is one of the distinctive "inky-cap" mushrooms whose gills and flesh darken and dissolve into an inky-black mess. Before this happens, though, it is a beautiful white mushroom with shaggy upturned scales. It is commonly found in grassy areas in the fall.

Pleurotus ostreatus ("oyster mushroom"). This is a large, fan-shaped, moist, whitish to tan mushroom with little or no stalk. The widely-spaced gills jutting straight out from high up on a tree trunk often make this mushroom a beautiful spectacle.

Hydnum repandum ("sweet tooth"). This is a firm, compact tooth fungus with a buff to orange cap that is often flat-topped and with paler white to yellowish teeth.

Hericium coralloides ("bear's head tooth"). This is also a tooth fungus, but does not have the usual stem-cap form. Rather its teeth hang from a cluster of white fleshy branches. It grows on decaying wood.

Leccinum insigne/aurantiacum ("scaber stalk"). These are pored, bolete-type mushrooms with orange-brown to reddish-brown caps and dark projections or scabers on the stem. They are usually associated with aspen or birch trees and are quite common. A related species which is also edible is the light gray-brown-capped *L. scabrum*.

Flammulina velutipes ("velvet foot" or "velvet stem"). This is a small firm mushroom that grows in clumps on wood. It is noted for its sticky reddish-yellow cap and dark-brown velvety stem and for the fact that it often can be collected even in cold weather when there are no other edible mushrooms around.

Now to find images and learn them...and hunt them...and find them...and eat them! I love mushrooms!



This may be hard to see, but if you look closely the barbed wire is stretching some 12-18 feet up through the tree. It must have been a sapling when the fence was first erected.

I've had a hard time trying to identify this fungus, what I've learned is that it's a shelf-fungi and that fungi grow in a range of organic material - soil, live trees,



dead trees, and scat. The fungi that grow in coniferous trees differ from those growing in deciduous trees. Saprotrophic fungi feed on dead organic matter. Parasitic fungi feed on living organisms and I can't remember if I even looked up when I took this picture. There was so much more going on down below and this was only about a foot from the ground.

Nandina? Way Out Here with the Mushrooms?



This is a fungi growing out of a nurse log. That's just a dead log or a wound in a tree where decay has started and some fungi have taken advantage of the location.



Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor*) which is a bracket fungi which is another name for fungi that grow off of a tree or log. The portion you see of this type of fungi is like the "flower" while most of the tissue, or tail extends into the host. Turkey Tails grow from May to December and can last several years. They are also known to grow from wounds in trees, mostly oaks.

some rusty stuff that may find its way into some yard art soon. It's amazing to me that stores like Home Depot and Lowe's are allowed to sell plants that are taking the resources from the land, creating a dense growth the sun cannot penetrate, crowding out natives while altering habitats.

It was shocking to find so many Nandina thriving on the forest floor. I have two area's in my yard that I still need to remove, but until I plan out the removal and replacement I cut off the berries and throw them in the trash. They are a beautiful plant, especially now when the new growth creates a soft burnt orange umbrella above the rest of the plant and the red berries are very cheerful. I used to cut them and display them indoors...now they just look evil.

Christopher is super dedicated, as is Patty but we took the rest of the day off. After lunch Christopher got with two other volunteers and went out again. When I see baby Nandina anywhere, I do a double take and yank it out...the problem with that is that no-one knows about it, therefore funds for such projects as Specie Removal don't get the benefit...and the biologists don't have true accuracy with citizen volunteers collecting data. There in lies the dilemma, to yank or not to yank? What do you think?

Cheryl is from the 2009 CAMN class and has a wonderful blog (from which this article is taken) <http://consciousgardening.blogspot.com/>



I had some of these pop up in my garden after applying mulch this fall, I love to catch the sunlight through the gills.



This bumpy dry...mushroom? Was growing out of the rock in the road.

Well...Patty and Christopher found 5 *Nandina domestica* and 3 *Pyracantha coccinea*...I managed to walk away with some cool photos of mushrooms and

Did You Know?

...that you can change your own personal information on the CAMN Website? If you change email addresses just log-in and go to the control information under the CAMN header. Under "my info" there are instructions on changing your own email address at the website. If you do this yourself the Communications Department would be incredibly happy as it is a lot less work for you to do it than them!

FIELD TRIP: BY BILL WARD

What's in a Native-Plant Name?

Part II



Lindheimer daisy, Lindheimer's silktassel, Lindheimer's senna, Lindheimer's maiden fern, Lindheimer's nolina, Lindheimer muhly, and the "Lindheimer" list goes on and on. Certainly the most common surname used for naming Texas native plants is Lindheimer.

Most of these plants were first collected by Ferdinand Lindheimer, a German naturalist and plant collector who is called the "Father of Texas Botany." Lindheimer was born two hundred and seven years ago in Frankfort. Supposedly he developed an interest in botany as a youth, but that is not well documented. Lindheimer was educated in elite schools, including the Royal Prussian University, where he was a student of philology. His later writings in Texas reflect his early studies of Greek and Latin literature and mythology. He withdrew from the university without receiving a doctoral degree when he was almost 25. After he left the university, Herr Lindheimer became a teacher at a boys' school in Frankfort. Several men on the faculty of that school were active in a movement to unify German lands under a democratic constitution. For this, a few faculty members were condemned for sedition, and some others felt compelled to leave Germany. It is unknown what part, if any, Lindheimer played in the political uprising, but he left Germany for the US in 1834. He joined a group of German intellectuals who were working on a farm near Belleville, Illinois. These immigrants included the botanist George Engelmann. The friendship of Lindheimer and Engelmann was destined to have a most profound influence on the history of Texas botany.

The Spartan life at Belleville soon drove Lindheimer and six others to set out for Mexico. Three turned back at New Orleans, but Lindheimer and two brothers named Friedrich were determined to continue to Vera Cruz. After a miserable voyage, they made their way to a German colony inland of Vera Cruz. Ever the naturalist, Lindheimer made notes on the vegetation along the way. After a short time in that tropical area, Lindheimer could not envision a bright



LBJWC

Top: Ferdinand Lindheimer.

Center: Garrya ovata ssp. lindheimeri, Dabbling Lindheimer Silk Tassel.

Bottom: Lindheimera texana, Lindheimer daisy, Texas star, Texas yellow star.



LBJWC

future for himself. He decided to go to Texas, an idea that had intrigued him for awhile. The little Mexican ship he took from Vera Cruz to New Orleans went aground somewhere on the northern Gulf coast. Lindheimer and two Frenchmen walked two days to Mobile.

On April 20, 1836, Lindheimer enlisted in an army unit bound for Texas, the day before the Texans won the Battle of San Jacinto near Houston. Almost a month later, he arrived in Texas and spent the next 19 months in the Texas army in the Houston-Galveston area. Apparently, he was in the good graces of his commanding officer, who allowed him to collect botanical specimens while other soldiers had to drill. For most of the duration of the Texas Republic, Lindheimer lived in Houston. After he was discharged in 1837, Lindheimer made a short visit to his friend George Engelmann in Missouri, but he came back to a small farm he bought near Houston. He was not a successful farmer, probably because he was trying to farm and botanize at the same time.

Engelmann, who was now a prominent botanist of international fame at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, sent books on botany and optical equipment to Lindheimer in Texas. In return, Lindheimer sent Engelmann botanical specimens from the wilds of Texas.

Among Lindheimer's favorites of the plants he discovered in the early 1840s was one named *Lindheimera texensis*, the single species of a new genus. Today this is known as Texas star or Lindheimer daisy. During 1845, the year Texas joined the Union, Lindheimer traveled to the German colony that



Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels had established on Comal Creek twenty-five miles northeast of San Antonio. He liked this beautiful area and acquired a little plot of land on the outskirts of town overlooking the steep banks of the Comal. There began an extraordinary episode in the history of Texas botany involving, along with Lindheimer, other men for whom Texas native plants are named. But that is for another day...

Bill Ward of the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas has kindly allowed me to reproduce this series of articles that I think you will enjoy. Please let me know if you do so I can send on your thanks to Bill.



Above: Vernonia lindheimeri, Woolly ironweed. Below (left and right): The Lindheimer house still stands on the banks of the Comal River on Comal Street in New Braunfels, and is now a museum.



December Wildland Conservation Education Events

Explore properties only open to the public through special activities such as these guided hikes. To learn more about these events, or to register, please visit the calendar on our webpage at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/onlineregistration/ecowebevents.cfm>.

All events are free of charge.

Guided Hikes

Birds, Butterflies, and Fossils (BCP-Vireo Preserve)

Date and Time: Saturday, December 5, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Located near intersection of Pascal Ln. and Loop 360. Directions sent upon [registration](#).

Description: This adventure is designed for the young naturalist (ages 12 and under). Our morning will consist of hands-on activities, which will include searching for 70 million year old fossils, catching and identifying butterflies, and learning about birds of the BCP. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Scenic Views & Hidden Springs (WQPL-Parkhouse)

Date and Time: Saturday, December 5, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Located near intersection of Circle Drive and Hwy 290W. Directions sent upon [registration](#).

Description: Did you know the City of Austin owns land for water quality protection? Participants will be guided on a 3.5 mile hike over classic Hill Country terrain, enjoying beautiful views of surrounding wildland and close up looks at varied habitats ending with a visit to a hidden spring. All the

while, guides will relate the history of the tract and how it is being managed to benefit water quality and quantity. Due to the length and pace, this hike is intended for audiences 12 and up. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Exploring Wild Basin for Kids and Families (BCP Hike and Lecture Series Hosted by Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve)

Date and Time: Saturday, December 12, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Located at 805 N. Capitol of Texas Highway. Directions sent upon [registration](#).

Description: Explore Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve's native plants, geology, and wildlife on this guided hike to a waterfall through the mature oak and juniper woodlands, grasslands, and streamside habitats of Central Texas. Youth under 18 will enjoy a 1 to 1.6 mile hike, with participants split into smaller, similarly-aged groups. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

Exploring Wild Basin (BCP Hike and Lecture Series Hosted by Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve)

Date and Time: Saturday, December 12, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Located at 805 N. Capitol of Texas Highway. Directions sent upon [registration](#).

Description: Explore Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve's native plants, geology, and wildlife on this guided hike to a waterfall through the mature oak and juniper woodlands, grasslands, and streamside habitats of Central Texas. The hike will cover approximately 2 to 2.5 miles. Ages 18 and up.

BCP's Geologic Past (BCP- Cortaña)

Date and Time: Sunday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Located near intersection of FM 2222 and RR 620. Directions sent upon [registration](#).

Description: Explore the geologic beginnings of the BCP on this hike through time. Ann Molineux of UT's Texas Natural Science Center, non-vertebrate paleontology curator, and Sigrid Clift, Bureau of Economic Geology geologist, will lead this fascinating hike. We'll explore three major geologic formations as we descend into the canyon looking for clues to our ancient past. Ages 12 and up.

Welcome to Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL-Slaughter)

Date and Time: Sunday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Located near intersection of Slaughter Lane and FM 1826. Directions sent upon [registration](#).

Description: Participants will learn about the history of people's relationship to water on this property from 9,000 years ago to the present day. The walk passes by diverse areas under active management for restoration to an oak-juniper savannah or healthy riparian corridor. Views of Slaughter Creek and the chance to see a red-tailed hawk enhance this opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoors while learning about how the City of Austin is conserving land for water quality. Children may attend, but must be under parental supervision at all times.

Birding by Impression (BCP-Vireo Preserve)
Date and Time: Saturday, December 19, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Location: Located near intersection of Pascal Ln. and Loop 360. Directions sent upon registration.

Description: "Birding by Impression" is a holistic approach to identification that has been employed by indigenous people throughout the world for thousands of years. This technique, sometimes called "right-brained birding," uses the fundamental characteristics of shape, size, structure, behavior, voice, and habitat to identify birds. With practice, you will not only be able to rapidly identify more species of birds, but also build a greater sense of awareness of the natural world. While long considered a birder's paradise, Vireo Preserve has something for both the novice naturalist and the expert. Its unique history has marked its landscape in interesting ways. This hike will pass through rich shrublands, golden-cheeked warbler habitat, and grassy hillsides while offering some of the best scenic views of Austin. Guides will discuss the preserve's history and how it is expressed in today's natural communities. Ages 12 and up.



Black Capped Vireo, male by Michael Male

Special Request: Keep Austin Beautiful "Clean Sweep" in April

Leadership position for one (1), invasives removal for many!

The City of Austin's "Clean Sweep" is a city-wide cleanup event and the largest such event; it is next scheduled for April 10, 2010. KAB Programs Manager Jessica Wilson (CAMN '07) tells us:

"I have a spot perfect for CAMNers during Clean Sweep this year: a pond on Onion Creek upstream of McKinney Falls State Park is full of common water hyacinth, a highly invasive species. I'd love it if CAMNers could help take out the invasive plants since they flow downstream in storms and keep

spreading. This aspect of Clean Sweep would definitely count as CAMN volunteer hours since it is removing invasive plants from the water rather than trash. I've done lots of invasive removal, so feel confident in that.

"We hope one CAMN volunteer will adopt this project as lead, then other CAMNers sign up online to help out. Clean Sweep is April 10th each year and more information on the annual Clean Sweep event is available at: www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/cleansweep. If anyone is interested

in helping out please contact: Jessica@KeepAustinBeautiful.org or 512.501.3633.

"The first 4,000 volunteers to register get a free event t-shirt and it's followed by an awesome Volunteer Party and Environmental Fair at Waterloo Park which includes: free lunch, live music, kid's environmental activities, recycled art, door prizes and more!

Let's Make this a CAMN Special Project!

Water Resource Training Course

Getting In Step Workshop

Modeling of Water Distribution Systems using EPANet

January 28, 2010

Williamson County Extension
Office

Georgetown, TX

About the Course: This one-day workshop developed and led by Tetra Tech teaches participants how to conduct watershed outreach campaigns to help reduce nonpoint source (NPS) and stormwater pollution, improve water quality on a priority watershed basis, and facilitate greater total maximum daily load and watershed-based plan implementation.

About the Instructor:

Jennifer McDonnell, an

Outreach Specialist for Tetra Tech, has more than seven years of experience in environmental education and outreach for youth and adult audiences. Over the past five years, her project work has focused on watersheds and water quality issues. Prior to joining Tetra Tech, she was the Executive Director of Capital Region Earth Force where her accomplishments included expanding the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) service learning program reach to more than five times its initial pilot audience as well as successfully engaging more than forty agencies and stakeholders in the watershed improvement projects and partnerships with the program participants.

Getting In Step Workshop

Williamson County Extension
Office

Georgetown, TX

Jan. 28, 2010

**For registration
information or a complete
schedule visit, [http://
watereducation.tamu.edu](http://watereducation.tamu.edu)**

The Texas Water Resources Institute is offering intensive, hands-on training courses in the use of water resources models. Participants will receive comprehensive personal training from experts in the development and use of water resources models, technologies, and methodologies. Participants can often earn Texas A&M University continuing education units (CEUs).

Join us for the last Science Under the Stars lecture of 2009.

Next Wednesday, December 9, at 7:30 PM, Barrett Klein will discuss SLEEP and the plight of a weary honey bee: Sleep is something we can all relate to, but are hard pressed to define. We spend a third of our lives asleep and we have little understanding why. Why do you sleep? Is it for the same reason an insect sleeps? Join me for a foray into the realm of dreams, of

different electrophysiological states, and of sleeping insect societies. (some of my work with honey bee and paper wasp sleep: www.pupating.org (take a look at the amazing images)

The lecture will be held outdoors. In the event of very cold or wet weather the lecture will be held indoors.

Join us early for refreshments and kids activities!

Lecture is at Brackenridge Field Lab, 2907 Lake Austin Blvd. Austin, TX

Announcements from around the State

The Texas Bluebird Society is have a Bluebird Season Kickoff on January 30, 2010 at the Brazos Center in Bryan, Texas. The schedule is being developed but will probably run from about 9:00 AM to about 3:00 PM. Eight speakers will talk about various topics having to do with such things as enticing Bluebirds to one's land, helping them stay, photographing Bluebirds, and such.

Any help you might give in getting the word out would be appreciated. Interested individuals can go to www.texasbluebirdsociety.org or contact me.

Jim Anding
local coordinator
979 776 8381
979 324 8389

JOSLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GARDEN WORK DAY
HELP US GET GARDEN AREAS READY FOR JOSLIN ELEMENTARY'S
PLANTING DAY

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is working with Joslin Elementary School to design and install several native plant gardens on their campus and we need your help. The focus area for this work day will be to layout and prepare the garden areas that the students have designed.

Date/Time: Saturday, December 19, 9:00am-12:00pm

Where: Joslin Elementary School, 4500 Manchaca Rd

What to Bring: Gardening tools such as rakes, shovels, hoes, and wheelbarrows, gloves, water bottle, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, a snack, and please wear closed-toed shoes.

RSVP: Please email Julia Ragsdale at ragsdale_julia@hotmail.com or Flo Oxley at oxley@wildflower.org if you can join us to help out.

Loaner Bat Detectors available from TPWD

The Austin headquarters of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has two Batbox Baton bat detectors that can be borrowed by CAMNers for up to two weeks. Pressing one button allows you to "hear" sounds above the normal human range (20 - 120 kHz frequencies are reduced to 2 - 12 kHz). Contact John Young (john.young@tpwd.state.tx.us, 512-389-8047) for more information.

Officers

President: [Lynne Weber](#)
Vice-President: [Christine Powell](#)
Past President:
Treasurer: [Linda Nowlin](#)
Administrative Secretary:
[Beck Runte](#)
Recording Secretary:
[Mary Ellen Quinn](#)
At-Large Board Members:
[Cheryl Goveia](#)
[Jan Hanz](#)
Advisory Board Members:
[Kelly Bender](#),
[Clark Hancock](#),
[Melissa MacDougall](#)

Board of Directors

According to the CAMN By-Laws, our Board of Directors consists of the Officers and the Chair of each Committee.

If you have concerns you wish the Board to consider, please contact one of the Board members via email or show up at a Board Meeting.

CAMN Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of odd numbered months at: 6:45 p.m. at the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin, 2700 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 204, Austin, TX 78757.

The agenda for the next Board Meeting is available here.

Got info for the Field Journal?

Send info, photos and articles for publication in the *Field Journal* to: camnnews@gmail.com. **Deadline for submission is the 27th of each month.**

Committees

Administrative

Contact: [Beck Runte](#)
Maintains database of students and alumni, including names, addresses, class attendance, volunteer hours earned, and advanced training completed.

Communications

Contact: [Christine Powell](#)
Web page: [Christine Powell](#)
Field Journal: [Dena Roberts](#)
Press releases: [Kelly Bender](#)
Responsible for the Internet web page and press releases.

Curriculum

Contact: [Kris Thorne](#) and [Patricia McGee](#)
Develops the CAMN curriculum, as well as plans the lectures, activities and field trips for each class.

Advanced Training

Contact: [Joan Singh](#)
Plans, coordinates, and approves advanced training opportunities.

Programs

Contact: [Sally Scott](#)
Plans, and coordinates, meeting programs.

Field Trips

Contact: [Joan Singh](#)
Plans and coordinates field trips

Food & Fun

Contact: [Cindy Durand](#)
Facilitates the social aspects of CAMN including the Certification Ceremonies and holiday celebrations.

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact: [Julia Osgood](#)
Develops criteria to determine whether volunteer opportunities may be counted for CAMN credit. Reviews, approves, and publicizes opportunities.

Ad Hoc

Education Partners: [Jeri Porter](#), [Jessica Wilson](#), [Simonetta Rodriguez](#), [Lynda Blakeslee](#), [Marilyn Kircus](#)
Seeks and applies for grants to boost our outreach efforts.

Education and Outreach Committee

Contact: [Peggy A. Murphy](#) Promotes CAMN
Contact: [Stuart Bailey](#) Outreach CAMN

Sponsors/Partners

Mission Statement

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Members of CAMN are dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and restoration of our natural resources. To that end, we encourage and support trained Master Naturalist volunteers in Austin and Travis County in providing community programs and projects that increase appreciation of our natural environment and promote, protect, and preserve native flora and fauna.

[Austin Nature and Science Center](#)

[Texas Parks and Wildlife](#)

[Texas Cooperative Extension](#)

[Lower Colorado River Authority](#)

[Austin Sierra Club](#)

[The Nature Conservancy of Texas](#)

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

[Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve](#)

[Hornsby Bend Center for Environmental Research](#)

[Bat Conservation International](#)

[Native Plant Society of Texas](#)

[Travis Audubon Society](#)

