

FIELD NOTES



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just a couple of weeks ago the Texas Master Naturalist Program was named "Program of the Year." Well done to us all!

Michelle Haggerty the Master Naturalist Program Coordinator for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department wrote

"Last week I was able to attend the annual ANROSP meeting in Moline, Illinois. ANROSP—the Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach & Service Programs is the professional organization for state program coordinators, like myself, who coordinate Master Naturalist and other similar natural resource volunteer programs in other states across the nation. While at the conference, the organization announced the recipients of it's inaugural award program.

The Texas Master Naturalist Program was named as the recipient of ANROSP's first "Program of the Year" award. Congrats to all! You — our volunteers — make the Texas Master Naturalist Program what it is!"

How wonderful is that? So well done to all of us as it is us that makes the program great. Thank you all for what you do to

make this one of the best volunteer programs available.

Well, we are into the busiest months of the year and what wonderful weather we are having. It is a shame to be inside so it is great that there are so many wonderful opportunities out there volunteer under this wonderful blue sky. I hope you are all taking the time to look at the weekly reader, the calendar and the Field Notes to ensure that you can easily get your hours in by the end of the year. This month I have put in lots of advanced training ideas so there is no excuse not to get those eight hours in. Remember too that the MN State Conference still has places available and it looks like it is going to be good!

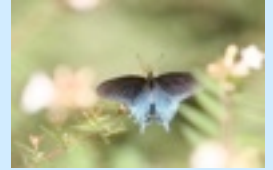
If at anytime you need help finding just the right volunteer opportunities or advanced training please let me know and I will do the best I can to find something "right up your alley!"

However you choose to spend your time this fall I hope it is glorious. So, enjoy this issue and I am off to one of the many conferences available to get in a little more training!

Christine Powell

Meeting

October 27th,
2010 TBA



Regular Monthly Meetings are the last Wednesday of each month and are held at 6:30, at the Austin Nature and Science Center, Zilker Park. All meetings are open to the public so bring a friend!

CAMN Board Meeting

Join the Board of Directors for a spirited discussion about CAMN business on November 4th, 2010. Contact any Board Member for more details and for the location of the meeting.

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.

Visit the CAMN yahoo group for On-line networking

Ed Note: I took this shot at the LBJWC. Send me your best image and it could appear here on the cover of our NL, Field Notes!

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Come Help This Weekend!

A chance to help a beautiful Texas Hill country site, with the river, 2 creeks, ash juniper and oak savannah, and lush riparian areas. It is a textbook example of many conservation endeavors.

"We are planning a work day at Nancy Moore's Acacia (a conservation easement property outside of Dripping Springs, on the Pedernales) and would LOVE for some Capital Area Master Naturalists to come help. The day is Sat., Oct. 9. We will meet in Dripping Springs, at the Trail Head Shopping Center on Hwy. 290, on the west side of D.S. at 8:00. I'll lead the group to Acacia, probably getting there about 8:30. Nancy will provide fruit, cookies, and drinks, if each participant will bring a sandwich and water. People can leave after lunch, or work until 4:00. Those who stay the whole day will be rewarded by Nancy taking them to Dead Man's Hole.

Master Naturalists will work on protecting oaks (mainly Texas red oaks and Shin oaks) and Escarpment black cherries from deer predation. There will also be ample opportunity for lopping small Ash Junipers, which we often use to encircle the young endangered trees. I need interested Master Naturalists to email me, ajdonovan@att.net, to reserve a place. I'll then give them my cell phone number in case they have a last minute change of plans."

Anne Donovan

From the Editor

Well, we seem to have a rather top heavy issue this time — heavy on the native plants and light on other natural things. Surely some of you wonderful bug people can help me out? What about all you herpetologists? Geologists? Is anyone reading this? Many of us are plant people and why not. The plants appear on schedule, often in the same place season after season and lets face it — tend to stay fairly stationary when you want to photograph them, well they are rooted to the spot! If you want to read about other things you need to be sending me other things! I'm a generalist with a plant bent so that is what you will mainly get. If you want change then send to to me.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy the issue and let me know what you think, what you want, etc. The Field Notes is your publication and I need YOU to help create it.

Please send you comments and contributions to Christine Powell at xtinepowell@verizon.net and my thanks goes to everyone who sends me items every month.

Thanks you'all.

**Native Plant Sale:
October 8-10, 2010
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower
Center
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday,
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WFC Members Only Preview
Sale, Friday from 1 to 7 p.m.
\$8 Admission for non-member
Adults, Senior and Child
discounts available**

Did your garden suffer from record drought and heavy freezes? Time for a refill. The Wildflower Center holds Spring and Fall Plant Sales and Gardening Festivals on-site. These are opportunities to choose from the best selection of Texas native plants, typically almost 300 species. The events feature artists and authors signing their works in the store and guided walks and talks and tips for your garden from experts.

**Williamson and Travis County NPSOT both
have booths at the Wildflower Center Plant
Sales**

The chapters sells plants at the plant sales to raise funds, and to also advocate and educate about native plants. Please support them if you can.

Blooming Mist

All members of the Aster family, the *Eupatorium* genus of flowering plants, are characterized by their medium-tall to tall stems and triangular, toothed leaves, topped with a cluster of small composite flowers. They grab our attention in the fall as their blooms are prolific, like small clouds of mist, on which late-season butterflies, bees, and moths are eager to gather. It's easy to see why they are commonly called mistflowers, but they are also called bonesets, thoroughworts, and snakeroots.

To add to the mystery, the classification of this tribe of plants is the subject of ongoing research, and many species that were once grouped under *Eupatorium* have recently been moved to other plant families, or genera. *Conoclinium*, the mistflowers, is a genus that includes only 4 species, native to North America, and having blue to purple flowers. *Ageratina*, or snakeroots, has over 250 species, and they grow mainly in warmer regions.

Commonly named for medicinal uses, various members of this plant family have been used to treat fevers and other health ailments. Boneset alludes to the use of the plant to stimulate calcium production to speed the healing of broken bones, although the name may have also come from its use to treat dengue fever, also called breakbone fever due to the pain it inflicted. Thoroughwort is named for its 'perfoliate' leaves, or the way the stem appears to pierce (or go through) the leaf.

In the hill country, Blue mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) is also called wild ageratum or blue boneset. Forming fairly large, bushy clumps 1-4 ft tall on moist soils near streams and in low meadows, its opposite leaves are triangular,



Blue mistflower *Conoclinium greggii*. (Photo: Nancy Woolley)

wrinkled, somewhat thick, and smell a bit like tomato plants when crushed. Preferring sun to partial shade, its lavender to sky-blue clusters of flowers bloom from July to November.

Named after the 19th century explorer and naturalist Josiah Gregg, Gregg's mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*) is native to west Texas but spreading eastward to the Edwards Plateau. Also called palmleaf thoroughwort or purple palmleaf mistflower, this 1.5 to 2 ft tall perennial has puffy, purple-blue flower heads from March through November. Often attracting



Gregg's mistflower, *Conoclinium coelestinum* (Photo: Sally & Andy Wasowski)



Shrubby bonset, *Ageratina havanensis* (Photo Mrs. W. D. Bransford)

impressive numbers of nectaring Queen butterflies in the fall, this plant is found along seasonally flooded streambeds and has a lighter green, more delicate foliage.

Also called Havana snakeroot, white mistflower, and white shrub mistflower, Shrubby boneset (*Ageratina havanensis*) is a rounded, open woody shrub, 2-5 ft tall, and multi-branched. Its leaves are triangular with toothed edges, relatively thin, and about 2 inches long. Blooming in October and November, the profuse flowers are fuzzy, pinkish-white, and very fragrant. Deciduous and drought-tolerant, Shrubby boneset is found on rocky hillsides and bluffs in the southern half of hill country. Butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds, love the upright, fuzzy flower heads, and this plant is the larval host plant for the difficult to identify Rawson's metalmark.

Late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), also called late-flowering thoroughwort or white boneset, is an open, woody shrub up to 3 ft tall, with leaves up to 5 inches long, opposite and coarsely toothed. Blooming in October and November, it likes partial shade, and is found in the eastern to central portion of the state, usually in meadows, woodland edges, near ponds or moist stream banks.

Regardless of their classification, these native fall bloomers are a haven for wildlife. Seek them out when hiking along your favorite trail – their intricate, fuzzy blooms beckon you to explore them up close!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011.



Late boneset, *Eupatorium serotinum* (Photo: Sally & Andy Wasowski)



TRACKS!

Shirley LaVergne mentioned at the monthly meeting that she had seen some bobcat tracks when she had been hiking at McKinney Falls State Park, on September 26. It's 3" long.

Thanks Shirley for sharing this with all of us!

CAMNers, Kids and Nature Nights

It's fun being a CAMN-er! Serving as an occasional volunteer at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center's Nature Nights during their Summer 2010 events and now for their Fall events is truly eye-opening entertainment. The events are aimed at kids, but parents participate a lot, too. The kids are excited to learn, eagerly share what they already know about nature, and ask great questions. Consequently, we CAMNers learn a lot, too.

Each Nature Night is a themed event with booths spread out in the Center's courtyard and inside the main building. Experts from a wide range of backgrounds bring their knowledge, materials and hands-on crafts and items of nature for the kids to connect with. Participants explore by visiting each station where crafting activities, displays, artifacts, and frequently real birds, plants, insects, and other critters help them learn and understand more about the natural environment surrounding them.

As an enthusiastic supporter of Nature Nights, CAMN's Education and Outreach Committee posts notices in the CAMN newsletter about Nature Night events asking for CAMN volunteers. CAMN members support the Center's chosen theme using CAMN's kid-friendly activity kits. For the summer events, Nature Nights was hosted on Thursday evenings in July (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.), and explored native reptiles, bees, wildlife tracking, and birds of prey.

The Wildlife Center hosted its first Nature Nights' event for its Fall series on Friday, September 24. Since the theme was Plants and People, CAMN set up a display illustrating the wide range of native grasses, cacti, and forbs in our area that can be used for fibers. The CAMN display included both dried and green samples for the kids to see and touch. Most often, the kids were amazed that things like green cattail leaves, blades of basket grass, sotol, or juniper bark could become ropes, mats, baskets, or other objects.

For our crafting activity, we joined veteran CAMNers Peggy Murphy and Jeri Porter in demonstrating weaving skills. (Okay, Sandie's weaving skills weren't too great, but she aced beading.)

Top: CAMN helped kids experience the wingspan of various birds at the "Birds of Prey" Nature Night.

Center: Making animal tracks in sand and plaster was an adventure for everyone at the CAMN booth in July.

Bottom: Peggy Murphy explains how fibers were attained from various grasses and cacti at the "Plants and People" Nature Nights.





Jerry Mayfield pulls raffia from the water to start a lesson in rope making.

Around 80 youngsters and a dozen adults came by the booth throughout the evening and were taught how to make twine from dried raffia that had been soaked in water for several minutes. After creating the twine, each sample was then transformed into beaded bracelets for the kids to take home. Children too young to make the twine were given rope that had been pre-made by the ever-talented CAMNers.

Other exhibits at September's Nature Nights included paper-making, a natural dyes display, exhibits on how native peoples of our region used plants for clothing items and weapons, and foods made from plants, such as mesquite bread and agarita jelly.

Two more Nature Nights are still ahead for this year: The theme for Friday, October 15, is Spiders while Friday, November 12, is on Hill Country Astronomy. Anyone can volunteer to support the Wildflower Center for these events, or check out the LBJ Wildflower Center's web site for next year's Nature Night activities as it becomes available—there's an event in the future that needs you!

Bottom line—It's a real treat (and education) to share CAMN's mission with a new generation of youngsters. Amazing evenings of learning; even greater comradery and fun!

Want to get involved here's your chance!

Nature Nights, Spiders theme

Date and time: Friday, October 15, 2010, 6pm – 9pm

Location: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Sponsor: CAMN/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Age level of expected audience/participants: mixed ages/families

Contact: Peggy Murphy (CAMN), 264-0330, paxpeg@prodigy.net

Description: CAMN will develop and man an activity about spider webs. Please contact Peggy if you'd like to help, or if you have ideas or materials to enhance our activity.

Nature Nights, Astronomy theme

Date and time: Friday, November 12, 2010, 6pm – 9pm

Location: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Sponsor: CAMN/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Age level of expected audience/participants: mixed ages/families

Contact: Jerry Cooper (CAMN), 608-9554, jerry@thelakewaytutor.com

Description: CAMN will develop and man an activity about the planets and gravity. Please contact Jerry if you can help, or if you have ideas or materials to enhance our activity.



Jerry gets a rope started for a young rope maker.

Come join us!

Soil Talk!

Dr Patricia Richardson enthralled the Native Plant Society of Texas—Williamson County chapter on September 9 with a presentation on soil. Many of us think of soil as essentially dead, just minerals eroded from rock together with organic compounds left by the animals and plants we can see above the surface. The reality is much more complex. In fact, there is twice as much carbon stored in the earth's soil as in all the plants growing in it. The millions of underground organisms purify water, detoxify waste, and recycle materials. In fact, soil and not the organisms exposed to open air may be the most essential part of the food web.

Soils differ from one environment to another. Recent genetic studies show incredible diversity exists underground, far more than was previously observed or even suspected. Desert soils are particularly rich in archaea, prairies in fungi, and viruses in rainforests. Not only do each of these environments show incredible diversity, but there is little overlap between them. Fostering this life in the soil can do more than almost anything else to address global warming, since so much carbon is sequestered there. One key step is to “Never let the sun see the surface of your soil.” Heat and radiation can easily kill soil. When the air temperature in summer reaches 105° F, bare soil exposed to sunlight is considerably hotter. Even 1.5 inches below the surface, soil can reach 108° without mulch, but only 91° with. Sustainable farming practices try to keep the soil covered by crops or mulch, while feeding and improving the soil without synthetic inputs.

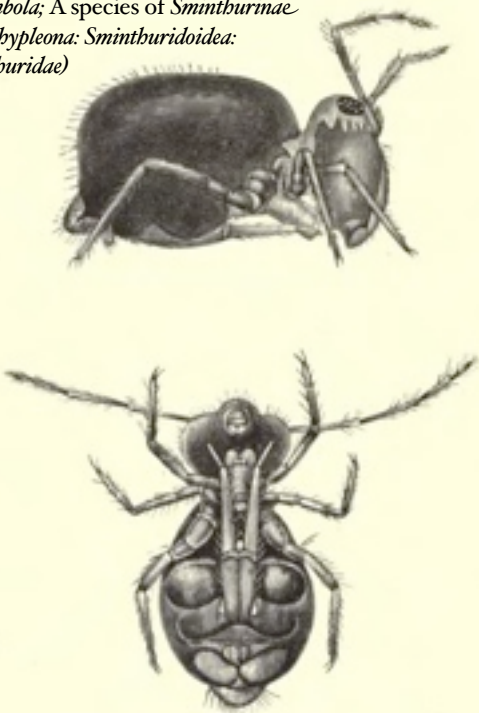
The living things in soil fall into size classes. Microfauna such as bacteria, fungi, archaea, and viruses are less than a millimeter in size (see the . Megafauna like most worms and insects range upwards from 3 mm, while mesofauna like mites and springtails fall in between. The microfauna often form a biofilm, a living community on a surface that behaves almost as if it were a single complex organism. These communities often coexist with larger organisms. Of the 100 trillion cells in a typical human body, about 85 trillion are bacteria in colonies all through the body where they aid with digestion and other functions. Fungal colonies in the soil are associated with plant roots. These mycorrhizal colonies extend for enormous distances and bring water and nutrients to the roots, which then extrude sugar to feed the fungus. Older biologists regarded the 25% of plant sugars extruded through the roots as “leakage,” when in fact it is the necessary price paid the supporting fungal colonies. Some 30–40% of the carbon in soil is fungal glomalin from these colonies (this carbon in itself may equal all the carbon sequestered in all the plants visible above the surface). Since plowing tears up the colonies, it should be kept at a minimum.

Nitrogen is also sequestered in the soil by bacteria, which also bind the soil together. Unfortunately, this bacterial nitrogen is not in a form that the plants can use. One of the functions of earthworms, dung beetles, and other macrofauna is to eat these bacteria and excrete the nitrogen in a usable form. Dung beetles also dig tunnels to aerate the soil and bury dung deposited on the surface so that it is next to the roots. The beetles specialize in what they will eat. Since cattle and modern horses are not native to the New World, we have comparatively few beetle species that will handle their excrement. These species are remarkably efficient, however. Dr. Richardson once counted 206 beetles landing on a cow pat within five minutes. One approach to sustainable farming and ranching is to “mob graze,” with animals kept in compact herds that convert grass to dung that the beetles can handle. The nutrients thus deposited in the soil can also be dispersed by other creatures, including the mesofaunal population of mites and springtails (collembola). Springtails have six legs, but their internal mouthparts distinguish them from insects, while mites are arachnids quite distinct from the spiders and scorpions that we usually think of. Thanks to all these organisms, techniques such as mob grazing, no-plow farming, and the avoidance of letting fields lie fallow and exposed to the sun can build soil up at an incredible rate, up to several inches in just a few years.



Tardigrades (commonly known as water bears or moss piglets) when exposed to dry conditions will transform to a resting state but can return to “normal” life after years - only a drop of water to revive.

Collembola; A species of *Sminthurinae*
(*Symphyleona*: *Sminthuridoidea*:
Sminthuridae)



Springtail (*Pogonina*), greatly enlarged (after Lubbock).

Texas frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*)

Texas frogfruit is one of my absolutely favorite plants! Yes I know it is rather diminutive and most people see it as a weed, or worse when they find it in their lawn but not me, I love it! Think I'm mad? Maybe but just take a little time to observe this hardy little perennial and I think you will change your mind.

Phyla nodiflora only gets to be about three to six inches tall and, in my opinion, makes a great little ground cover. It can grow in sun and part shade, doesn't require much water and will even remain evergreen in winter if it is in a protected area. With its trailing foliage and charming, miniature-verbena-like white flowers it can be a joy to behold. The flower heads are usually about ½ inch long and the blossoms themselves are tiny and white, opening in a ring. It is also a long bloomer with flowers often from spring through fall. The leaves are rather long and stiff, with pronounced serrations on the edges. The plant roots wherever the stems touch the ground. Texas frog-fruit transplants easily. It attracts numerous insect pollinators and is the larval host for the Phaon Crescent (below), Buckeye, and White Peacock butterflies and would be great as the "spiller" in a container.

The plant can be propagation from seeds and cuttings or transplanted. For seed collection first determine if seed is mature. Separate the seed head from the plant. Hand strip mature seed heads by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed heads in a brown paper sack. When collecting plants, rooted stem sections may be harvested and places in wet paper towels to keep roots moist. Remember to look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and as always follow seed collecting ethical guidelines:

- Before you start, get permission from the landowner, or State agency, and know what to collect, when to collect, and how to collect. Consult one or more references.
- Be sure you have properly identified the species. This is usually easiest to do when the plant is in bloom.



- Never over collect seed from a wild population, collect only what you need. If few seeds are available from natural populations, locate a commercial source of the desired plant.
- To maintain genetic diversity, it is advisable to collect from several different populations if possible.
- Never collect seed from rare or uncommon plant species.
- Collect seed at the right time. If the seed is collected too early, it will not be viable. As a general rule, most seeds start to ripen when the pods or capsules change color, or when the seed heads start to open.
- Seeds should be collected when they are thoroughly dry, using paper bags or paper envelopes. Don't use plastic bags for gathering seeds. If seeds must be collected when they are wet, they should be spread out in shallow boxes to air-dry indoors.
- Plants that have berries or fleshy fruits should be collected when they are obviously ripe and all the fleshy parts should be removed. These seeds should then be air-dried before planting or storage.
- To dry seeds, put them in paper bags indoors, leaving the bags open at the top. This will allow good air circulation and prevent the seeds from becoming moldy.
- Once dry, seeds can be stored in paper bags, paper envelopes, cans, or glass vials. Seeds stored in glass jars or coffee-cans can be placed in the refrigerator until planting time, or they can be left outdoors in a protected spot during the winter. The alternate freezing and thawing of outdoor temperatures actually increases the percentage of germination of some seeds.
- Always label your collections with the name of the plant (scientific name is preferred because common names are not standardized), the location where you collected it, and the date of collection. This should be done while still in the field so the information is accurate.

Lesser Goldfinches Brighten Bright Leaf



The Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) is a common year round resident in Bright Leaf. They move around in flocks, and the brightly colored Texas black-backed male is quite distinctive. You will probably hear them before you see them. Listen for a rather squeaky, plaintive call as the birds stay in contact with each other – it might remind you of kids saying “Marco Polo.” Visit Whatbird.com to hear their call.

Austin is at the eastern edge of the Lesser Goldfinch’s range – they like open woodland, where they are seed eaters and foliage gleaners. You can easily attract Lesser Goldfinches to your Northwest Hills yard if you plant daisy-like flowers such as Plateau Goldeneye that blooms along FM 2222 from Mesa to Loop 360 in the fall. Just don’t deadhead the blossoms, and chances are the birds will appear. They also enjoy their version of vegetables by stripping some leaves from another Bright Leaf fall

blooming plant, White Mistflower (*Ageratina havanensis*).

The surefire way to get Lesser Goldfinches is to hang up a thistle feeder or thistle sock. Purchase niger (thistle) seed at a local big box store, or from a specialty store. The main thing to remember is that the seed must be fresh – goldfinches are somewhat finicky, and they will turn up their beaks at old seed. Some people recommend tying a yellow ribbon on the feeder to attract the birds initially. As with all feeders, it is important to clean them thoroughly periodically.

Why are these perky birds “lesser?” They are about ½ inch smaller than American Goldfinches which visit Austin in winter months. If you see a slightly larger bird at your feeder, look closely and chances are it will be an American Goldfinch in its winter plumage. They have pronounced white wing bars while the Lessers only have small white patches in their wings and tails.



Rain Lily — *Cooperia drummondii* and *Cooperia pendunculata*

We are fortunate to have two native lilies that can grace us with their beauty, shortly after a rain. Thus, their common name - Rain Lily. The two species are so much alike that you'll really have to study them if you wish to determine which is which. They can be found in almost any type of habitat, as they are not particular about the soil type in which they grow. Each bulb will yield only one fragrant, white flower, on a stalk up to a foot tall. The flower can last 2 or 3 days, then the few grass-like leaves will elongate, the faded bloom will set seed, and in a week or two, no evidence of the plant will remain!

Rain lilies are easy to grow from seed. Be sure to plant the seed shortly after gathering, as it will not remain viable for long periods. The



resulting bulbs, and their surprise blooms after a rain, can make a nice addition to a flower bed, among low-growing plants. The bulbs will bloom best in full sun, but the flowers may last a day longer if they are in part shade. Blooms can be expected anytime from May to September, following a good rain.

Cooperia pendunculata has the larger flower of the two species. It is more likely to bloom in the spring or early summer months, and is found only in LA and TX. *Cooperia drummondii* is more likely to bloom in the late summer or fall, and can be found in AR KS MS NM OK, and well as LA and TX.

Information compiled by Bev Hoffmann, from the Explore Plants section of www.wildflower.org

Croton spp.



Now that dove season is in full swing there is a genus of plants that you should be keeping your eye open for and that is croton. If you find a patch of croton you're bound to find a flock of doves and many other seed eating birds. There are roughly twenty different species of croton in Texas. There is even a town in Texas called Croton. Below is a list of three species of croton that are commonly found in Texas.

Woolly Croton (*Croton capitatus*)



Woolly croton (left and a) can grow 1 to 3 foot tall. The leaves and stem have star-shaped hairs that give it a soft texture. The leaves are entire and have no lobes. The leaf placement is alternate and has an aromatic smell when crushed.

The seeds of the woolly croton have a great wildlife value. Dove, quail, Rio Grande turkeys, and many other seed-eating birds seek out the seeds after they mature. Most of the time the plant is treated as a weed due to the fact that it has no to little value to livestock.

These plants can normally be located where recent soil disturbance has occurred or where overgrazing is present

Texas croton (right and b) also has that unique aromatic smell when the leaves are crushed. It can be a little larger than the woolly croton varying from 1- 4 feet tall. The leaves tend to be a dark green on the bottom and a light green/gray on

Texas Croton (*Croton texensis*)



the top. The leaves also are entire and have no lobes. The fruit on Texas croton is divided into three sections each holding a seed.

Texas croton also produces a seed crop that is very valuable to dove, quail and other seed-eating birds but like the woolly croton has little value for grazing livestock.

These will be found in the same areas as woolly croton, where recent soil disturbances have occurred.

One-seeded Croton (*Croton monanthogynus* Michx.)

One-seed croton or prairie-tea (right and c) is smaller than both the other types of croton, it's height ranges from several inches to 18 inches tall. The stems of the one-seeded croton usually have a peach-pink-orange color. The plant has many wide branches unlike the other two species of croton. This plant gets its name from having only one seed instead of three like most members of the croton family.

Along with most croton species, the one-seeded croton also produces a seed crop that is very valuable to dove, quail and other seed-eating birds but again has little value for grazing livestock.

More information on these plants and other plants found in Texas can be found at <http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plants/>



Image Credits:
Ted Bodner @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Jeff McMillian @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

USDA-NRCS Plants Database

Melody Lytle, Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center

Below all LBjWC

To get to the blog go to: <http://wild-wonderings.blogspot.com/2010/09/now-that-dove-season-is-in-full-swing.html>



Help a Local Park

I am working with the staff at Berry Springs Park in Georgetown to help coordinate several volunteer projects on Friday, October 29.

Due to the flooding from Hurricane Hermine, the park was badly damaged. Many plants were lost in the flooding and they are seeking donations of cactus (they have plenty of agave, no prickly pear, please), succulents, native plants (for sun and shade), bulbs and wildflower seeds.

If you have anything you can donate, please contact me at ramonau@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you, Ramona Urbanek



Zion National Park

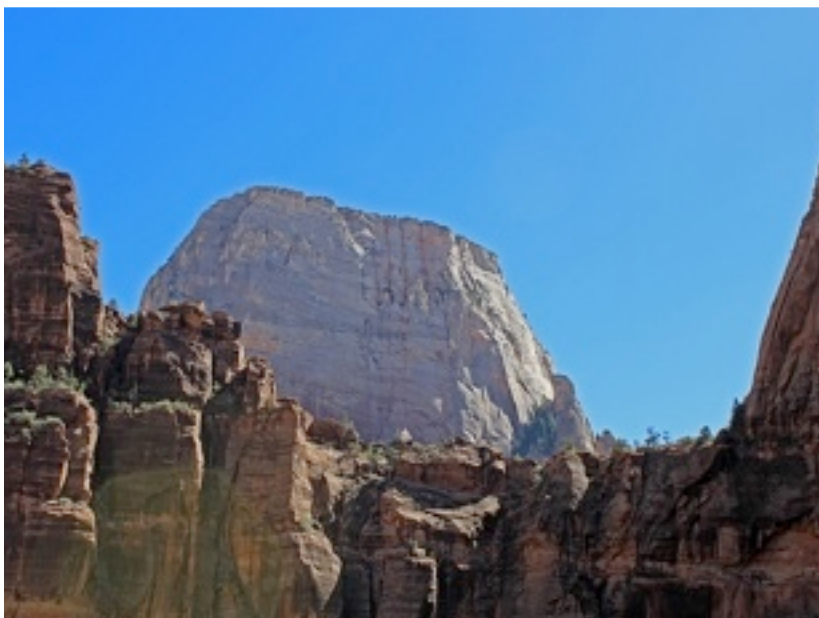
In the last days of Summer 2010, we were fortunate enough to attend a wedding in Zion National Park, along the banks of the Virgin River in Utah. Zion Canyon is the middle stairstep in what is known as the Grand Staircase, including Bryce Canyon to the north and the Grand Canyon to the south, all three canyons carved out of the rising Colorado Plateau. Unlike the Grand Canyon, which has banned human inhabitants in most of the vast area it covers, Zion Canyon continues to provide a home for humans, though the way of life has shifted from hunting and farming to tourism as the main source of survival. Hosting both the National Park's visitors and the town of Springdale, a dual free shuttle bus program was initiated around 2000 to reduce the impact of vehicles in the canyon. Today, visitors can park their vehicles and travel freely on propane fueled shuttles from town to park and within the park to the various sites and trails of interest. In addition to eco-friendly transportation, the park offers free spring water refilling stations for water bottles. We managed to find time to go on two hikes in addition to using the shuttles to get around: Weeping Rock, a short but steep climb to hanging gardens and dripping overhangs, and Riverwalk, a more leisurely but longer hike along the river towards the Narrows at the north end of the canyon. Time limited our options, but there are trails of every difficulty throughout the park.



West Temple and Towers of the Virgin — perhaps the most familiar view of the park

Geology

It is said that by looking at the cliffs of the Grand Staircase one can see the entire history of the Colorado Plateau written in stone. The strata at the bottom of Bryce Canyon are at a level with the top layers of Zion Canyon, and the bottom layers of Zion are at a level with the upper levels of the Grand Canyon. The Temple cap formation, seen in the upper left of the first photograph, is the newest and highest level of Zion. This is followed by Navajo sandstone, with its contrasting colors of compressed ancient desert sand dunes flowing horizontally, also visible in the photo. Other strata include the Kayenta mudstone layer, in which can be found dinosaur tracks, the Moenave deposits reflecting a watery environment of floods and pools. The Chinle Formation consists of soft shales containing petrified wood. At the bottom are the Shinarump Conglomerate and the Moenkopi Formation. The Shinarump consists of eroded rubble from the Moenkopi Formation, which contains the remains of a shallow sea with varied marine fossils. Together, the geology reflects the processes of sedimentation, layering, the uplift of the Colorado Plateau, and the forces of water and wind erosion.



The Great White Throne

Wildlife

Canyon and rim elevations between 3,600 to 8,700 feet above sea level and the Virgin River provide numerous niches and habitats for wildlife, ranging from mountain lions and Peregrine falcons to Bighorn sheep and mule deer to rock squirrels and hummingbirds. While we didn't observe any large predators, we did see Mule deer, noted for their long ears, wild turkeys, rock squirrels, and the Tarantula seen in the photograph. According to the Park Service, we should consider ourselves lucky to have seen this specimen, as they are typically nocturnal. Although the canyon wren is among the 290 species of birds that can be found here at some point during the year, we didn't hear any except on the shuttle bus recorded narrative.



Native plants

The varied habitats result in a wide variety of native plant life as well, from desert scrub to riparian swamp. Trees range from Ponderosa Pine to Utah juniper, from varieties of oaks to Aspen and Cottonwood to the exotic invasive Tamarisk or "salt cedar". Among the native plants and wildflowers observed were Angels- trumpet, Utah yucca, Sand sagebrush, Broom snakeweed, Broom groundsel, cardinal flower, common paintbrush, Cardinal monkeyflower, Utah daisy or Zion daisy, and Canyon grape.

Our brief taste of Zion Canyon left us with an appetite for more and a desire to return. Hopefully this brief review will either bring back memories of your own or kindle an interest to explore Zion on your own. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/zion, the official park site.



Scat and Frass



Hike Anyone?

Rediscover Hamilton Pool (Hosted by by Travis County)

Saturday, October 9th 10:00-1pm

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve – Hamilton Pool Preserve

3 hour hike, easy, all ages

Located at 24300 Hamilton Pool Road, Dripping Springs, 78620

Please note that an \$10.00 per vehicle entrance fee is required for this hike. (Cash or checks only, no credit cards.)

Please join us for an interpretive tour of Hamilton Pool Preserve, a part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). This historic swimming hole which was designated a preserve in 1990 was later incorporated into the BCP. Located 3/4 mile upstream from its confluence with the Pedernales River, Hamilton Creek spills out over limestone outcroppings to create a 50 foot waterfall as it plunges into the head of a steep box canyon. A unique natural area surrounds the pool, collapsed grotto and canyon, formed by thousands of years of water erosion. Lush plant communities, a variety of wildlife species and natural shelter attracted the area's first inhabitants. Cultural remains date back over 8,000 years. The preserve is home to the golden-cheeked warbler and a great variety of other birds. The diverse vegetation of Hamilton Pool Preserve ranges from semi-arid species in the

juniper and oak savannah uplands with a variety of native grasses and wildflowers to unique riparian species in the canyon. Several rare plant species including canyon mock-orange, red bay (western-most colony of this eastern species), and chatter box orchid are known to occur in the canyon areas along Hamilton Creek. For more information and regular park rules and hours, please visit our website at http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/hamilton_pool.asp.

Considerations: Sturdy footgear is recommended. Drinking water and other concessions are not available so please plan to bring your own. Sun block and hats are recommended. Please feel free to bring binoculars and/or photographic cameras. No pets are permitted within the preserve. Limited to 25 individuals. All ages welcome. To register for this hike, contact Renee Fields at 219-6190 (ext. 7) or Renee.Fields@co.travis.tx.us.

A Bird's Eye View of Stillhouse Hollow (Hosted by by City of Austin - PARD)

Saturday, November 13th 9:00-1:45am

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve – Stillhouse Hollow

2.75 hour hike, easy, all ages

Located near intersection of Mesa & Spicewood Springs in northwest Austin

Enjoy a nice paved stroll culminating in a canyon view at Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve. With a little observation, one can become attuned to the bird species that inhabit the preserve. Jane Tillman, Chair of the Urban Habitat Committee of Travis Audubon Society and Rene' Barrera of Austin Nature Preserves System will lead this relaxed hike. Stillhouse Hollow presents a snapshot of the challenges that endangered species face in suburban habitat. This hike is suitable for all ages. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Considerations: Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toe hiking-appropriate shoes for protection. Sun protection such as sunscreen and hats are strongly recommended. Participants must

bring drinking water. No drinking water will be provided. Smoking, pets, and collecting of plant materials are not permitted. To register for this hike, contact Austin Nature and Science Center at 512-327-8181.

Important Notice:
The Monarchs are Coming!
Central Flyway

North winds blew and monarchs sailed southward to the delight of observers in Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Oklahoma and others. The airflow from the north is predicted for at least three days, through Saturday. Keep an eye on the map for some excitement as the monarchs funnel their way toward Texas as beyond! (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/fall2010/update082010.html>) is available to track the progress of this year's migration. Maps include sightings of individual butterflies, overnight roosts, and peak migration events, along with miscellaneous observations. General information on monarchs and their care and feeding is available from Monarch Watch (<http://monarchwatch.org/>).

Native Plant Society of Texas Symposium — places still available

October 7-10, 2010 Texas Woman*s University - Denton, Texas Registration Begins For Symposium 2010 *Save Texas One Landscape at a Time: Our Native Plants Light the Future!

The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) (www.npsot.org) has officially opened on-line registration for Symposium 2010 (www.npsot.org/symposium2010), a how-to-create sustainable landscapes educational event, to be held from Oct 7 - Oct 10 at Texas Woman*s University in Denton, Texas. For additional information, please contact: Cynthia Maguire, President-Elect Symposium 2010 Chair Native Plant Society of Texas, 320 W. San Antonio St, Fredericksburg, TX 78624, Web: www.npsot.org/symposium2010, Email: symposium2010@npsot.org, Phone: 830.997.9272

Texas Native Plant Week

Texas Native Plant Week, October 18-24, 2010

PROUD TEXANS PLANT TEXAS
NATIVES



[Home](#) [About Native Plant Week](#) [Statewide Resources](#) [Teacher & Kids Resources](#) [Urban Events & Native Info](#)

Home

Planting native trees, shrubs and flowers helps conserve water, provide wildlife habitat and show your Texas pride!

You can take simple steps to participate in Native Plant Week:



- 1) Plant a native tree in your yard or business.
- 2) Plant a native garden for butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife.
- 3) Volunteer at a Native Plant Week event!
- 4) Attend native plant events, plant sales and educational presentations.
- 5) Visit demonstration gardens for ideas and inspiration.

Learn more on the metro area pages. Also find [statewide online resources](#) to help you celebrate Native Plant Week no matter where you

live in Texas!

Why Native Plants?



Native plants are a good choice whether you are planting a tree, shrub, flowers, vines or grasses because they are **acclimated to your local climate** conditions and soils, provide habitat for wildlife, **typically require less water** and maintenance once established, and **do not rely on chemical fertilizers and pesticides** to thrive.

These homegrown plants also give us a sense of place and help maintain the region's wide variety of flora and fauna.

Not only do they provide all of these wonderful benefits, but they are beautiful, too!



News

- Rio Reforestation, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine
- This Winter Give a Bird a Berry, National Wildlife Federation
- Super Stars, Wildflower Magazine
- Texas Under Attack, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine
- Scents & Sensibility, Wildflower Magazine
- The Plant Hunter, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine

<http://www.txnativeplantweek.org/>

Jacob's Well needs our help



The future of Jacob's Well is in uncertain.
Get your feet wet and jump into water protection.

BECOME A JACOB'S WELL NATURAL AREA VOLUNTEER.

Come join us for 2 consecutive Saturdays of training with area scientists, environmental educators, and others who care.



FALL 2010 VOLUNTEER TRAINING

October 30 and November 6

9:00am – 3:30pm

Cost: Free

Commitment: A minimum of 24 hours a year.
Snacks and drinks are provided. Please bring your own lunch and we appreciate your packing any trash back out.

JACOB'S WELL is the largest perennial spring in the Trinity Aquifer and the longest underwater cave in Texas. This natural treasure is threatened by pollution and increased groundwater pumping caused by rapid development in our area. The spring provides a base flow of thousands of gallons of crystal clear water per minute to form Cypress Creek and the beautiful Blue Hole swimming area. The beautiful spring flowed through the 1950's drought of record; and yet in last decade, Jacob's Well stopped flowing twice.

Educating the local community about water and land use issues may be the single most effective tool to promote environmental awareness and conservation. Come join us in our mission to ensure clean, clear and flowing water.

Current volunteering opportunities include school education, public tours, booth participation at local festivals, trail and prairie restoration, a rainwater-harvesting program, newsletter and communications, and event coordination.

PRESENTERS:

- Jean Krejca of Zara Environmental on Endangered Species at Jacob's well
- Chad Norris of Texas Parks and Wildlife on Springs
- Doug Wierman of the Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District on Aquifer 101
- The Nature Conservancy
- Director David Baker + Board Member Jack Hollon on the history and importance of the well
- Hays County Master Naturalists + JWNA Volunteers with Interpretive Demonstrations

So Many Events, So Little Time!

A celebration of collection, conservation, and common sense!

RAINWATER REVIVAL

10am - 5pm
October 9, 2010
Roger Hanks Park
Dripping Springs, Texas

HOME ABOUT CONTACT NEWS RAIN BARREL ART SCHEDULE SPEAKERS SPONSORS VENDORS

RAINWATER FACT
Rainwater is free of sodium, minerals and chlorine.

RAINWATER FACT
Archeological evidence shows rainwater harvesting systems have been around for 9,000 years.

RAINWATER FACT
Only 4-5% of rain that falls over the area ends up recharging the Trinity Aquifer.

RAINWATER FACT
Just 1 inch of rain harvested from 1,000 square feet of roof can yield 625 gallons of water.

"We think of our land and water and human resources not as static and sterile possessions but as life giving assets to be directed by wise provisions for future days." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

For more information go to <http://>

2010 STATE OF THE PRAIRIE CONFERENCE
HOUSTON, TEXAS | NOVEMBER 4-5

PRAIRIE WEEK
3RD ANNUAL STATE OF THE PRAIRIE CONFERENCE
RESTORE, PROTECT, EDUCATE.
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2010 | HOUSTON ZOO & FLORA YARD

PRAIRIE HERITAGE DAY
FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT
NOVEMBER 6, 2010 | BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK

Generously sponsored by

Katy Prairie Conservancy, Native Prairies Association of Texas, Statoll, Zoo WILD, Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club

RESTORE. PROTECT. EDUCATE.

Go to <http://www.coastalprairiepartnership.org/page/2010-state-of-the-prairie-1> to enroll.

Paleontological Society of Austin

Normally 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at

Austin Gem and Mineral Society facility
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, TX 78757
(512) 458-9546

Note: Check the calendar to ensure we have not encountered any scheduling conflicts.

<http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/index.html>

2010 National Wildlife Refuge Week
BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
invites you to participate in FREE ACTIVITIES
on Saturday, October 7 at Dondan Ranch on RR 1179.

8:30 - 10:00 am
BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES FOR BEGINNERS - Casual walk.
*Binoculars and identification books provided

8:30 - 10:30 am
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY - Digital & 35mm workshop. Bring your camera manual and camera.
**Pre-registration required. For adults only

9:00 - 10:30 am
WATER WONDERS WALK - Scoop up water creatures from a creek & a pond & compare. For adults & kids!

9:00 - 11:00 am
USEFUL NATIVE PLANTS WALK - Casual walk.

11:00 am - 12:15 pm & 2:30 - 4:00 pm
WALKING STICK WALK - Look for walking sticks, spittlebugs, leaf miners, etc... & catch bags!

12:15 - 1:00 pm
SNAKES ALIVE! - Live snake program.

1:15 - 2:00 pm
WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD? - See what's in Mark's storage trunk to learn: "What animals can I find in our backyard? What are they? Where do they live? Can we be safe?"

2:15 - 3:45 pm
NATURE WALK - Learn about ferns, flowers, fire, frogs & fossils!
A relatively easy walk.

CREATURES FROM THE WATER
- View bizarre water creatures.

12:00 - 2:00 pm
PLANT ID WORKSHOP/LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS
- Have a plant that you're curious about? Bring us a sample or photo & we'll help you identify it! Be sure to show as much of the plant as possible & collect only where you have permission (roadside rights-of-way, your backyard, etc...). Also, learn the benefits of landscaping with native plants.

Come & Go as You Please!

For more info call Rob Inki at 512-379-0432 x 79
Groups: Please call in advance to register.
Times & Activities subject to change

Wimberley eco fest 2010

Living Greener Together

Sponsored by **CARD (Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development)**
Co-hosted by: **The City of Wimberley and The City of Woodcreek**

Sat, Oct 16 • 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Katherine Anne Porter School • 515 FM 2325 • Wimberley

A fun, full day of entertaining & educational 45-minute seminars, led by local experts, with practical information you can use.

Food ■ Drinks ■ Free Admission & Parking
Door Prizes every hour ■ Raffle Drawing 2:45 PM

Teaching Exhibits by Hays County Master Naturalists

Booths by Eco-Minded Organizations & Merchants

Central Texas Home Design - A Sustainable Approach

Rick Burleson of Burleson Design Group

Rainwater Collection Texas Agri-Life water resource specialist Billy Kniffen

Selecting & Caring for Hill Country Trees Jim Carso, Texas Forest Service

Native Landscaping Sheryl McLaughlin, host of KLBJ's The Austin Gardener show

Cypress Creek - Wimberley Valley's Magic Waterway

David Baker, executive director of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

Zero Energy Homes - new & retrofitting Lloyd Lee, Hill Country EcoBuilders

Texas Water - Past, Present & Future Andrew Sanson, executive director of Texas State University's River Systems Institute

Sensible Cedar Management Permaculture designer & author Elizabeth McGreevy

Special 90-minute seminar & discussion @ 3 pm:

The Texas Growth Triangle Megaregion

Its challenges to lifestyle in Western Hays County

Population in the Megaregion (Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Austin) is predicted to explode by 65 percent (10 million more people) in the next 40 years. A discussion on expectations and strategies with:

Associate Dean **Kent Butler** University of Texas Center for Sustainable Development & co-author of papers on the Texas Growth Triangle's challenges, and Hays County Judge **Liz Sumter** & Wimberley Mayor **Bob Flocke**



at Katherine Anne Porter School
Next to Lions Market Day Field, right in town!

SPEAKERS & SEMINARS

For more information & times, www.HaysCard.org

Member, Wimberley Chamber of Commerce



November 9 in Austin - "Water resource issues of the Texas Hill Country" - Presented by Hydrologist Raymond Slade, Sponsored by Sierra Club Austin - Nov. 9 at 7 PM at Scholz's Beer Garden. Happy hour and visitation prior to the talk begins at 6 PM. - [Website](#)



Science Under The Stars

An evening, outdoor lecture series open to all

All lectures in this series are free, open to the public, and held at 7:30pm outdoors at [Brackenridge Field Laboratory](#), 2907 Lake Austin Blvd, Austin, Texas 78703 ([map](#)). In the case of inclement weather, lectures will be held indoors. Contact us by email scienceunderthestars@gmail.com for more info.

October 14, 2010 Laura Dugan (UT Integrative Biology)
November 11, 2010: Chad Smith (UT Integrative Biology)
December 9, 2010: Jesse Lasky (UT Integrative Biology)

OCTOBER 14, 7:30pm



Aliens Among Us *Invasive Species: What are they, what do they do and what can we do about them?*

Invasive alien species (IAS) are recognized as one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity. In today's modern world, species are moved all over the globe via intentional and unintentional means. Many of these species are never able to establish and spread in their new environments, but those that do can wreak havoc on native communities via a variety of interactions including predation, competition and hybridization. In this talk, I will discuss a few of the effects of invasive species and introduce some of the major Texas invaders. I will also discuss some of the methods that are currently being

used to combat invasive species as well as genetic biocontrol technologies that are being investigated as potential amelioration techniques, some of which have already been put into practice in Australia.

Laura Dugan
UT Integrative Biology



Prescribed Burning Presentation
Dr. John R. Weir, author of *Conducting Prescribed Fires*, and staff discuss the use of burns, 11 a.m. with book signing until 2 p.m. Saturday, October 16. Burn tour, 10 a.m. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Williamson County NPSOT October Chapter Meeting: Stephen Brueggerhoff will present "Heath Family from Coast To Coast: Recollections and Relations from Washington to Texas." Thursday, October 14th, 2010, 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm at the Georgetown Public Library

Stephen Brueggerhoff will present "Heath Family from Coast To Coast: Recollections and Relations from Washington to Texas." From buzz pollination to bountiful edible harvest, in review are specific members of the heath family (Ericaceae) native to Washington state and their native cousins from Texas. Special prize will go to an audience member that can trace the history of the word "farkleberry."

Many of you will know Stephen from his years at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center but now he is the Outreach Program Coordinator for the Environmental Science Institute at The University of Texas at Austin. What many of you may not know is that Stephen is a long time member of our chapter of NPSOT! Come and meet him and make him welcome so perhaps he will join us more often at our meetings!

Announcements From Around the State

TMN Annual Meeting & Advanced Training taking place

October 22-24, 2010 at T bar M Conference Center in New Braunfels, TX. http://www.regonline.com/TMN_11th_annual_meeting. Register today!! The most popular Advanced Training Sessions fill up VERY QUICKLY!!!

Your best value for registration is the full 3-day conference registration rate at \$140 now through September 19th. After that date, registration rates increase. Lodging: You will need to make all of your own lodging arrangements.

Bunkhouse Lodging at T bar M *A NEW option made available in August A bunkhouse lodging option with separate Men & Women lodges have been set up at T bar M for our group. This option also offers lodging at a reduced rate of \$30 per night per person for those looking to cut lodging expenses. This price includes a bed roll with a pillow, blanket, two sheets, one large bath towel and a washcloth. You would need to bring your own toiletries. Check in as soon as you can to claim your preferred bed in this option! Earplugs might be a good item to pack too. Call a T bar M reservationists at 800/292-5469 twenty-four hours a day to make your reservation for this space. You will need to mention the reservation number of 308734 and the bunkhouse lodging.

PLEASE NOTE: At this time, all hotel style rooms at T bar M have been sold out for our conference. An Additional block of rooms has been set up with the Courtyard Marriott in New Braunfels and they have agreed to honor the same room rates as what has been negotiated with T bar M. Courtyard Marriott, 750 IH 35 North, New Braunfels, Texas 78130, Phone: 1-830-626-4700. You will need to give them the code of: TPWD-TMN for the \$85 base rate per room per night. You may also check with other members in your chapter who have already made room arrangements and see if there are opportunities for splitting a room in which they have already reserved.

A special thanks goes out to the Lindheimer Chapter for all their hard work and assistance with the Annual meeting thus far!

Ranch Management University offered by TX AgriLife Extension October 12-15th, 2010

My colleagues and I are offering a new 4-day course called Ranch Management University, scheduled for October 12-15. Attendance is limited to the first 75 people. For additional information, contact Dr. Larry Redmon at 979-845-2425. For registration information, please go to <http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> <<http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu/>> and type in "Ranch Management" as key words. Registration may be completed online at the site.

Educators come from several departments including: Soil and Crop Sciences, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Economics, and Animal Science. The topics will begin with soils and soil fertility and cover other basic aspects of ranch management. Those include forage species selection, hay production, weed and brush management, beef cattle breed selection, nutrient requirements, and feeding strategies for livestock. We'll also cover grazing management strategies and the popular chute-side talk and live-animal handling demonstrations of vaccinations, dehorning and castration. Other topics covered include how to keep good ranch records, how to develop a marketing plan and a look at alternative enterprises.

Many properties today are purchased for recreation and in Texas this means wildlife. To address this need, wildlife management issues will also be covered ranging from white-tailed deer, dove, turkey and management, ranch pond management and the ever-popular feral hog."

Field demonstrations will include how to take a proper soil and hay sample, how to assess body condition scores for cattle, a look at forage variety trials, grazing management and hog trap construction.

Approximately one-half of the program time will be spent in a classroom setting, while the remainder of the time is spent in the field. Lunch and supper will be provided Oct. 12-14 and lunch will be provided Oct. 15. A resource CD containing dozens of publications covering ranch management will be provided.

Jim Cathey, Ph.D, CWB Extension Wildlife Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Rm. 112 Nagle Hall, MS 52258, College Station, TX 77843. Phone: 979-845-0916 Mobile: 979-575-6730

Become A Citizen Scientist

Do you want to help slow down the spread of harmful invasive species and reduce their ecological and economic damage? The first step is to locate where invaders have arrived and get that information to those who can do something about it. That's where citizen scientists come in. Citizen scientists are volunteers who receive expert training to identify and track important invaders in our area.

The Lost Pines Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists is hosting an Invaders of Texas Citizen Scientist Workshop at the LCRA McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center near Bastrop on Saturday, November 20th from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. The workshop includes classroom training about invasive species, GPS use, digital photography and reporting observations. If you are seriously interested in joining in helping slow the spread of invasives, download the attached Volunteer Interest Form and mail to: Lost Pines Chapter Texas Master Naturalist c/o Texas AgriLife Extension Service- Bastrop County, P. O. Box 650, Bastrop, Texas 78602 you may also e-mail the application to martinez_rik@hotmail.com. Please return your application by October 13, 2010. The cost to attend is \$10 per person. You will receive a notice of acceptance and additional information approximately one month before the class. Payment is not due until after you have received notice of acceptance into the class. Space is limited to 35 participants.

Officers

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[Jeri Porter](#)

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 come to a Board Meeting (please let us know you will be coming).

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. Check with a Board Member for more details.

The agenda for the next Board Meeting is available here.

Got info for the Field Notes?

Send info, photos and articles for publication in the *Field Notes* to: xtinepowell@verizon.net 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: [Dale Rye](#)
Webpage: [Dale Rye](#)
Field Notes: [Christine Powell](#)
Press releases: [Kelly Bender](#)
Responsible for the Internet web page and press releases.

Curriculum

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

Advanced Training

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

Food & Fun

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Education and Outreach Committee

Contact: [Whitney Milberger](#) Promotes CAMN
Contact: 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](#)

[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](#)

