

# FIELD JOURNAL



## NatureSmart Family Spring Event

The NatureSmart Family Spring Event was very well attended on April 25, 2009. The NatureSmart Family program was conceived by the Capital Area Master Naturalist and is in full swing for its first year. The program engages families by offering activities that all members, young and old, will enjoy and appreciate. A full description of the event can be found on page eight in this issue. We are proud of the effort of our CAMN members devoted to making this a

huge success. As you will see, the event was action packed with learning opportunities facilitated by our members. They made this event come alive with hands on learning and live specimens. Check out the grub above! Congratulations to all those who made the Spring Event happen. It was a job well done!

**They knew what to do . . . they volunteered!**

## Meeting

May 27, 2009  
6:30 p.m.

**Austin Nature and Science Center**

**Social night! Elections, pizza, adult beverages, presentations and more. Lots of surprises. Don't miss it!**

## CAMN Board Meeting

Join the Board of Directors for a spirited discussion about CAMN business on May 7, 2009. Contact any Board Member for details.

## Volunteer and Advanced Training Opportunities

Visit the CAMN website at [www.camn.org](http://www.camn.org) and log in to the CAMN Volunteer Calendar to start fulfilling those volunteer hours.

FIELD TRIP: BY THERESA PELLA

## Graduation Day for the 2009 Class!



Patricia, Joan, Daniel, Charlene, Eric, Cathy, Jeri, Julia, Amy, Ryan, and Linda - your generous efforts as class coordinators have again paid off with all 29 students graduating! Thank you so much!!

Jason - thank you for your support to the class in keeping them in hot drinks so they could concentrate on the class subjects on those cold days and being there when we needed a third hand!

Kris - thank you so much for working with me on the Curriculum Committee this year - the buddy system worked!  
See you in the field!

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### Earth Day at Georgetown Library

Although it looks like I am helping the NPSOT (which I am) I was also aiding with gardening advice, wildscaping ideas and many other aspects of native plant gardening. With the economy being as it is a great deal of the traffic wanted to know how to reduce costs in their gardens as well as change how their gardens looked to encourage wildlife. It was a long day as we were several volunteers short but very rewarding. Get out there and volunteer and let people know how to help the environment - the time is ripe for change.



## The Lure and Lore of Lizards

Various beliefs, myths, and legends have been inspired by the behavioral patterns of lizards. In ancient Egypt and Greece the lizard represented divine wisdom and good fortune, in Roman mythology their hibernation symbolized death and resurrection, and in Australia the aboriginal believed that the sky would fall if you killed one. Today, these ideas largely do not hold true, but lizards seem to fascinate us nonetheless! While Central Texas is home to several species of lizards, geckos, anoles, skinks, and whiptails, those most likely (and interesting) to be seen are the Fence Lizard, the Green or Carolina Anole, and the Texas Alligator Lizard.

Preferring rocky areas that provide shelter and basking surfaces such as privacy fences and rock walls, the aptly named Fence Lizard is quite common in all but the eastern third of Texas. A light brown lizard ranging from 3.5 to 7 inches in length, they have a light stripe down each side from the neck to the lower back, with dark spots or bands in between, which gives them a very scaly appearance. Males have two bright blue patches rimmed in black on the belly and throat, and while the females generally lack these colorings, they are slightly larger than the males. A diurnal lizard, they feed on a variety of insects found on the ground in open areas or up in trees in wooded areas. Breeding occurs in the spring and summer, and mature females may lay several egg clutches per year.

Ranging from bright green to dark brown, the Green Anole possesses the ability to change color due to temperature and light. A small lizard, it has a pale colored underbelly, long claws, and a thin tail. The males have what is called a 'dewlap', a bright pink flap of skin that can be extended and retracted for purposes of intimidating rivals and attracting females during the mating season. These anoles are arboreal, spending most of their time in trees, shrubs, and vines, feeding on insects and spiders. While they have a small territory, the males will aggressively defend it, starting with extending their dewlap, bobbing their head, performing pushups, and ultimately ending in a chase or a wrestling match. All this posturing and patrolling can make the males much easier targets for predators, however, and they tend to have higher mortality rates than the much more discreet females. If it is late spring and the right to mate is at stake, the winner will again employ head bobbing and dewlap extension to entice the female, who lays a single, soft shell egg among the leaf litter.

Coming in at an impressive 10 to 24 inches long, the Texas Alligator Lizard is a stiff lizard with large, plate-like scales and a long, somewhat prehensile tail. It is the largest lizard in Texas and the one of largest alligator lizards in the world. Varying from ruddy yellow to reddish brown, it has dark crosshatches on its back with a lighter head and small, weak legs that are unmarked. Found on rocky hillsides, it has slow, calculated moves, feeding on insects, spiders, and small invertebrates.

When alarmed, it may inflate itself in defense – and like other lizards even lose its tail to distract a potential predator - but more typically it will fold in its legs and slither away like a snake. Unlike many other lizards, breeding can occur year-round, and multiple clutches of eggs can be laid. Females often stay near the nest site to protect it, but once the young hatch they receive no parental care.

Lizards have been around for 100 million years longer than humans, and descended from the same family tree that gave rise to the dinosaurs. The next time you're lucky enough to have one cross your path, show it some well-deserved respect!

Send your nature related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them.

FIELD PREP: BY MARY HELEN QUINN AND PEGGY MURPHY

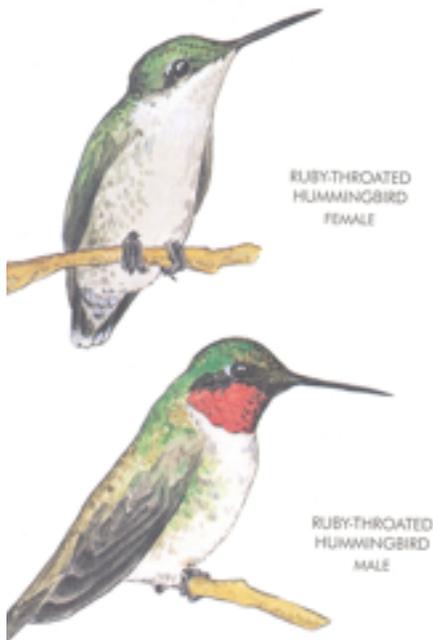
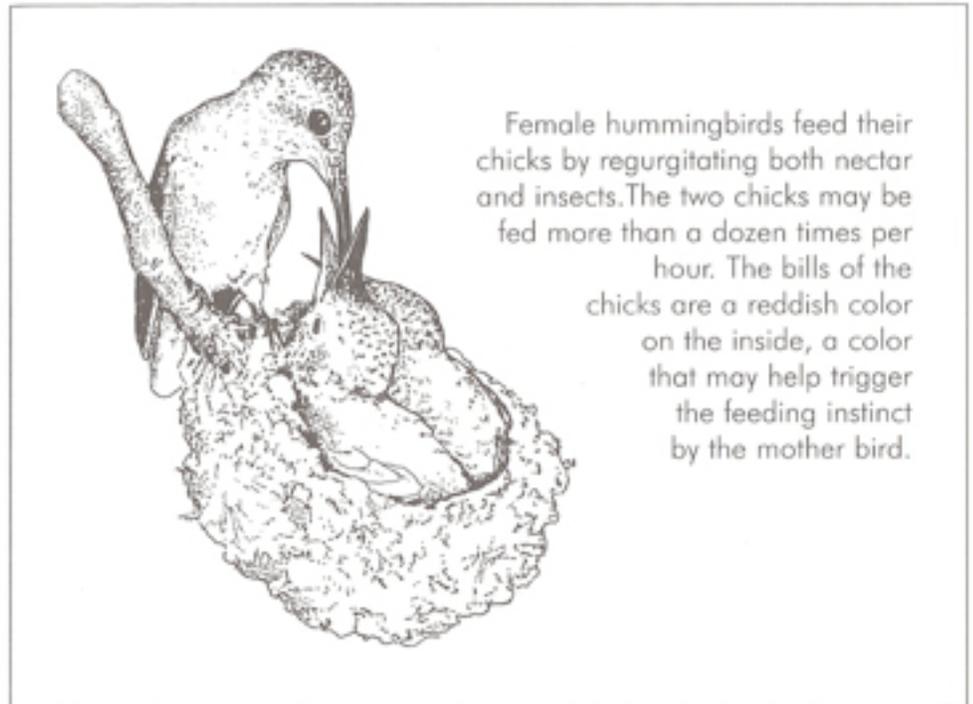
# CAMN at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Plant Sale

Cool weather, Easter weekend, and afternoon rain did not keep visitors away from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's spring plant sale. A steady stream of adults and children descended on the Center throughout the day to buy plants or simply to enjoy the beauty of the native plants blooming at their spring best.

CAMN was one of six Central Texas environmental entities that accepted the invitation from the Center to set up an informational table on Saturday, April 11 during the Center's popular semiannual plant sale. Taking advantage of the opportunity to have a more visible presence in the community, CAMN collaborated with the Center by serving as interpreters for the Center's display about hummingbirds.

Many stopped by the CAMN table to learn more about hummingbirds, other pollinators and their

eggs, and half a walnut shell simulated the size of a nest, which typically has an inside diameter of an



relationship to native plants. We brought our own handout on pollinators and some of their preferred plants, and CAMN borrowed the Center's Hummingbird Discovery Cart, which includes information and activities illustrating fascinating facts about hummingbirds.

Visitors learned that a ruby-throated hummingbird has a total length of 3" to 3.75" and weighs 2.5 to 4 grams, no more than five large paper clips. Small white jellybeans suggested the shape, size and color of a hummer's

inch or less. A feature of our table display was an actual hummingbird nest owned by the Center. It is covered with lichens and lined with spider webs, which are used to bind nesting materials together and allow the nest to flex as the babies grow.



Mary Helen Quinn offers a grub to a visitor

photo by Jeri Porter

ours said, “I don’t mind holding the snake, but I’m not about to touch that grub.” Others had the reverse reaction, “I can hold the grub, but I’m not getting near that snake.”

A colorful board filled with photos of CAMN members in action provided an opportunity to share our mission with the visitors.

Jeri Porter, who coordinated the event, stayed the entire day and took the photos. Vernon Berger and Peggy Murphy came early to help set up. Other CAMNers that took half-day shifts were Mary Helen Quinn, Rose Ann Reeser and Laura Southwick. Special thanks go to Stephen Brueggerhoff, Programs Manager at the Wildflower Center, for inviting us to the event and offering to share the Center’s educational materials.

Scanned images are from Hummingbirds: A Wildlife Handbook by Kim Long, Johnson Books, 1997.

Mary Helen Quinn brought the rhinoceros beetle larva, aka grub, that held the same enchantment for young and old alike that it had the week before at the NatureSmart activities at Waterloo Park. Marianna Hobbs, a CAMN member who works for the Lower Colorado River Authority at McKinney Roughs, brought a Mexican king snake as part of the nearby LCRA exhibit.



CAMN's table at the visitor center table and

photo by Jeri Porter

# Items of Note from State Headquarters

## 2008 Value of Volunteer Time Announced

Just last week (mid-April) the 2008 value of volunteer time was announced as being equivalent to \$20.25 per hour of service. This is the value that is most accepted by professional volunteer coordinators and their programs nationally. Using this new dollar figure, last year's value of Texas Master Naturalist service is valued at **\$1.825 million!!** The value of volunteer time is evaluated annually, with the figures released each spring and generally in April. The 2008 value is up .74 cents from last year's value of \$19.51 per hour. Read more about the value of volunteer time and how it is calculated:

[http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

## Spring Sale on Tenth Anniversary T-shirts

The Texas Master Naturalist program is now offering the tenth anniversary limited-edition T-shirt at the reduced price of \$10.00. At the time of print all sizes are available except mediums.

This T-shirt features a design created by Master Naturalist volunteer, Jerrell Geisler of the Gulf Coast Chapter and celebrates the tenth anniversary with an explorer theme. Don't delay, get one of these limited edition T-shirts today! They make great TMN "work-shirts".

See a sample of the great design on the TMN homepage at:

<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>

These are available from the AgriLife Bookstore and the proceeds support Master Naturalist activities and events. Order on-line at: <http://agrilifebookstore.org> or call 979-845-6573.

## TMN Tenth Anniversary and 1 Million Service Hours Slogan Contest

The year, 2008, was our Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program's tenth Anniversary! In this milestone year, we were successful at reaching another major milestone-1 MILLION hours of service reported to the Texas Master Naturalist program through your chapter annual reports!! To celebrate and commemorate this important milestone, we're looking to you to help us develop a slogan for the year through this contest. The winning slogan could become part of our marketing and identity resources for the program. Along with being named the contest winner, the word-master will have their name appear with the slogan wherever it appears.

All slogan or quote entries should include:

1. Reference to TMN program's tenth anniversary
2. Reference to the program's 1 Million hours of service reported
3. Your name as you wish it to appear for credit
4. The full chapter name in which you are a current member. No acronyms please. HCMN could mean Hays

County Master Naturalist OR Hill Country Master Naturalist)

5. Quote or slogan entries should be your own original work, or otherwise noted with the original author's name. You will be responsible for providing the original author's credit information.

6. Trademarked or other copyrighted material might not be usable and/or accepted.

7. Emailed or U.S. mailed submissions will be accepted.

8. Entries must be submitted by Friday, May 15, 2009 for consideration in the contest.

As an example, the winning slogan for the tenth anniversary T-shirt contest from Rolling Plains Chapter member Tami Davis was:

*'1998-2008: Ten years of tending to Texas'*

The quote we have on our standard TMN T-shirts available through the AgriLife Bookstore is:

*'Be the change you wish to see in the world'* by Mahatma Gandhi

The winning entry will become property of the Texas Master Naturalist Program where allowed. Other entries may be used for TMN marketing and advertising opportunities with appropriate credit given to their owners.

Send your submissions to:

Michelle Haggerty, TMN Program Coordinator

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

309 Sidney Baker, South

Kerrville, TX 78028

E-mail: [mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu)

## TMN Annual Meeting

October 23-25, 2009

Planning for the TMN Annual meeting has been underway for quite some time now. We wanted to alert you to some important items coming up soon. This year's Annual Meeting and Advanced Training will be held October 23-25, 2009 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas.

### *Advisor Award Nominations:*

Last year we implemented a new award for the Texas Master Naturalist program—the Advisor Award. Nominations for the award are being accepted through September 1, 2009. Please be thinking about which of your chapter advisors you would like to nominate for this year's award. Nominations will be accepted for activities and advisors who have been contributing to your local chapter efforts during the past year. Deadlines for nomination submissions in the format requested will be due by September 1, 2009. Guidelines are attached and will be posted on the TMN website.

### *TMN Volunteer Present a Project Submissions*

Returning by popular demand! Be a part of the presentation team at the Annual Meeting. We are planning to hold half day sessions where

Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers can present and talk about a specific project they are working on within their chapters. Member presentations will be no more than 20 minutes in length and must use a Power point presentation and/or hands-on activity. If you, or a small group of people from your chapter, would like the opportunity to show and tell your favorite project in this

manner please contact Michelle Haggerty today! We'll be seeking participants through May 31. We're looking for any type of TMN volunteer project. Special consideration will be given to project submissions supporting the Texas Wildlife Action Plan and local TPWD and/or Texas AgriLife Extension Service programs, properties and projects. Don't let this opportunity to toot your horn pass you by!

Please include the following information with your interest for presenting a TMN Volunteer Service Project at the Annual Meeting & Advanced Training:

1. Presentation Title (for the conference program)
2. Lead presenter name and contact information
3. TMN Chapter (no acronyms please)
4. Include a 4 to 5 sentence paragraph describing your project and what your presentation will cover.

Here is an example from one of last year's submissions:

The Rolling Plains Chapter's Lake Arrowhead State Park Nature Trail Project. Presented By: Lila Arnold, Rolling Plains Chapter

Project Description: The Rolling Plains chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program

assisted the TPWD Lake Arrowhead State Park with identifying native plants, birds, insects, and points of interests along the Nature Trail at the State Park. The chapter placed numbered wooden markers along the trail which correspond to a trifold brochure created by the chapter. The brochures will be placed in a station at the beginning of the Nature Trail and will offer a self-guided tour pointing out possible insects, birds,

and other wildlife which park visitors might come across. This presentation will cover what we learned as a result of the project and how your chapter can implement similar projects at nearby State Parks and Natural Areas.

### *TMN Exemplary Project Award Competition.*

We are again planning to have the Exemplary Project Award Competition at this year's annual meeting. Award criteria and guidelines for the year are in the process of being finished but, in the meantime, please be thinking about a potential project your chapter might want to submit. We will again ask for chapters to submit their entry with a table top display and supporting information. More details to come soon.

### *Sponsors/Organizers for evening campfires needed:*

Evening Campfires are sponsored by a Texas Master Naturalist Chapter at the annual meeting each year. We're seeking a couple of chapters to be the sponsor-- or even an individual member to be the host(s) of each of the campfires during this year's annual meeting. Campfires can be sponsored by an individual, one chapter, or a group of chapters each night. The typical cost of the campfire is the \$25 required by MO Ranch to set up the fire, the firewood and cleanup afterward. Some chapters have chosen to sponsor hot chocolate and/or smores, either by bringing them themselves or buying them through MO Ranch with the assistance of our TMN State office Contract contact. As a sponsor of one of the evening campfires you have the opportunity to make the event your own. Other

chapters in the past have lead story telling, stargazing, sing-a-longs, musical instruments, and just plain socializing and camaraderie time. If you or your chapter is interested in this opportunity, please contact Michelle Haggerty at:

[mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu)

### *Sponsors/ Committee Chair for Sunday Devotional*

We're looking for Sunday Morning Devotional/Inspirational Time Sponsor or Committee Chairperson. Typically, between the times of 7:00 and 7:30 AM at the Annual Meeting, time has been set aside on the agenda for some devotional and/or reflection and inspirational time for those who want to participate. We also ask that this time be organized and/or sponsored by a TMN Chapter or Volunteer. If you or your chapter has an interest in this please contact Michelle Haggerty as soon as possible. This event of the agenda will need a committee chair or sponsor to take place.

### *Volunteer needs at the annual meeting:*

We will also be seeking additional volunteers to help with other on-site events at the conference as it gets closer to registration.

Volunteer needs include assisting with registrant check-in, AT room monitors/hosts, Texas AgriLife Bookstore help plus many more opportunities!

### *Capital Area Chapter members lead Silent Auction for this year's annual meeting*

Thank you Capital Area chapter members for taking on the committee activities for this year's annual meeting!!! Anyone can start gathering donations at any time. Just bring them-or send them with a friend-to the annual meeting in October. Please let the Capital Area Chapter know what you intend to bring so that we may plan enough table space. Capital Area Chapter Members [Jeri Porter JeriP@county.org](mailto:JeriP@county.org) and [Christine Powell powlrye@verizon.net](mailto:powlrye@verizon.net) will co-chair this year's silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction support future partial scholarships to the event as well as the fees for renowned speakers or training.

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### *TMN Listserv:*

The TMN Listserv has and continues to be the one of the first line portals of information to our members. Please encourage your chapter members to sign on to the listserv or have us help you with it.

Please, also continue to post messages to the listerv too. The listserv is moderated so that spam and other non-applicable messages are weeded out. One word of caution for posting messages to the list serve is that it will not support attachments to a message. This is a security feature of the listserv software since a lot of computer or email bugs and viruses can be sent as attachments. If you

have information that you would like to send out over the listserv, please send it in the text or body of your

message with a web address/or link if there is other information that needs to be referenced.

To join the TMN LISTSERV mailing list, send an email to [listserv@tamu.edu](mailto:listserv@tamu.edu). No "Subject" is required. You do not need to include your email address in your message. LISTSERV automatically uses the address from your email. Future subscribers can enroll by sending a message to [listserv@tamu.edu](mailto:listserv@tamu.edu) with a simple "subscribe tmn" in the body of the message. The person signing on to the list will receive a response asking them to confirm this request, giving them both a web and email option for confirming that subscription.

Remember the listserv continues to be an excellent means of learning and sharing information for the Texas Master Naturalist program. Over 600 members are enrolled. Please encourage others to enroll.

# Hill Country Habitat: NatureSmart Family Spring Event

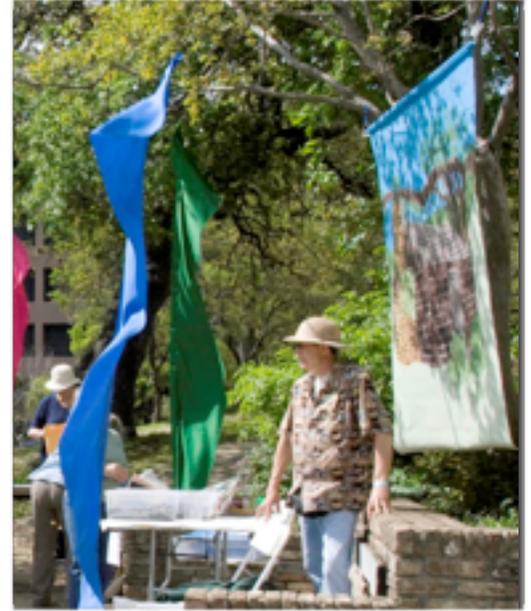
*How many fifth graders lying head-to-toe equal the length of the incredibly long roots of switchgrass? Answer: Usually two.*

*How many living creatures are contained in one cup of soil? Answer: More than there are people on earth.*

*How many years does it take to create an inch of topsoil? Answer: Hundreds.*

Answering these and other nature questions was part of the program CAMN put on for its spring NatureSmart Family program on April 4 as part of the Volunteer Party and Environmental Fair that Keep Austin Beautiful gave in Waterloo Park for the volunteers that helped with this year's Clean Sweep.

According to Monica Lopez Magee, Education Program Manager with KAB, more



*NatureSmart banner proudly displayed*



*Mary Helen Quinn with the rhinoceros beetle larva*

than 4,000 volunteers participated in 119 cleanup events throughout the city and removed 37 tons of trash from Austin's rivers, parks, and creeks during the morning. About 1,000 Clean Sweep volunteers descended on Waterloo Park for free lunch, live music, family environmental activities,

recycled art, door prizes and more. In addition to CAMN, the City of Austin's Watershed Protection and Solid Waste Services departments, the Austin Nature and Science Center, and other organizations participated with educational booths of their own.

We'll let the pictures tell the story:

In keeping with the Hill Country Habitat theme of the NatureSmart Family spring event, NatureSmart's log cabin banner and a dozen rainbow-colored flags marked the area set aside for CAMN's activities. We had to reduce the number of banners we could hang to avoid the maze of poison ivy in our area.

The event lasted only two hours, but there was never a let up in the interest shown by the Clean Sweep volunteers that came to the celebration.

At the entrance to CAMN's area, Peggy Murphy distributed the "passports" that the visitors carried to each of the three activity stations.

When visitors returned with passports stamped to show they had participated in each activity, they received their choice of a plastic critter as a memento, as well as a temporary tattoo of Spike, the mascot of Texas Parks and Wildlife's youth education programs. The tattoos were generously provided by TPWD.

At the Soil Investigation table, David Dunlap, along with Nancy Herron and Al Janelle, explained the virtues or disadvantages of two black soils, one rock soil, the inert "red death" often used in developments, decomposed granite, and the wonderfully decomposing compost, teeming with beetles, sow bugs, earthworms, and other life.

The children and adults were fascinated with the creatures living in the soils. Al was also able to advise people on improving their soils for

flower gardens and vegetable beds.

At the Underground display, Rose Ann Reeser presided over the imaginative above-ground/underground tapestry made by Peggy Murphy. The above ground portion showed trees, grass, and blue sky, and the underground section was riddled with tunnels made by animals looking for safety from enemies, or to escape extremes of heat or cold. Kids placed pictures of ground squirrels, foxes, skunks, ants, and snakes into the appropriate hidden homes.



*Spike, the mascot for TPW youth education*

Children and adults alike oohed and aahed over the rhinoceros beetle larva that Mary Helen brought and expressed wonder at being able to hold it in their hands.

Kris Thorne helped visitors compare their height to that of switchgrass roots by having them measure the "roots" with a surveyor's tape, or inviting them to lie down beside a



*David Dunlap at the soil investigation table*



*Peggy Murphy and passports*



*Nancy Heron of TPW and a Clean Sweep volunteer*



*Rose Ann Reeser explains underground animals*

facsimile of that plant's roots, which can be as long as 10 or 11 feet.

At the Uses of Native Plant Fibers station, visitors learned about the many ways native peoples used native plants. Charlene Farris, an expert in this field, made a gorgeous poster explaining how native plant fibers have been used by America's first inhabitants as building materials for shelter and raw material for making baskets, sandals, mats, rope, etc.

Sally Scott, Marianna Hobbs, Jeri Porter, and Charlene Farris prepared the raffia for the cording activity at the Native Plants table.

Marianna Hobbs and Charlene Farris showing visitors how to twist fibers to make cord for bracelets and necklaces similar to ones Native Americans might have made from twisted yucca fibers and brightly colored seed pods, but this time using raffia and beads.

This young woman obviously was skilled at the fiber twisting technique. The necklace she made is beautiful!



*Happy Nature Smart visitor!*



*Native plant fiber demo board made by Charlene Farris*

Thanks go to Jessica Wilson, who does fantastic work for Keep Austin Beautiful and who is a fellow CAMNer, for suggesting that we participate in this event, and to Monica Lopez Magee at Keep Austin Beautiful for taking care of us while we were there. We were so busy having conversations with visitors that we had little time to chat with each other or visit the other displays. We couldn't break away for lunch, so Monica and Jessica had their helpers deliver our complimentary "tube steaks" and burgers.

Special thanks go to Jeri Porter and Kim Lanzillotti for the wonderful photographs of the event; the ones you see here are only a sample.

Traditionally, the dedicated and talented members of CAMN spend untold hours lending their expertise to support other community

environmental programs, but the NatureSmart Family program is different. It is the first time in the 10-year history of CAMN that an educational nature program has been totally envisioned and carried to fruition by

CAMN members alone. It was made possible by a \$900 grant from the Magnolia Charitable Trust directing CAMN to present four seasonal family programs throughout the year.

We had a wonderful time at the Clean Sweep event, engaging the visitors in conversations, encouraging

their curiosity, and, as Al says, "nudging their brains."

The next NatureSmart Family program, with a theme of Water Discovery, will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, in the Village of Bee Cave, as part of the Bee Cave Public Library's summer reading program. Tentative activities include frog calls, making prints from formerly living fish, and an opportunity to examine live organisms from the pond at Bee Cave's community park.

To participate in the next happening in this innovative and instructive series, contact Peggy Murphy at (512) 264-0330 or [paxpeg@prodigy.net](mailto:paxpeg@prodigy.net).

Everyone, no matter what the skill level, can make a contribution to this unique-to-CAMN affair, either by participating at the event or helping with preparations. We hope you can join the fun!



*Al Janelle talks about bugs in soil AND they are interested!*

**FIELD TRIP: BY KIM BACON**

## Bee Garden Needs a Volunteer

Last summer, Waste Management Inc. approached CAMN members Kim Bacon and Terri Fiset about designing and planting a Community Pollinator Garden at the Austin Community Landfill. The Pollinator Garden will be used as a Demonstration Garden by school groups and community members who visit the landfill.

Terri researched plants, landscape designs, irrigation requirements, and prepared a preliminary budget. In the late fall, Kim prepared the beds, installed the irrigation, and planted some of the plants.

It has been an interesting experience! The plants are now growing and beginning to fill in the beds. There's still a lot of work to BEE done, though.

The Bee Garden would love to have an additional volunteer (or more) who would help with weeding and checking on the plants this summer. This is an opportunity to help improve the garden, learn about pollinators (especially bees), help develop a Community Pollinator Garden, and

earn CAMN Volunteer hours for your work.

The Pollinator Garden is located at the Austin Community Landfill at 9900 Giles Rd, Austin, TX 78754. Give Kim a call at 512-964-0648 or an email at [beewatchers@mac.com](mailto:beewatchers@mac.com) if you would like to earn some volunteer hours at the LANDFILL!



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## Water Monitor Training

from Barbara Countant

Heidi Moltz of the Texas Stream Team says the water quality training class will be held at the Steeplechase Park Pavilion in Kyle, TX on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 8:30 am-3:30 p.m. Phase I and II of the core water quality monitoring training will have an introduction to TX Stream Team and provide general watershed and water quality background information. Monitoring procedures for the various parameters will then be demonstrated and participants will practice the techniques. In the afternoon, the Phase III training will allow participants to continue practicing the monitoring methods. TX Stream Team uses TCEQ and EPA approved methodologies to monitor and assess water quality parameters including pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, clarity, and temperature. Completing Phase I through III will certify participants as water quality monitors.

This training is free for participants as it is sponsored by the TCEQ; however, **ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**. Please contact Heidi Moltz via email ([hmr079@txstate.edu](mailto:hmr079@txstate.edu)) or phone (512.245.3461; toll free 877.506.1401) if you plan to attend this training or if you would like additional information.

## FIELD TRIP:

# Opportunities

Saturday, May 2, 2009  
Workshop: How To Know and  
Grow Austin Butterflies.

Learning to identify common butterflies of our area is only one aspect of the Austin Butterfly Forum's Fourth Annual Butterfly Workshop, held this year from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Zilker Botanical Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road.

Topics will cover butterfly host plants, how to raise caterpillars and watch metamorphosis at home, strategies for caterpillar survival, as well as books and resources about this rapidly growing hobby. The workshop will also include a light lunch and a hands-on walk to identify butterflies at Zilker's Doug Bachly Butterfly Trail. Participants will be given plants to take home to begin attracting butterflies to their own gardens. To register, please call Jeff Taylor at 255-0368 or [kscjtaylor@prodigy.net](mailto:kscjtaylor@prodigy.net). The cost is \$35.00.



Gulf Fritillary on Lantana

Wikipedia

## TPWD Texas Amphibian Watch Workshop

Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 6:30 – 9:30 **PM**

Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center (aka, the Splash! Exhibit next to Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park, <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/splash/>), Austin .

Learn how to identify frog and toad species in Texas and participate in scientific research. This TPWD workshop is sponsored by the Capital Area Master Naturalists (<http://grovesite.com/page.asp?o=tmn&s=cac&p=168789>). Bring a headlamp or flashlight if you have one, but some flashlights will also be on hand. Bring shoes/boots that can get wet if you want to chase frogs, but this is not required. You may want to bring some water, as well. SBEC and TEEAC credit is available for educators.

The workshop fee is \$10/person for materials and more information on this TPWD Texas Nature Trackers program can be found at [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/amphibian\\_watch/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas_nature_trackers/amphibian_watch/). Additional information on frogs, toads, and their calls can be found at <http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/frogs/> (click on the "Frog Calls" button in the upper left).

Registration is required. To register for the workshop, or for more questions, contact Kathy McCormack at 512-698-9880 or [VEFL21@yahoo.com](mailto:VEFL21@yahoo.com).

# Correction

An error was discovered in the April publication. On page 5, the photo of *Rana berdanieri* was mislabeled. It is listed as “Green tree frog”. Suspicious, yes? This frog is hardly green at all! Here are the corrected labels for the photos.



Rio Grande Leopard Frog  
*Rana berndalieri*

***THIS*** is a Green Tree Frog. It’s, well, it is GREEN. As in bright, lime green. Get the difference?



*Hyla cinerea*

## Back on the Invasive Trail

Spring brings longer days, warmer weather, spring rains, wildflowers, and sadly, invasive plants. After a winter break, Theresa Pella, Gloria Blagg, and I are back on the BCP lands, documenting invasive plants. We ventured into the brush this last Sunday, following a morning rain. With a GPS, camera, and clipboard, we crisscrossed the brushy terrain for about three hours and were fortunate to find only one species of invasive plant – the Tree of Heaven. A misnomer if ever there was one.

What we found in abundance were native plants, either blooming or just making their way out of the wet ground to begin life. From the small crotons and nose-burn plants to the showy devil’s shoe string, we spent as much time flipping through field guides, squishing leaves, and smelling blooms as we did hiking. We made our way down into a creek bed and were rewarded with native Mimosa blooms and a Kidneywood tree. At higher elevations, fields of yellow Damianita and Twist Leaf Yucca marked our path. Documenting invasive plants serves a vital purpose but it’s impossible not to have fun and learn new things while out in the field.

If you think invasive hunting might be for you, you’re in luck. The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a local Invaders of Texas workshop on May 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be held at Austin Nature and Science Center, Multi Purpose Room. There is a \$15 charge for the workshop and you need to register by May 22. To register contact Alice Nance at [Alice.Nance@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Alice.Nance@ci.austin.tx.us) or by phone at 512-327-8181 x29. For more information, see [http://www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/workshop\\_results.php](http://www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/workshop_results.php).

Maybe we’ll see you on the trails.

*by Julia Osgood*

# A List of Recommended Books for Lovers of Nature

Recently someone asked the question “does CAMN have a book club?” Well, the simple answer to that is “no, but do we want to form one?” I also wondered if there was some way that we could form one and get a little advanced training for it... something we would have to run by the Advanced Training Committee. Is anyone interested? If so let me know Christine Powell ([xtinepowell@verizon.net](mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net)) and I will try and set it up. To get you all thinking a recommended book list is included below and if you have suggestions for additions then let me know as I would actually like to put this on the website so lets make it as complete as we can. Thanks to Lynn Mann of the Highland Lakes Master Naturalists who shared their list with us.

## Our Habitat

- Aldo, Leopold. *A Sand Country Almanac: And Sketches Here and There*. New York: Oxford University Press. 1949.
- Bogard, Paul (Ed). *Let There Be Night: Testimony on Behalf of the Dark*. Reno: University of Nevada Press. 2008.
- DeBlieu, Jan. *Wind: How the Flow of Air Has Shaped Life, Myth & the Land*. Emeryville, CA: Shoemaker & Hoard. 2006.
- Green, Jeffrey. *Water from Stone: The Story of Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2007.
- Louv, Richard. *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. 2006.

## Water and Conservation

- Childs, Craig. *The Secret Knowledge of Water: Discovering the Essence of the American Desert*. Seattle: Sequatchie Books. 2000.
- Texas Water Development Board. *The Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting* (3rd Edition). Austin: Texas Water Development Board. 2005.

## Geology

- Spearing, Darwin. *Roadside Geology of Texas*. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press. 1991.

## Soils

- Soil Biology Primer*. Ankeny, IA: Soil and Water Conservation Society. 2000.

## Plants

- Elpel, Thomas J. *Botany in a Day: The Patterns Method of Plant Identification*. Pony, MT: HOPS Press. 2004.
- Harris, James G. and Melinda Wooff Harris. *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary*. Payson, UT: Spring Lake Publishing. 2001.
- Hatch, Stephan L. and Pulhar, Jennifer. *Texas Range Plants*. College Station: Texas A&M University. 1993.
- Nokes, Jill. *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 2001.
- Pollan, Michael. *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World*. New York: Random House. 2003.

## Wildflowers

- Ajilvsgi, Geyata. *Wildflowers of Texas*. Fredericksburg, Texas: Shearer Publishing. 1984.
- Enquist, Marshall. *Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country*. Austin: Lone Star Botanical. 1987.
- Loughmiller, Campbell and Lynn and Damon Waitt, Updated. *Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 2006.

## Grasses

- Boardman, Gerre; Bolger, Janie; and Gleason, John (Eds). *Xeriscape for Central Texas: A Water-wise Approach to Home Landscaping*. Austin: Xeriscape Garden Club of the Austin Area. 1998.
- Brown, Lauren. *Grasses, An Identification Guide*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1979.
- Clark, Lynn G.; Chase, Agnes; and Richard Walter Pohl. *Agnes Chase's First Book of Grasses: The Structure of Grasses Explained for the Beginner*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1996.
- Gould, Frank W. *Common Texas Grasses: An Illustrated Guide*. W.L. Moody, Jr. Natural History Series. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 1978.
- Loflin, Brian. *Grasses of the Texas Hill Country: A Field Guide*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2006.
- Rector, Barron. *Know Your Grasses*. College Station: Texas Cooperative Extension. ND.
- Wasowski, Sally and Andy. *Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region*. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co. 1991.

## Trees

- Cox, P. and Leslie, P. *Texas Trees: A Friendly Guide*. San Antonio: Corona Press. 1988.
- Simpson, B.J. *A Field Guide to Texas Trees*. Austin: Texas Monthly Press. 1989.
- Stahl, Carmine and McElvaney, Ria. *Trees of Texas: An Easy Guide to Leaf Identification*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2003.
- Tudge, Collin. *The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter*. New York: Crown Publisher. 2006.
- Vines, Robert A. *Trees of Central Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1984.
- Wrede, Jan. *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of the Texas Hillcountry*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2005.

## Aquatic Ecology

- Huser, Verne. *Rivers of Texas*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2000.
- Thomas, Chad; Bonner, Timothy H; Whiteside, Bobby G and Fran Gatwick. *Freshwater Fishes of Texas: A Field Guide*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2007.

## Insects

- Abbott, John C. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas and the South-Central United States: Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2005.
- Brock, Jim P. and Kenn Kaufman, *Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America*. New York: Houghton Mifflin. 2003.
- Drees, Bastiaan and Jackman, John A. *A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects*. Houston: Gulf Publishing. 1998.
- Jackman, John A. *A Field Guide to Spiders and Scorpions of Texas*. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co. 1999.
- Kaufman, Kenn and Eric R. Eaton, *Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America*. New York: Houghton Mifflin. 2007.
- McCavin, George C. (Smithsonian Handbooks). *Insects, Spiders, and Other Terrestrial Arthropods*. New York: Dorling Kinderslay Inc. 2002.
- Nikula, Blair; Stones, Jackie; and Donald & Lillian Stokes. *Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies*. New York: Little, Brown and Company. 2002.

## Reptiles

Tennant, Alan. *A Field Guide to Texas Snakes*. Houston: Gulf Publishing. 1998.

Werler, John E. and James R. Dixon. *Texas Snakes: Identification, Distribution, and Natural History*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 2000.

## Birds

Alsop, Fred J. *Birds of Texas* (Smithsonian Handbooks). New York: DK Publishing. 2002.

Forshaw, Joseph; Howell, Steve; Lindsey, Terence and Stallcup, Rich. *A Guide to Birding*. San Francisco: Fog City Press. 1994.

National Geographic. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic. 1983.

Rappole, John H. and Gene W. Blacklock, *Birds of Texas: A Field Guide*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 1994.

Shackelford, Clifford; Lindsey, Madge M and C. Mark Klym. *Hummingbirds of Texas*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 2005.

Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (National Audubon Society). New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 2000.

Tuttle, Merlin D. *Texas Bats*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 2002.

Tveten, John L. *The Birds of Texas*. Fredericksburg: Shearer Publishing. 1993.

## Mammals

Elbroch, Mark. *Mammal Tracks & Sign: A Guide to North American Species*. Meachamishburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books. 2003.

Schmidly, David J. *The Mammals of Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 2004.

Sheldon, Ian and Hartson, Tamara. *Animal Tracks of Texas*. Renton, Washington: Lone Pine Publishing. 2000.

Wildlife Forever, McCarthy, Anne. *Critters of Texas: Pocket Guide* (Criticter). New York: Adventure Publications. 2005.

## Archeology

Finsley, Charles E. *A Field Guide to Fossils of Texas*. Houston: Gulf Publishing. 1989.

Turner, Ellen Sue; Hester, Thomas R. and Kathy Lewis. *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. Houston: Gulf Publishing. 1985.

## Urban Systems and Wildscapes

Adams, Lowell W. *Urban Wildlife Habitats: A Landscape Perspective*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1994.

Boardman, Gerre; Bolger, Janie and John Gleason (Eds). *Xeriscape for Central Texas: A Water-wise Approach to Home Landscaping*. Austin: Xeriscape Garden Club of the Austin Area. 1998.

Damude, Noreen and Kelly Conrad Bender. *Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife*. Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Press. 1999.

# Officers

**President:** [Barbara Coutant](#)  
**Vice-President:** [Lynne Weber](#)  
**Past President:** [Sue Wiseman](#)  
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**Administrative Secretary:**  
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## 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](mailto: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.

## By-Laws

Contact: [Tim Scoggins](#)  
Develops the organizational by-laws.

## Communications

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

## Curriculum

Contact: [Theresa Pella](#)  
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.

## Program

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

## Food & Fun

Contact: [Jason Lamza](#)  
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.

## Outreach Committee

Contact: [Stuart Bailey](#) Promotes CAMN

## NatureSmart Family Committee

Contact: Peggy A. Murphy, Simonetta Rodriguez Promotes CAMN

## Field Trips Committee

Contact: [Joan Singh](#). Plans and co-ordinates Field Trips

# 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](#)

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[Texas Cooperative Extension](#)

[Lower Colorado River Authority](#)

[Austin Sierra Club](#)

[The Nature Conservancy of Texas](#)

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

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