

# FIELD NOTES



photo courtesy Texas Horned Lizard Conservation Society

## Ex-President's Note

Nearly three years ago, you had enough confidence in me to elect me as your chapter President. Thanks to some unusual circumstances, I have now served three terms. It has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I am very proud that I could watch the incredible work that you have put in on behalf of the Central Texas environment. I wish I could thank each of you individually, but there isn't enough room here to list every member of the chapter... which is what I would need to do, since you have all taken your part.

The year ahead will present great challenges for your new President, Greg Cumpton, who will be reshaping the course of the chapter to face the new challenges of the mid-decade. Among these will be the continuing crisis in funding for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other official organizations. Political pressures at the local, state, and federal levels in the name of lower taxes and leaner government are leaving an increasing gap between needs and resources.

I can see only one way to plug that gap, and that is with an increased commitment by the individual persons who love and honor the natural beauties of our state. You CAMNers, other MNs around Texas, and the host of other concerned citizens must make up the gap with your volunteer efforts. Without you, the intricate network of ecosystems that makes up the natural Texas would not have a hope. With you, I have every confidence that future generations will be able to see more than just suburban housing, shopping centers, and blacktop. With you, they will have water to drink and safe places to swim and watch wildlife. Without you, future generations will just see William Blake's "green and pleasant fields" replaced by "dark satanic mills."

Three years ago, you placed your confidence in me. It is time now for me to place my confidence in you. Godspeed!

Christine Powell

CAMN President, 2010-13

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist



## Meeting

**June 26th, 2013.**

The June meeting of the Capital Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists will be on the 26th. Kevin Thuesen, program manager for Austin Water Utility's Wildland Conservation Division/Water Quality Protection Lands, will talk on "Advanced Ecological Restoration." Please attend for an hour of advanced training and the chance to compare notes with your fellow Master Naturalists.

*Regular Monthly Meetings are normally the last Wednesday of each month (except December when we do not meet) and are held at 6:30, at the Austin Nature and Science Center, Zilker Park Map to Austin Nature Center <http://bit.ly/hJ2Pli>. 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 at our next meeting at 6:45 pm on July 11th, 2013. Contact any Board Member for more details and for the location of the meeting

## Volunteer and Advanced Training Opportunities

Visit the CAMN website at <http://camn.org/> and log in to the CAMN Volunteer Calendar to start fulfilling those volunteer hours.

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*Above: Jim and Lynne Weber recently appeared on the KLRU-TV program "Central Texas Gardener." They are active CAMN Members (Lynne is a Past President and Jim has served on the Board) and the authors of the recent book, Nature Watch Austin. In this issue of Field Notes, you can read three of their recent articles. They have recently begun a blog: <http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com/>*



On March 30, volunteers from Travis Audubon and Capital Area Master Naturalists helped build a bird blind at Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary and made improvements to the water feature. Shown left are Jennifer Chapman, Roger Smith, Craig Rasmussen, Keri Cooper, and Shirley LaVergne. Photo credit to Keri Cooper!

*"Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."*

## What do Master Naturalists Do?

A note from Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator :

We wanted to take a minute to say THANK YOU for all that you do for our natural resources— not just on Earth Day but EVERY DAY!!!

Through the latest reporting year of 2012, Texas Master Naturalists have reported:

- 751 new TMN volunteers were trained through 38 chapters and 8,092 volunteers have been trained to date.
- There are 44 Master Naturalist chapters statewide with one in development
- 320,504 volunteer service hours throughout the 2012 calendar year valued at \$6.25 Million and over 2,077,000 hours (valued at \$40.5 Million) have been reported by the TMN program to date.
- Over 4,472 Outreach events were conducted in 2012. Of those events, 3,236 were Direct Outreach events reaching some 159,000 people.
- 47,781 Advanced Training hours obtained and over 349,101 AT hours obtained to date.
- Over 1,770 Miles of Trail developed and/or maintained by TMN volunteers to date
- Over 160,000 Acres impacted by TMN service projects to date.

FIELD PREP: BY JIM AND LYNNE WEBER

## Marvelous Mimics

The Hill Country of Central Texas is defined as an environmental ecoregion, which means it contains a certain set of plants and animals whose presence indicates specific conditions such as temperature range, rainfall, food supply, and physical characteristics of the land. This set of species, called indicator or signature species, can be among the most sensitive in a region, acting as an early warning of changing conditions to monitoring biologists. Several signature plant species are found on the Edwards Plateau, many of which are common, and several that are quite rare.

Found only in 5 Texas counties (Blanco, Comal, Hayes, Kendall, and Travis), Canyon Mock Orange (*Philadelphus ernestii*) is a rare low shrub with gracefully drooping grayish branches bearing small glossy green leaves and fragrant white blossoms. These blossoms are showy and numerous along the branchlets, and open in April and May. The tiny fruits that follow are shaped like a top, less than a quarter of an inch in size, and have 4 remnants of the flower projecting from the midpoint between the tip and the base. Canyon Mock Orange grows near springs, among boulders and on bluffs in shady, moist canyons, but it will adapt to different growing conditions. Endemic to (only found in) the Hill Country, a plant that is almost identical to Canyon Mock Orange is a more common but still uncommon species called Texas Mock Orange (*Philadelphus texensis*). It naturally occurs in Bandera, Edwards, Real, and Uvalde counties.

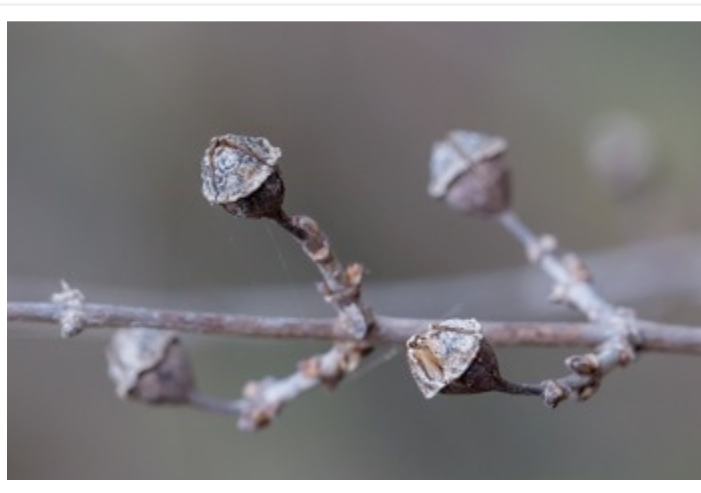
Aside from slight geographic differences in location, the key to properly identifying each of these species lies in the hairs that cover the lower leaf surface – Canyon Mock Orange has only short straight hairs and Texas Mock Orange has a mix of short



straight hairs and long tangled hairs. Listed as a state 'species of concern' due to its declining numbers, Canyon Mock Orange is in need of environmental protection. While our native mock oranges are not widely known, they are highly desirable for use as ornamental shrubs, and should be planted in shady and deer-protected locations. Once established, they require

little water, are cold tolerant, and are semi-evergreen. As they bloom on the previous season's growth, they may be pruned for denser growth soon after flowering.

The name 'mock orange' comes from the reference to the flowers on these plants, which look somewhat similar to those of oranges and lemons and often have a similar sweet fragrance. From a botany perspective, mock oranges are distant to citrus and jasmines and are actually part of the Hydrangea family. Regardless, our native species are ones that should be planted and nourished in our own wildscapes, as they are marvelous mimics and a definitive part of our unique Hill Country ecosystem!



*Above: Canyon Mock Orange blooms*

*Left: Canyon Mock Orange Seed Pods*

*Pictures courtesy Jim & Lynne Weber*

## Visiting Vireos



Spring marks the return of many different bird species, including the small, foliage-gleaning vireos. Often confused with warblers, vireos are generally plain green or olive above and whitish or washed yellow below. They can have wing-bars,

eye-rings or eye-lines, and are bigger-headed, thicker-billed, and more deliberate in their movements than their warbler cousins. For identification purposes, vireos are often separated into two distinct groups: those with both wing-bars and eye-rings (often called spectacles), and those without wing-bars but with eye-lines. Only the males sing, and these birds are often heard rather than seen.

In Central Texas, those vireos belonging to the first group include the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) and the endangered Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*). Like the common name implies, the White-eyed Vireo has white irises surrounding dark pupils, yellow spectacles, two whitish wing bars, and is greyish-olive above, white below, with a yellowish wash on its sides. Somewhat secretive, it prefers thickets of vines and is more

often heard singing a short, harsh song from dense, brushy tangles within woods. The male Black-capped Vireo's glossy black cap contrasts sharply with its white spectacles and deep red eyes, and it is also olive above and whitish below, with yellowish wing-bars and sides. Its song is a series of twittering notes, and it is often very hard to see as it stays hidden while it moves about in oak scrub and thickets. This vireo is endangered across its range, largely due to habitat destruction and brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird.

Also returning by April is the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) and the less commonly seen Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*). The Red-eyed Vireo has a ruby red iris, a white eyebrow bordered above and below with black, with a blue-grey crown, olive back, and whitish underparts. Its song is a persistent series of short phrases, and it prefers broad-leafed forests, often found foraging in oaks. Warbling vireos are paler overall than Red-eyed vireos, having a white eyebrow with little to no black borders, a dark brown eye, grey or olive-grey above, and pale yellow to white below. Its song is a series of long but rapid, melodious, warbling phrases. This vireo is most often seen in spring and fall, as most pass through our area on their way to more northern breeding grounds or more southern wintering grounds.

All vireo species have a rather stout, cylindrical bill with a slightly hooked tip and one or two very small notches near the tip of the upper portion, as this aids them in capturing insects and tearing into fruit, which are the mainstays of their diet. Several species can exist in close proximity by utilizing different niches such as thickets and vines versus taller trees, which are both present in our forested canyons. They build well-formed,

Above: White-Eyed Vireo

Right: Red-Eyed Vireo

Pictures courtesy Jim & Lynne Weber



somewhat pendulous, open-cupped grass nests suspended from the fork of a small branch, with both parents feeding the young hatchlings.

Whether you actually see or just hear these spring beauties, take the time either way to enjoy our visiting vireos!

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 JIM AND LYNNE WEBER

## Vines of Passion



A widespread favorite of flower and butterfly gardeners, passion vines (*Passiflora* sp.) are gaining momentum for use in our suburban landscapes. There are several native species that not only serve as larval food plants for several species of butterflies, but also brighten our gardens with beautifully complex blooms through much of the growing season. Well over 500 species of passiflora grow worldwide, with only 9 species native to the US, 6 of those growing in Texas, and 5 of those native or naturalized in Central Texas.

The Bracted Passionflower (*Passiflora affinis*) is a 3 to 6 foot vine with three-lobed leaves that grows in riparian to dry limestone areas of the Edwards Plateau. Its greenish-yellow blooms are about an inch across, and appear from June through August.

Yellow Passionvine (*Passiflora lutea*) is a longer but quite similar looking delicate vine, with much more shallowly lobed leaves, and almost identical flowers May through September, that give way to purple or black berries in the fall. The hardest-to-find small passiflora vine is the Bird-wing or Slender-lobe Passionflower (*Passiflora tenuiloba*). Growing on open limestone areas with dry, caliche soils, often over boulders or tree stumps, this vine has very elongated and somewhat variegated leaves that look like a bird spreading its wings. Its small blooms are green and appear from April to October.

The most robust passifloras in our area are the Corona de Christo or Fetid Passionflower (*Passiflora foetida*) and the Purple Passionflower or Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*). The first is a fairly aggressive climbing vine with large, three-lobed leaves longer than they are wide, and velvety to the touch. The flowers, which are white to pale lavender and 1-2 inches wide, open in early morning and close within a few hours. They are surrounded by thread-like bracts that persist after the flower fades, and surround the bright red fruits like a 'crown of thorns'. Maypop, which is often found in local nurseries,



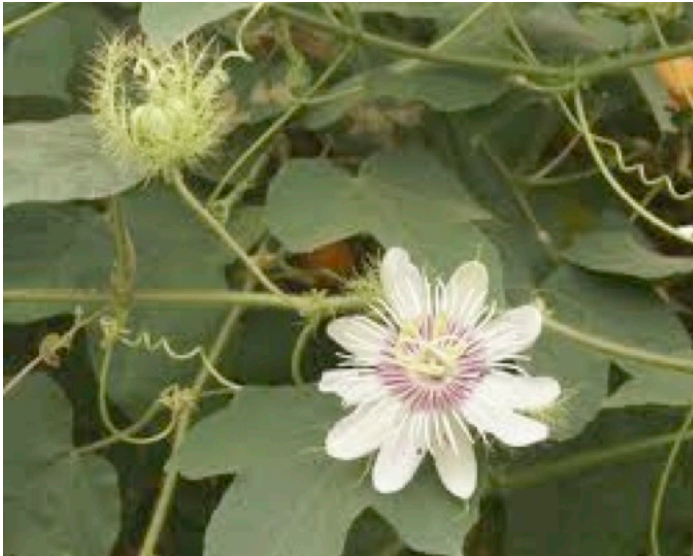
has naturalized in our area from south and east Texas, and is a fast-growing vine up to 25 feet long with showy, 3-inch wide deep lavender flowers from April through September. This vine does well in full sun or part shade, with plenty of room to climb on an arbor or along a fence or handrail. The common name

Left: Bracted Passionflower

Right: Yellow Passionflower

All pictures courtesy Jim & Lynne Weber

'Maypop' comes from the hollow yellow fruits that pop loudly when crushed.



The naming of the passiflora genus of plants comes from the description of their intricate flower parts in the early 17th century by Spanish priests. Known by the Spanish as 'La Flor de las Cincos Llagas' or 'The Flower with Five Wounds', the passion flower refers to Christ's suffering and its parts

represent various elements of the crucifixion. The five petals and five sepals are the ten disciples less Judas and Peter, the corona filaments are the crown of thorns, the five stamen with anthers are the five sacred wounds, and the three stigma are the nails by which Christ was bound to the cross. While this symbolism is not universal, it is still an important reminder today in Christian societies throughout the world.



While many different hybrids and cultivars are sold in local nurseries, these are mainly of subtropical origin. The extra effort it takes to find the native species will reward you with several spectacular butterflies visiting your yard to lay their eggs on these vines. Among those include the Gulf and Variegated Fritillaries, Zebra Longwing, and Julia Heliconian. What a wonderful reason to plant these vines of passion!



*If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, Nature Watch Austin, published by Texas A&M University Press.*

*Above Left: Corona de Christo*

*Above Right: Slender-lobed Passionflower*

*Below Left: Purple Passionflower*

FIELD WORK: BY MEREDITH O'REILLY

# Studying the Bluebonnet

Each spring, Texas highway roadsides, country fields, and urban gardens take on blue as our beautiful bluebonnets start to bloom. Typically this bloom period is from March to May, and the bounty of blue depends on rain that fell the previous fall and winter.

Bluebonnets are part of the legume, or bean, family. Like most other members of the legume family, they offer nitrogen-fixation through their root system's symbiotic relationship with Rhizobia bacteria, giving them the excellent ability of being able to grow in poor, disturbed soils and at the same time bringing nitrogen back to that poor soil when they decompose.

Bluebonnets require insect pollination, and bumblebees and honeybees take on this job quite readily. The flowers are designed to encourage this pollination. Let's take a closer look.



Bluebonnet flowers are made up of many florets. Each floret has 5 petals: the banner petal, 2 wing petals, and 2 petals that make up the keel. The banner petal forms the upper part of the floret. The center of this petal is called the banner spot, and it is this spot that acts as a target to attract bee pollinators. When the pollen is fresh and sticky, the banner spot is white, seen to bees as reflected UV light and appearing to them to be a nice

landing spot. But as the floret and its pollen age, the banner spot turns a reddish-magenta color and becomes ignored by the bees, who can't see red. Take a moment to watch bees buzzing around bluebonnets -- which color banner spots do they visit the most?



When a visiting bee lands on a bluebonnet floret's wing petals, its weight lowers those petals to expose the keel, which is actually two petals that protect the floret's reproductive parts, the stamens (which produce the pollen) and the pistil (which receives other pollen and produces seed). Here the bee collects pollen, naturally leaving other pollen grains behind to fertilize the floret, and when the bee flies to other

florets, the wing petals return to their protective position over the keel. As the bee visits floret after floret, more pollination occurs. Florets that are not pollinated will not set seed.

Any given bluebonnet is likely to show both fresh florets and aging florets. Even though a magenta banner spot indicates that a floret's pollen has lost its viability, the floret may, of course, produce seeds if it was pollinated while it was fresh.

Because bluebonnets cannot self-fertilize, the decline in bee populations has a direct effect on how many seeds a bluebonnet can produce. One plant has the potential to produce many hundreds of seeds, but often only a small number typically result, simply due to the decrease in pollinator



numbers. Please protect our pollinators and our wildflowers by not using pesticides!

Another danger to bluebonnets and other native wildflowers, is the invasive Bastard Cabbage, a yellow-flowering plant of the mustard family (my son still prefers to call it Bad Word Cabbage, which seems equally appropriate). Active measures must be taken to control this bullying plant, whether it be mowing before the cabbage flowers go to seed, removing each entire plant with its tap roots, or overseeding with native plants such as Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia*). Studies are being done to determine the best course of action, but in the meantime, if you see Bastard Cabbage, yank it out if you can.

Here in Texas, we have 6 known native species of bluebonnets, and all are considered our state flower. There's a long history regarding the bluebonnet's status in Texas. When the bluebonnet was chosen as our state flower back in 1901, beating out the cotton boll and the prickly pear flowers, the Sandyland species *Lupinus subcarnosus* was recorded. But in the years following, many people felt the ever-popular *Lupinus texensis*, or Texas Bluebonnet, was a better choice. Both are endemic to Texas, but then what about our other larger-range

and equally beautiful bluebonnets, such as the taller Big Bend Bluebonnet (*Lupinus havardii*)? In 1971 Texas legislators amended the law, stating that all native species of bluebonnet in Texas were our state flower. Problem solved.

Even before Texans fell in love with the bluebonnet, this attractive flower was the subject of lore and legend for Native Americans in the area, many of whom considered the bluebonnet a gift from the Great Spirit. One story is that the bluebonnets arrived with rain after a young orphaned girl sacrificed her precious doll to the Great Spirit in hopes of bringing an end to a terrible drought. Spanish explorers and missionaries upon their arrival in Texas also admired the blue-blooming flowers. The bluebonnet has been called el conejo ("the rabbit" -- possibly for the tail-like tuft of new florets at the top of each Texas bluebonnet flower), Wolf Flower (hence the *Lupinus* genus), and Buffalo Clover.

A final note: It's not actually illegal to pick bluebonnets, but it's considered very rude and improper. We need bluebonnets to go to seed -- please don't pick them! And try very hard not to trample them while you are out picture taking!



*All Images by the Author*

### Invitation to Contributors:

Like Jim and Lynne Weber and a number of other CAMN members, Meredith has a blog (<http://www.greatstems.com/>). This article was adapted from one of her entries. If you have a blog and have written on a nature-related topic, please share your work with the readers of the CAMN *Field Notes*. Submit your text and images to the Editor ([xtinepowell@verizon.net](mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net)).

At least one CAMN member, Lucas Miller, has a presence on YouTube. His latest song about arthropods is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFe3cZLuhUs&sns=em>. Let us know what you have been up to!



# EPISODE 84: Water Hyacinth Everywhere

I think we may be in for a summer with lots of Water Hyacinth. We were seeing some from start to end today. Under every low hanging branch and in every pool of calm water was new growth. There were little new ones floating everywhere. It will be interesting to see how much it takes over this summer.



From the bird point of view we did very well. We listed 50 species with local residents, winter and summer visitors and some very obvious misses. Since the migrations are going on I will mention the Mississippi Kites and Ovenbird. We also got lots of summer species. A couple of the better

ones include Painted Bunting and Summer Tanager. Of course we have those year-round residents like Pileated Woodpecker. One of the obvious misses includes Great Blue Heron. I heard Dickcissel driving out and back but got none on the survey.

When it had warmed up after record breaking low temperatures we saw lots of various snakes and turtles. There was Map Turtles, Red-eared sliders, Diamond-backed Watersnake and Blotched Watersnake. We also found swallowtail and White butterflies. It was a beautiful day on the river.

I want to thank four new Master Naturalists for their help and a host of regulars. Today we had Anne Birlin, Linda Siebert, Michelle Poudrette, Ivey Kaiser, Peg Gavin, Ron Armbruster, Bob West, Denis Breining, John Barr, and Ananda Debnath.

Don't forget to like the Austin Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Facebook page. Here you will find more information about the river and water issues in central Texas. I also post more photos than I can include here. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Austin-Bastrop-River-Corridor-Partnership/27585445253350>



48 species (+2 other taxa)

Blue-winged Teal	36
Pied-billed Grebe	2
Great Egret	4
Snowy Egret	8
Little Blue Heron	4
Green Heron	2
Black Vulture	28
Turkey Vulture	12
Mississippi Kite	3
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	5
Swainson's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	8
American Coot	7
Spotted Sandpiper	9
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4
White-winged Dove	2
Mourning Dove	8
Inca Dove	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4
Chimney Swift	3
hummingbird sp.	2
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7
Downy Woodpecker	3
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Crested Caracara	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	2
Western Kingbird	1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2
White-eyed Vireo	14
Red-eyed Vireo	1
American Crow	33
Purple Martin	8
Barn Swallow	6
Cliff Swallow	44
Carolina Chickadee	26
Tufted x Black-crested Titmouse (hybrid)	14
Carolina Wren	18
Northern Mockingbird	2
European Starling	4
Ovenbird	1
Northern Parula	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4
Summer Tanager	1
Northern Cardinal	44
Painted Bunting	3
Red-winged Blackbird	16
Great-tailed Grackle	18
Orchard Oriole	6

# Big Day in the Park!

*Julia Osgood recently invited CAMN members to participate in this event. Here is what happened:*

The Commons Ford Big Day in the Park 2013 was a big success. Over 200 people attended the event and the organization raised in excess of \$7,500 for the ongoing restoration effort. The Wing Ding tallied 85 species, soundly defeating the previous single day record of 73. For a complete list of bird species from the Wing Ding, visit our blog at [www.commonsfordpro.blogspot.com](http://www.commonsfordpro.blogspot.com) and click on the species link in the most recent blog entry.

We want to thank all who attended, our volunteers, our field trip leaders, sponsors, vendors and donors. Thanks to They Might Be Monkeys

([www.theymightbemonkeys.com](http://www.theymightbemonkeys.com)) and Barton Springs Nursery ([www.bartonspringsnursery.net](http://www.bartonspringsnursery.net)) for sponsoring the event. We especially thank Kirsti Harms and Native Prairies Association of Texas for their generous donation to the project. For a complete list of acknowledgements, visit our blog at the link above; then click on the link to the acknowledgements page. It's not too late to make a tax-free donation in support of the prairie. Simply click on the following link [www.tinyurl.com/commonsfordpro](http://www.tinyurl.com/commonsfordpro).

A couple of footnotes to the Big Day. Stu Wilson and I spent the night in the park so we could start the Wing Ding count at midnight. We just missed Barred Owl and Eastern Whip-poor-will (a new park bird) since both were calling just before midnight. The total species list for the park now stands at 221.

Byron Stone and I visited the prairie this past Friday morning in search of an odd sparrow which Byron had seen during his Big Day field trips. While we did not find that bird, we did have 23 Grasshopper Sparrows in the prairie (a conservative estimate). This is a testament to the immediate impact of the restoration effort.

Thanks again and please stay with us on this important project.

Ed Fair

Commons Ford Prairie Restoration Organization

3532 Bee Caves Rd., Suite 115

Austin, TX 78746



*Photos courtesy Commons Ford Prairie Restoration Project*

# Scat and Frass

**W**e recently received some interesting news from Leeann Linam, who is coordinating the Texas Whooper Watch program. The migratory flock of whooping cranes that winters in Texas spends its summers in Canada, so there would normally be no sightings down here at this time of the year. However, another flock has recently been established in Louisiana. Like its predecessor flock that was wiped out by a hurricane in 1950, this is a non-migratory population that could be expected to stay near home all year. However, some of the young birds have been wandering into Texas this spring, and some lucky Whooper Watch volunteers have been able to observe them. If you are interested in this program, check out the TPWD website for how to obtain training.

Observers in the Davis Mountains have recently observed a spotless comma butterfly, about 1000 miles from its known range in Mexico, and the first two nests of the long-eared owl ever found in the state. Researchers suspect that climate change may be a factor, although there is some possibility that the recent fires in the area have removed some of the cover hiding animals that had been there all along.

Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Coordinator Michelle Haggerty reports:

Two new items have just been ordered for the TMN bookstore for the summer months. They include a 'baseball' style cap with a breathable mesh back and a visor.

The visor will have "Texas Master Naturalist" embroidered on the crown while the cap will have the full TMN logo on the front.

Look for these items to become available for sale in about two to three weeks at the Texas AgriLife Bookstore: [https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications\\_browse.cfm](https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_browse.cfm)

Other items also being re-stocked for the summer are short sleeve denim shirts, polos (where available), TMN t-shirts and patches.

Good quantities of the TMN Columbia Brand 'fishing' shirt still existed. This shirt is also perfect for the warm weather months.

Unfortunately, the ladies polo shirt in light sage green is no longer made by the manufacturer so once this style has sold out, it will be replaced with a new ladies style. If you like these shirts get them today while you still can!

Fisherfolk Ahoy! Texas Parks and Wildlife has scheduled classes for those who might be interested in becoming certified instructors in the state Angler Education Program: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/fishing-angler-education-instructor-training>. Master Naturalists are specifically invited to participate.

Marsha May of TPWD writes: "I would like to share this opportunity for your members. Texas Parks and Wildlife is looking for experienced herp, bird, invertebrate, and plant enthusiasts interested in participating in an exciting project. This project is to establish Biological Inventory Teams throughout the state. Each team is a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable experts

(volunteers) who are able to assist landowners and TPWD biologists by conducting surveys of these various species on private property. If you are interested in participating on a Biological Inventory Team or if you are a landowner who would like to have a survey conducted on your property, please contact me at: [marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us) or call (800)792-1112 ext.8062 for more information."

Summer is upon us, and with it are the Nature Nights at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The CAMN Education and Outreach Committee will be participating in these events, which will occur each Thursday night from June 13 through July 25. For topics and details, see: <http://www.wildflower.org/nature/> Hope to see you there!

The year 2013 is our Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program's 15th Anniversary! To celebrate and commemorate this important milestone, there are two contests underway:

- (1) We're looking to you to help us develop a limited-edition 15th Anniversary t-shirt for the program through this contest. We know there are some talented Texas Master Naturalists out there to help design that winning t-shirt artwork!
- (2) We're also looking to you to help us develop a slogan for the year through this contest. The winner could become part of our marketing and identity resources for the program and our annual meeting. Entries must be submitted by July 30th, 2013 for consideration in the contests. If you are interested, [Christine Powell](#) can forward the detailed rules.

# Officers

**President:** [Greg Cumpton](#)  
**Vice-President:** [Marc Opperman](#)  
**Past President:** [Christine Powell](#)  
**Treasurer:** [Peg Gavin](#)  
**Administrative Secretary:**  
[Jacque Austin](#)  
**Recording Secretary:**  
[Maggie Moody](#)  
**At-Large Board Members:**  
[Harry Miller](#)  
[Max Woodfin](#)  
**Advisory Board Members:**  
[Kelly Bender](#)  
[Clark Hancock](#)  
[Melissa MacDougall](#)  
[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 Travis Association for the Blind, (Austin Lighthouse), 2307 Business Center Drive, Austin 78744. Check with a Board Member for more details.

The agenda for the next Board Meeting is available on request.

## Got info for the Field Notes?

**Send info, photos and articles for publication in the *Field Notes* to: [xtinepowell@verizon.net](mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net) Deadline for submission is the 27th of each month.**



Texas Master Naturalist  
Capital Area Chapter

# Committees

## Administrative

Contact: [Jacque Austin](#)  
Send Hours to: [camnhours@gmail.com](mailto:camnhours@gmail.com)  
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

Contacts: [Arwen Lietz](#) and [Lea Detlefs](#)  
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: [Becky Patterson](#)  
Facilitates the social aspects of CAMN including the Certification Ceremonies and holiday celebrations.

## Field Trips

Contact: [Jerry Mayfield](#)  
Facilitates and helps organize field trips.

## 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: [Barbara Keir](#) and [Nancy Podio](#)  
Promotes CAMN and organizes Educational events.

## Texas Capital Invaders

Contact: [Dolores Campbell](#)  
Citizen Scientist project.

## Special Projects and Publications

Contact: [Marc Opperman](#)

# 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](#)

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