

## CAMN Officers & Committees

### Officers:

*President:* Norman McGinnis,  
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*Co Vice-Presidents:*  
Dan Burke, hm: 821-1628, and Melissa  
Burton, 444-0768  
*Treasurer:* Sue Wiseman, 259-4106  
*Administrative Secretary:* Winnie Spitz,  
312-282-3125  
*Recording Secretary:* Cindy Wright, 264-  
3772

### Communications Committee

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### Curriculum Committee

*Curriculum:* Norman McGinnis,  
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*Advanced training:* Debra Cerda,  
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### Hospitality Committee

Heide Wittenborn, hm: 267-5147

### Volunteer Opportunities Committee

Rick Chafey, hm: 444-5445 or 560-2606  
(cell), rickchafey@hotmail.com

Visit us on the Web: [www.camn.org](http://www.camn.org)

Email us at: [camn@egroups.com](mailto:camn@egroups.com)



## Internships Offered

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is accepting applications for its Internship Program. The program offers interns a semester-long concentration in one of five program departments: Environmental Education, Communications /Public Relations, Horticulture, Landscape Restoration, or Plant Conservation. One intern will be selected for each department. Interns will be selected from colleges throughout the nation to work within the Center for a semester beginning Tuesday, January 14, 2003, and ending Friday, May 23.

The internship is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and recent graduates (less than two years since graduation) who plan to pursue careers in biology, botany, conservation, horticulture, science/environmental education, natural resources management, journalism/writing, communications, public relations, or closely related subjects.

An Intern will be considered a temporary employee of the Wildflower Center and will be paid an hourly rate of \$8.08 bi-weekly (based on number of hours worked). The program is designed around a 40-hour workweek with scheduling determined by the intern's supervisor. Interns may also receive course credit from their respective colleges and universities, as arranged by the intern.

The deadline for applications is 5pm Friday, Oct. 18, 2002. For additional information, contact Megan Murphy, Director of Volunteer Services, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX 78739. Phone: (512) 292-4200 x102. Email: [megan@wildflower.org](mailto:megan@wildflower.org).

## Master Naturalists Recognized

★ Each year, the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter recognizes contributions of time, effort, and resources to the Club and the environment. This year, eight awards were presented at a dinner in Houston. **Jackie McFadden**, Capital Area Chapter member—as well as one of the original organizing committee and an incorporator of the Chapter—received the Lone Star's highest award, the Orrin Bonney Award, for her service to the chapter and community as Environmental Education Chair. Jackie created the successful program, Environmental Education Academy for Non-Traditionalists (EEANT), including after-school naturalist programs, summer nature camps, and more.

★ **Sue Wiseman**, along with her wealth of plant information, will soon take the helm as Statewide President of the Native Plant Society. ☞

### ☞ Friends of Bright Leaf State

**Natural Area** open house 2-5 pm, Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. For location: [groups.yahoo.com/group/fobl/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fobl/). Click on files in the left margin and then on the map.

☞ **2002 Master Naturalist Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training**, Oct. 25-27, 2002, at Mo Ranch, Hunt, TX (near Kerrville).

☞ **Nov. 20 general mtg:** note that the date was moved back one week.

☞ **Book Club.** Last Monday of each month, Central Market Café Patio, 40<sup>th</sup> and N. Lamar. Book discussion starts at 7:30pm. Contact Art Souther at 476-0139 or [souther@cs.utexas.edu](mailto:souther@cs.utexas.edu).

*Inside: Rick Chafey's poetic profile, fall certification information, and much more!*

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# F*ield* Notes

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## Master Naturalist Creates Wildscape

Thanks in great part to the efforts of John Barr, Fall 2001 Class, physically challenged children at Rosedale School in Austin won't need a field trip to discover wildlife. They can enjoy the scent of wildflowers, the flights of butterflies, and the songs of birds right on their school grounds.

It all began when butterflies swarmed about school volunteer Sibyl Mear as she stood in a garden that John, a professional gardener, had created for Pacha Coffee House.

Sibyl, a volunteer at Rosedale, an Austin Independent School District (AISD) school for children with multiple handicaps, approached John last February and asked for his assistance in creating a garden at the school. With a new accessible playscape just being installed, they realized that this would be an ideal location for the garden. As the plans progressed, others became involved. William Ward, BSA troop 256, adopted the garden as his Eagle Scout project. Don English, Rosedale community teacher, coordinated contacts between the school and community and generated community support.

John explained that the garden is a multisensory wildscape. Native and some naturalized non-native plants were chosen for their color, scent, texture, and sound. Since many of the students are in wheelchairs, they built a sitting and retaining wall that would bring the plants to student eye level while also providing a place for other students and staff to sit 'eye to eye' with those in wheel chairs. Many nature-theme objects (rocks, fossils, sculptures, tiles, and glass beads) were collected from the school community and the neighborhood. These objects were then mortared into the wall.

Because of lower initial costs and ease of long-term maintenance, they installed a standard sprinkler system (including a rain sensor) rather than a soaker hose or drip system. Every effort was made to minimize the use of water. Soil was amended with compost, water-conserving plants were chosen, and



native hardwood mulch was spread to a depth of three inches over the entire garden.

To enhance the wildscape potential of the garden, John said they placed several terra-cotta saucers around the garden. When the sprinkler is activated, the saucers fill, holding just enough water for afternoon butterflies and evening toads without holding enough water for mosquitoes to breed in. Another garden at the school has water fountains that provide additional water for birds and other wildlife. ☞

## Junipers in July

President Norm McGinnis began by covering the July 9 board meeting: Owing to lack of use, the CAMN hotline was discontinued. For members without email, however, a call list will keep them informed of meetings and volunteer/advanced training opportunities. In the past, members of the curriculum committee and a couple of other committees were only allowed to claim a maximum of 10 volunteer hours. As of July 9 (and per state-recommended guidelines) no committee hours will be capped.

Next, Norm pointed out that the chair of each committee and all elected officers are voting members of the board and that since he and Melissa Burton are both officers and committee chairs, they each technically have two votes on the board. To diversify the board, he asked for volunteers to chair the curriculum and hospitality committees. Heidi Wittenborn volunteered to chair hospitality. Cindy Wright volunteered and was accepted as recording secretary, a position overlooked when the new slate of officers was elected at the May meeting.

Dan Burke stated that new resources have just become available from the Texas Cooperative Extension service. A two CD-ROM set developed for the Master Gardener program has a lot of crossover opportunity for Master Naturalists. The cost per set is \$25.

Melissa also made an unofficial announcement that a house once owned by the mother of CAMN member Jeanne Defriese is for sale.

The house sets on six acres outside of Blanco and Jeanne would like someone interested in nature to own it. Contact her for more information.

Mike Wiesner requested volunteers to work with fourth graders during weekdays between January and April 2003. The Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge received grant money to buy binoculars, mist nets, and other things to help educate kids about birds. The Refuge must match the money with volunteer effort and they look to Master Naturalists to provide instructors, which we have committed to do.

Next, Norm introduced Elizabeth McGreevy Seiler who presented a program on Ashe juniper, which she has been researching for the past 6 years and which is the topic of her upcoming book. She debunked myths surrounding the juniper and included such topics as how we went from respecting these trees 150 years ago to hating them today.

Elizabeth began by saying that most people don't think of Ashe junipers as large trees but as straggly bushes. To the point, a slide showed her husband standing beside a tree with a 3.5-foot diameter trunk and 48-foot wide canopy. When settlers arrived 150 years ago, she explained, these old-growth large junipers were very common.

She showed slides of a male juniper dressed in yellow pollen and female bejeweled in berries, and mentioned that while most junipers are dioecious, a few are dimorphic, having both berries and pollen on one tree.

American Indians respected Ashe juniper and used them in building lodges, weapons, and instruments. They used berries and foliage to treat colds, the camphor in the foliage being especially useful in relieving sinuses. In the 1700s, the Spanish established a mission near the Los Maples and archeologists have found roof beams from large Ashe junipers. Quotes taken from settlers during 1830 to 1850 conveyed their high regard for Ashe juniper. They were essential in building structures, and today's dilapidated old hill country barns still reveal interiors

constructed of Ashe juniper logs almost in perfect condition. Fences in zigzag or post and rail style were abundant. They were decay resistant, straight, and easy to work with. (The first cedar choppers harvested cedar for the Germans, taking the best, never clear-cutting.) Ashe juniper was also used as firewood, especially to make charcoal which produced a hot flame and was used to filter cistern water.

Why do we hate it today?

It causes cedar fever, is so invasive, and some resent that Golden-cheeked warblers rely on the old growth cedar for nesting materials. As a result, developers leave live oaks but remove all cedar, losing soil as well as diversity. Gone is red oak, possumhaw, black cherry, Texas ash—everything that is trying to come up beneath the juniper.

Elizabeth, a landscape architect, was working on a parking lot where a cluster of Ashe juniper stood between lot and road. To her, it made an excellent screen. The immediate response was to take them out because they aren't native. After her assertion to the contrary, someone brought her a book containing the city of Austin ordinances stating that juniper weren't considered native to the hill country. (As an aside, Elizabeth said this list is used by other cities, even Brownsville.)

Another myth: central Texas was once a vast ocean of grass. Taken in context of 150 years ago it was, but that's because central Texas was where Houston is. The Austin area was considered west Texas 150 years ago. Terminology changes. Then *savanna* was not a word; *prairie* was used instead to indicate not all grass and not all woodland. Today *grassland* is a prairie. Several quotes from settlers in central Texas referred to woodlands and cedar. An 1840 sketch of Austin shows treed hills in the background.

And another: Ashe juniper is a tremendous water hog. Elizabeth pointed out that even the U.S. Forest Service web site says they have deep taproots and store lots of water. Not so. They don't have taproots—taproots are actually used more to store carbohydrates, which cedars store in foliage.

Because several researches conducted

on water use of Ashe juniper have produced quite different results, Elizabeth suggested that researchers collaborate on further studies.

We need to see the big picture, she said. During droughts, trees take in little water, whereas during floods they take in a great deal, which is a good thing. During times of light rain, foliage intercepts and rain doesn't come through; however, birds and insects benefit from the wet foliage. Woody plants in general, not just Ashe juniper, eventually decrease the amount of spring flow. Do we want to see no woody vegetation? Answering her query, she suggested we look at our own water use. She acknowledged the benefits to managing woody growth for spring output as opposed to mass clearing and its disastrous effects on wildlife habitat, soil erosion, and sediment deposits that clog waterways.

Ashe juniper began to reappear in the early 1900s, but artesian pressure and springs had already started to decline by the 1880s. Why? Before the 1880s people hadn't needed to pump for water. Pressure was such that water shot 8 feet in the air. Wells weren't capped and water continued to flow. Also, people didn't know how to ranch in the hill country, bringing practices from areas of much deeper soils.

Contributing to explosive juniper growth, cedar choppers cleared land to get more grass for cattle and to get posts to hold up barbed wire. (With the discovery of barbed wire in 1875, posts were shipped to other states as well.) Juniper was also used for railroad ties. Ranchers who believed that cattle wouldn't eat the grass unless it had been burned used fire too often.

Trees don't cause erosion; poor land management does. For people who say that Ashe junipers cause erosion by not letting grass grow, Elizabeth had a picture at Fort Hood where winds are so strong, Ashe junipers set about 50 feet apart act as windbreaks to help grasses get established. To counter the idea that Ashe junipers secrete toxins preventing the growth of other plants beneath them, she counted over 80 plants—including love grass, cedar shade, Turk's cap, golden eye, twist leaf

yucca, bracted twist-flower, Eve's necklace, escarpment black cherry, and red oak—under an Ashe juniper.

Butterflies, 20 species of mammals, and humans use junipers. Old-timers used berries to keep away cedar fever, and Germans seasoned sauerkraut and stews with berries. Today, camphor treats sinuses, berries and some leaves are used as diuretics, and oil harvested from the wood is used by the perfume industry. Junipers provide wildlife cover, nesting materials, shelter, and shade. Many animals use the bark for nesting; but if it's all stripped away, a tree dies. To land managers who say all that's needed is one old growth cedar for golden-cheek habitat, Elizabeth asserts they haven't made their case. ❧



### Bird Banding at Hornsby Bend

By Claude Morris

If you like birds and bird watching and you ever get a chance to participate in a bird-banding project, do it.

In 1989, The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) developed a netting and banding program called Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS). This program is modeled after a similar program in place in England. It was developed as a cooperative effort among public and private groups as well as interested individuals. Its purpose is, as its name indicates, to monitor bird populations.

To date the MAPS program has grown to more than 500 stations across the nation. MAPS utilizes stations consisting of about 10 permanent net sites within certain areas. Typically the nets are opened 10 days during a netting period (May - August) and are opened for six morning hours per day.

All birds captured during the netting are identified to species. If the bird is not banded, a band is put on a leg. Also, the age of the bird up to about two years is estimated based on feather molt. Other data collected include sex, status of the brood patch, body fat, body and flight feather molt, flight feather wear, weight, and general condition of the bird when released.

MAPS protocol also requires station

operators to record the probable breeding status of all avian species seen, heard, or captured at each station.

A netting period has just ended. The station was set up in cooperation with Judi Williamson (the MAPS permittee), Travis Audubon Society, Hornsby Bend Center for Environmental Research, and Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory and was done on Hornsby Bend property. Several people need to be recognized for their volunteer assistance to the effort and those include Kristina Ecton, who did the classroom training, and Dan Rivas and Wayne Hogan, who did most of the fieldwork.

Now, with all the technical mumbo-jumbo behind, let me explain how this is a great program to participate in.

You are in the field with people who are really good at identifying birds. It is an opportunity for anyone to improve his or her birding skills. (Did you know that the Empidonax Flycatchers can only be identified to species by bill and flight feather measurements?)

MAPS requires the data to be recorded using certain codes. During the training for this program, people are introduced to the codes with explanations as to their meanings. For example, is there a brood patch on a female bird? If so, does the brood patch indicate pre-nesting, nesting, or post-nesting? What is the code that needs to be recorded?

The previous example was for brood patch. Codes are also used for body fat content, body and flight feather molt, flight feather wear, as well as other general conditions of the bird.

Aging a bird up to two years can be difficult and confusing. Who knows the difference between a basic molt and an alternate molt? Then they really confuse you by introducing such things as pre-alternate and/or pre-basic molts in some species. HUH? ...

As you can see there was a lot of good training, a lot of good information, and a lot of good experience. I encourage anyone who is interested in birds to take advantage of banding opportunities. You really learn about birds. 



## CAMN Profiles

Rick Chafey,  
Volunteer  
Opportunities  
Committee chair,  
shares with us his

*growth as a naturalist, from “throbbing ‘cross the prairie” to bustling into a CAMN meeting, imparting energy and ideas.*

*Throbbing ‘cross the prairie,  
Hereford calf in sight,  
Frozen air burns the skin.  
Pounding, crunching, spraying-snow  
hooves,  
And the murmur of the cottonwood  
tree.*

*Plodding through the heat wave dust,  
Cicadas screaming, squeaking leather,  
Numb to thirst and a spooked horse.  
Oh, but that’s only a rattlesnake.  
(Modern cowboys can use good  
English.)*

*Quick! Toss the reins over that  
branch.*

*Twist off the one right below it.  
Coil up and rattle at me?  
Come here!*

*Pressing into algarita thistles,  
Dried berries scatter at the flail.*

*Come on...*

*Ah, there you are on bare ground.*

*Now what?*

*Whack.*

*Whack, you writhing flesh!*

*Find a big rock and put it on his  
head—*

*Mother swears that pulpy stub can still  
strike,*

*But I don’t believe her—*

*And use two other rocks to get the  
rattle.*

*(Modern cowboys are educated late in  
life.)*

I wrote this poem some time in my twenties. It is based on a real event that happened when I was about 13 years old. One of the sheep ranchers around San Angelo decided to have a coyote “roundup” and invited all his neighbors to come out. We loaded up a bunch of horses; one fellow brought his helicopter, and a few brought rifles. The riders and fliers started at the top of a pasture and pushed down, hoping to flush out some coyotes. Marksmen waited at the bottom of the pasture, near where the varmints were known to duck under the fence and leave their hairs snagged in the barbs of the bottom strand of wire. As I rode along, tired of whooping at the coyotes and lost in thought, I happened upon a

rattlesnake. I wasn’t armed, so I broke a branch off a tree and... well, you read the poem.

West Texas isn’t exactly Walden Pond, I know, and the poetics are probably pretty bad, but I like this one because it illustrates both my early and middle experiences as a naturalist. As a child, I spent most of my time in nature, observing, analyzing, collecting and dissecting the native flora and fauna. As a young adult, I got philosophical and felt a heavy burden of guilt about the way people treat animals and the environment. Now, in middle age, I try to find and broaden the point of balance between those two extremes by bringing others toward it.

Since I’ve been in central Austin for the last three years, I’ve created a registered Wildscape at my house that includes sustainable living elements such as laying hens (great composters—they eat weeds!) and a vegetable garden. I oversee the wildscape at Becker Elementary School. I started and maintain the Freedom Community Garden in my neighborhood where I teach inner-city residents and children about nature. I sit on the board of the Capital Area Master Naturalists as Chair of the Volunteer Opportunities Committee. I teach fourth grade, serve at my church where I’m launching an oral history ministry documenting experiences of our elder African-American parishioners during the time of desegregation and the inclusion of women in the Episcopal Church, support causes from public radio to Second Amendment rights, and try to get around as often as I can to visit my many friends and few relatives, scattered from Pecos to Houston. This makes for a hectic schedule, but every day I see some small miracle of nature, and I take the time to stop and smell the dirt, the pond, and the henhouse, and remember what it all means, ultimately.

The ultimate meaning is, and I know you’ve been wondering about this for quite some time: relating to each other. That’s right, we’re all connected to each other and part of the same thing. From the atomic plenum that gives us

our physical bodies, to the mental being arising from the physical, to the spiritual being that draws us to whatever that is, out there, that everyone feels but no one can adequately explain, we are in relationship with other beings, with all other beings, simultaneously and permanently.

Whether you personally prefer the scientific explanation of evolution's blind urge toward higher life forms or the teleological explanation of God's plan for creation, we naturalists share a reverence for the natural world and its miraculous processes and outcomes. I think we also share a deep concern that as human society becomes ever more urbanized and technological, we might lose the natural world altogether. But, really, I just don't think we're going to let that happen. ☪



(Unless otherwise specified, all phone numbers use a 512 area code.)

### Volunteer Project Contacts

For information about ongoing volunteer opportunities with the following organizations, contact the designated person:

- ♦ **Austin Nature & Science Center.** Melissa Burton, 444-0768, melissab@bga.com (plants, wildlife)
- ♦ **Austin Preserves (central, eastern).** Renee Barrera, 327-7723, Renee.Barrera@ci.austin.tx.us (plants, trails, non-native species removal)
- ♦ **Barton Creek Habitat Preserve.** Mike Wiesner, 301-2206. (plants)
- ♦ **Hornsby Bend.** Dan Rivas, 443-5496 (environmental education)
- ♦ **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.** Daniel Dietz, 292-4200, x262, ddietz@wildflower.org (plants)
- ♦ **Native Plant Society.** Sue Wiseman, 259-4106, Swiseman@ccsi.com (plants)
- ♦ **Sierra Club.** Jackie McFadden, 990-9396, eeant@austin.rr.com (environmental education)
- ♦ **Travis Audubon Society.** Stennie Meadours, 239-2505, Stenmead@aol.com (birds)

- ♦ **TPWD.** Mark Klym or Kelly Bender, 389-4644, mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us kelly.bender@tpwd.state.tx.us (special events, plants, wildlife)
- ♦ **Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.** Jean Nance, 259-0299, snance@mail.utexas.edu (birds, plants, special events)
- ♦ **City of Austin Xeriscape Board.** Tom Neale, 442-8807. (planning xeriscape projects, events. Flora-rama Xeriscape School.)
- ♦ **Campfires.** John Koontz, 246-9554, and Mina Loomis, 454-1237. (naturalists leading youth)

### Monitoring Opportunities

- ☪ **Texas Nature Trackers** projects coordinated by TX Parks/ Wildlife or partner organizations. A variety of projects across the state:
- ♦ **TX Horned Lizard Watch.** Survey the Texas state reptile on your property or in public areas. Call 800-792-1112 x7011.
- ♦ **TX Monarch Watch.** Monitor migration of butterflies on your property. For monitoring info and tagging kits, call TPWD, 800-792-1112 x4464. To report monarch sightings, call the Monarch Watch hotline at 800-468-9719.
- ♦ **TX Mussel Watch.** Gather info about freshwater mussels native to your area. To volunteer, call Bob Howells, aquatic biologist, 830-866-3356, or Ann Miller, outreach coordinator, 800-792-1112 x7011.
- ♦ **TX Amphibian Watch.** Partner with North American Declining Task Force. Monitor frogs/toads during breeding season. Information will help scientists better determine decline of Texas amphibian populations. Call Ann Miller, 912-7025, ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us.

☪ **Project Prairie Birds** is a citizen-science project. Collect basic field data and help answer questions about Texas' wintering sparrows and their avian grassland neighbors. Call Cliff Shackelford, 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4970.

☪ **Adopt-A-Species Projects.** Take place on public properties that support populations of rare TX plants/animals. Learn monitoring techniques.

Volunteers agree to continue monitoring for set period of time. (Not available in all parts of state.) 800-792-1112 x7011.

☪ **Insect collecting/identifying activity at ANSC.** Melissa Burton needs volunteers to help collect and identify aquatic insects monthly. For details, contact her at 444-0768, [melissab@bga.com](mailto:melissab@bga.com).

☪ **REMINDER TO BIRDERS:** The monthly Hornsby Bend survey, starting at 7am on the second Saturday of each month, is a standing volunteer opportunity.

### Wild Basin Wilderness

☪ **Volunteer ambassadors for Wild Basin.** Opportunities in educational programs and tours, trail maintenance, and office and gift shop. Call the Wild Basin office at 327-7622 for more information, or: [www.wildbasin.org/html/volunteer.html](http://www.wildbasin.org/html/volunteer.html)

### Around Austin

**New. Diaz Freedom Community Garden** at Meadowbrook Apartments, W. Live Oak and S. 6<sup>th</sup>. Gardeners needed—volunteer opportunities exist from basic eat-what-you-grow or cooperative organic gardening to sponsoring a resident family or conducting workshops. The Freedom Garden participates in Spread the Harvest, a consortium that supports community gardens to provide nutritious foods to low-income and elderly people. Vegetable gardening is a naturalist field. It involves: the natural role of humans in the environment; the interconnectedness of habitats, watersheds, soils, etc; community garden as a place to teach a diverse audience about the naturalist world view. It's sponsored by Capital Area Master Naturalists as a natural teaching laboratory. For more information, contact Victor Diaz, 447-8939, or Rick Chafey, 560-2606.

**New. Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.** Volunteers to give talks, lead walks for children. Training provided. January-April 2003. Contact Mike Wiesner, 301-2206, [mikew@ecpi.com](mailto:mikew@ecpi.com).

Help create wildscape. Becker Elementary. Goals include tree installations in conjunction with TreeFolks, plant propagation, workshops to train teachers how to integrate wildscapes into curriculum. Contact Rick Chafey, rickchafey@hotmail.com, 444-5445.

**Neighborhood Greenway Planning**, sponsored by Austin Metro Trails & Greenways. Work with neighborhood organizations to develop local greenway plans. Help assess current conditions, restoration opportunities, possible trails, etc. Contact Jeb Boyt, 467-0753, jeboyt@hotmail.com, [www.austinmetrotrails.org](http://www.austinmetrotrails.org).

**City of Austin Xeriscape Board** needs board members. Meet monthly at the City of Austin Water Conservation Department offices (downtown) for two-hour planning session, every second Tuesday, 4-6 p.m. Duties include planning xeriscape projects on City of Austin property and participation in events including Florarama and weekend Xeriscape School. Contact Tom Neale at 442-8807.

**Ongoing. McKinney Roughs** offers volunteer opportunities at the Education/Visitor Center, as tour or trail guides, gardener, and animal and education assistants. Call 303-5073 or 800-776-5272, or visit: [www.lcra.org/lands/roughs/volunteer.html](http://www.lcra.org/lands/roughs/volunteer.html)

**Salvage native wildflowers and grasses** from a South Congress Avenue development (6 acres) that is currently under site-plan review. Work during weekends of May and early fall if necessary. Contact: Rene Barrera, 327-7723, pager 802-8061.

Record volunteer service hours on the proper form and mail to CAMN, 301 Nature Center Way, Austin, TX 78746. Or, **go online** to report volunteer/advanced training hours directly on our website at [camn.org](http://camn.org)!

Remember to get approval before beginning any projects you wish to have considered for volunteer credit. For approval, submit info to Rick Chafey, 560-2606 (cell), or [camnvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:camnvoc@yahoo.com). 

### Checklist for submitting volunteer projects for approval:

1.	Name of sponsoring organization.
2.	Short description of project needs (for example, need volunteers to work with after-school youth ages 6-10 in nature science projects including: wildscaping, wildlife and plant survey work, aquatic biomonitoring.)
3.	Date/time
4.	Location
5.	Contact name, phone number and/or email
6.	Special notes (for example, bring water. Wear gloves. No bathroom.)

### Advanced

#### Training



Remember to record advanced training time from programs at our general meetings on your tally sheet!

**The Wildflower Center.** 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin, TX, 78739; [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org). Call 292-4200 for information and registration. (Many programs meet CAMN requirements but topics vary; confirm with Debra Cerda.)

*The following courses are being offered at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The botany, horticulture, and ecology topics are approved. Currently, none from the plants and people and outings fit our criteria; however, Debra Cerda will review them on a case-by-case basis. Contact her at 420-9717 or [cerda.debbie@usa.net](mailto:cerda.debbie@usa.net). To register: [www.wildflower.org/registration\\_form.html](http://www.wildflower.org/registration_form.html)*

♦ *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of the Hill Country*, Oct. 16, 1-3:30pm. \$25(m)/\$29(nm). Learn to ID 118 woody plant species as found in Center's Meditation Garden with landscape designer David Mahler (plants indigenous to eastern half of Edwards Plateau).

♦ *Native Plant Gardening* 101, Oct 15, 16, & 17, 9am-1pm. \$90(m)/\$100(nm). Comprehensive course from concept to installation of a native plant garden with landscape designer Pat. McNeal. Topics include site analysis, landscape concepts, plant selection, site preparation and installation, maintenance, and resources.

♦ *All About Grasses*, Oct 24 & 31, 6-8pm, Oct 27, 1-5pm. \$59(m)/\$65 (nm). Learn to identify grasses, what makes grasses unique, and how to use them in landscapes.

♦ *Butterfly Gardening Nature's Way*, Nov 2, 1-4pm. \$30(m)/\$35(nm). Learn how the new Ann and O.J. Weber Butterfly Garden was created to attract butterflies using local habitats as the design model, with designer Judy Walther.

♦ *Conservation Basics*, Oct 26, 9am-12noon. \$20(m)/\$24(nm). Biodiversity - Endangered-conservation-Rare. Species of Concern with Flo Oxley, Director of Plant Conservation at the Center. Also learn about the Center's new plant conservation program and how to safeguard our natural heritage.

♦ *Butterfly Basics*. Nov 2, 9am-noon. \$35(m)/\$35(nm). Mike Quinn. Information class about butterflies, their life cycle, needs, environmental importance, and how to ID them.

♦ *Introduction to Plant Ecology*, Nov 7, 14, 21, Dec 5, 6-8pm. Damon Waitt, Director of Brown Center for Environmental Ed., introduces science of ecology and factors affecting plant life. Topics include effect of environmental factors on plants, population dynamics, competition, plant-animal interactions, community composition, succession, diversity and biomes.

♦ *Ecological Restoration Essentials*, Nov 9, 9am-5pm. \$70(m)/\$79(nm). Center's Land Restoration staff teaches basic science, tools, and economics of ecological restoration. Class covers assessment, monitoring, seed selection, seeding techniques, woody plant management, and long-term management for Central Texas.

**Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. Project WILD.** You must pre-register for all workshops. Facilitator training

requires previous training. For info, call 800-792-1112 x4369.

☛ For information on **Education Programs at McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center**, call 303-5073 or 1-800-776-5272, x8004.

☛ **Informal Classes at UT Austin.** Call 471-0270.

☛ **Texas Nature Trackers Programs**

For Texas Amphibian Watch Monitoring Workshops, Texas Mussel Watch Monitoring Workshops, contact Marsha Reimer 912-7062 or [marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us).

♦ **Texas Amphibian Watch**, Nov 1, 6-10 pm, Hornsby Bend Center for Environmental Research. Contact Marsha Reimer for reservation.

♦ **Texas Mussel Watch**, Nov 2, 9am-3pm, Hornsby Bend Center for Environmental Research. Contact Marsha Reimer for reservations.

☛ **Bright Leaf Preserve Docent Training**, Nov 10, 9am-4pm. Contact Debra Cerda, [cerda.debbie@usa.net](mailto:cerda.debbie@usa.net) or 420-9717.

☛ **Barton Springs.** Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center hosts free lecture series every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, monthly. Lectures and workshops bring in experts and artists to talk about Barton Springs as an amazingly rich and diverse meeting spot both culturally and ecologically. 7pm at the Scheffield Ed Center, Barton Springs bathhouse, Zilker Park.

☛ **Workshops offered by: North East Independent School District, San Antonio Water Systems, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, and the Alamo Area TMN Chapter.** For more info on workshops, call 210-804-7142, x376, or 210-348-6350:

♦ **How To Create A School Habitat.** Nov 9. Learn basic steps to create a habitat on your campus. Includes: Site assessment, planning and design, seeking funding, forming a team, planting, maintenance and more.

♦ **Special Features in Your School Habitat.** Feb. Teachers learn how to plan and create woodland and prairie areas and install structural features like trails, seating areas, and signs.

♦ **Using the School Habitat.** Mar 1. Workshop focuses on how to use nature to enhance the curriculum of any subject. Explore the links of the outdoor classroom, interdisciplinary opportunities, curriculum resources, TEKS alignment, and much more. Learn how to take the nature experience from the pre and post activities in the classroom to learning opportunities in your school habitat and on to your favorite natural area.

♦ **Field Investigations and Technology.** April 5. Hands-on workshop walks through baseline research methods and explores use of technology in studying nature. Learn basics of scientific method and formulate questions, selecting field methods, collecting data, and analyzing results. Learn how technology can be applied in study of natural systems.

### **Bamberger Ranch Workshops**

*Bamberger Ranch offers workshops to Master Naturalists at half-price. Discount not reflected below.*

**Oct 26, 8:30am-3:30pm**

*Grassland Range Mgmt Field Day, \$60/person*

**Oct 27, 8:30am-4:30pm**

*Trees & Shrubs Workshop, \$90/person*

*Remember that all advanced training must be pre-approved. To get approval, submit info to Debra Cerda, 420-9717, [cerda.debbie@usa.net](mailto:cerda.debbie@usa.net). ☞*

*Starting soon! The Hornsby Bend/Hornsby Dunlap Elementary School 2002-2003 Living Lab program, the 4th year we have mentored students from Hornsby Dunlap on outdoor field trips at Hornsby Bend. This year, there are six mornings of mentored field days. On each morning, we will need 20(+) mentors to have 3 mentors per group of about ten kids. Contact Pat Richardson, office ph. 471-4128, for dates and training details. *Approved for both volunteer and advanced training hours.* For more info, see the website: [cluster4.biosci.utexas.edu/nrm2000/fan/LivingLab/main.htm](http://cluster4.biosci.utexas.edu/nrm2000/fan/LivingLab/main.htm) ☞*

### **Advanced Training Archive**

If you're filling out a Volunteer & Advanced Training Hours Tally Sheet and don't recall the speaker/topic of a general meeting you attended, don't despair. Here is the list that Debra Cerda kindly shared at the September general meeting. (It will also be posted on the CAMN website.)

Nov, '00: Kevin Anderson, Hornsby Bend. Slide show on Hornsby Bend Biosolids Mgmt. Facility.

Dec, '00: No meeting

Jan, '01: Rob Fergus, Director, Hornsby Bird Observatory. 50 species of birds.

Feb, '01: Steven Hubble, LCRA Colorado River Watch Network.

Mar, '01: Mike Quinn, TPWD biologist. Monarchs.

Apr, '01: Michelle Haggerty, TMN program coordinator. Slides/overview of program.

May, '01: Rob Fergus, Director of Hornsby Bird Observatory. How birds see the world.

June, '01: Seay Nance, geologist, Bureau of Economic Geology. Beginners Guide to Hydrogeology.

July, '01: Julie Jenkins, Bat Conservation International. Overview of 32 out of 45 species seen in Texas.

Aug, '01: Pat Richardson, Ph.D. A look at the Soil Food Web.

Sept. '01: Tim Hissam. Monarchs.

Oct. '01: John Abbott, Ph.D. of Integrative Biology, UT. Order Odonata: dragonflies and damselflies.

Nov. '01: canceled, bad weather.

Dec. '01: no meeting

Jan. '02: Gordon Linam. Fish.

Feb. '02: Flo Oxley. Fungi.

Mar. '02: John Burk, TPWD.

Turkeys.

Apr. '02: Flo Oxley. Conservation.

May '02: Election of officers.

June '02: Julie Jenkins. Caves in Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer area.

July '02: Elizabeth McGreevy Seiler. Ashe Juniper.

Aug. '02: Walt and Jane Brown. Volunteer work.

Sept. '02: Chris Krejca, Bat Conservation International. Texas bats. ☞

## Calendar Year Changes for All Who Attended Fall Classes

We are going to a calendar year basis to make recordkeeping easier. The old deadline was Nov. 20 each year. This year the deadline will be Dec. 31. *Your information must be received by Jan. 5, 2003*, to be included in the Texas Master Naturalist Year End Report. We are preparing guidelines for the Spring students so they can convert to calendar year recording of their hours.

December 31, 2002, is the cutoff date to qualify as a Certified Master Naturalist this year. By this deadline, missed classes must be made up, and a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer credit and 8 hours of advanced training credit must be submitted to become certified. Anyone who does not qualify to be certified by December 31 will have to start over or appeal for extra time if you have extenuating circumstances. If you chose the 3-year (120 volunteer hour) program, you must have completed 8 hours advanced training by the cutoff date each year. (3-year option is no longer offered)

If you need to make up a class or classes, you may do so by attending a class on the same subject as the class you missed. Some Advanced Training may also qualify. Call Norm McGinnis at 339-7567 for more info. If your total

number of class hours met the 40-hour minimum requirement despite missing a class, then you qualify to be certified.

Whether certified or not, all may continue to participate in all CAMN activities. A trained volunteer is always a Master Naturalist volunteer, no matter how much volunteer service he or she is providing. Master Naturalist volunteers in any given year are either "Certified" or working on certification.

Mail completed Tally Sheets each month to CAMN Secretary, Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center Dr., Austin, TX 78746. Tally Sheets are available at all Monthly Meetings or call Winnie at 282-3125 to have some mailed to you. You also can download a Tally Sheet at our website and mail it in, or submit your info online: [www.camn.org](http://www.camn.org). Be sure to fill in all fields because data is needed for reports to TMN (Texas Master Naturalists) and others.

Submit all your volunteer hours even if you know you will not reach the certification requirements. The hours and info are extremely important. The statewide program coordinators and chapters use it to gain new resources, funding, partners, and recognition. For example, data for the past two years was instrumental in our program receiving more than \$80,000 in grants

that supported maintenance and development of local programs and the statewide program for items such as certificates, brochures, training materials, curriculum development, scholarships, and our Annual Meeting.

Our CAMN chapter has recorded 11,139 volunteer hours and 2,857 adv. training hours since its inception.

Final plans have not been made for the Certification Ceremony, however, it will be held after the close of the year 2002. Contact Winnie Spitz, 512-282-3125, or [CAMNWEB@aol.com](mailto:CAMNWEB@aol.com). 

CAMN *Field Notes* is a bi-monthly publication for members of the Capital Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

We welcome all input. Submissions may be edited for clarity or brevity.

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