



The Central Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

August, 2011

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CTMN Members Plant Trees

- Marilyn Whitworth

June 6, 2011 six members of the Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter (Mary Ann Everett, Ursula Nanna, Gail Christian, Don Wyatt, Marilyn Whitworth and Richard



McCarthy) along with Boy Scouts from Troop 153 assisted the Storm water Management Program and Temple Parks and Leisure Services by planting 15 trees along Friar's Creek at Silverstone Park in Temple. The trees were planted to help reduce soil erosion and reduce discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff; thereby improving the water quality in Friar's Creek. Personnel from the Stormwater

Calendar at a Glance

Angler Ed Event, July 30, 8:30-11:30, Harker Heights Park. Volunteer? Contact Ursula Nanna

CTMN General Meeting, August 9, 6 pm
Talk on Pollination by Rehanon Pampell

2011 Bluebird Symposium, August 20, 9 am - 2:30 pm, Glenn Rose (see page 15)

Above: Gail Christian and Ursula Nanna prepare a Grow Bag tree for planting.

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Chapter Motto

Earth Day,
Every Day

T E X A S



From the President's Corner

I hope everyone is surviving this hot, hot summer. I recall, as a child growing up in Amarillo, in the early '50's sitting on our front porch, and listening to my dad and some of the neighbors talking about using water. On one day of the week, one side of the street got to water their flower beds and lawn, and on another day, the other side was able to do so.

I keep seeing in the paper recommendations by the city of Temple asking for voluntary cutting back of watering. In Monday's Temple paper, Dirk Aaron, now with the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, wrote an article concerning Stage 2 drought a looming possibility. If no significant rainfall occurs, the district will move to Drought Stage 2, which asks for a 20 percent reduction in water use by individuals and businesses who use water from the Trinity Aquifer in Bell County.

Sometimes I don't see people seeing this as cause of concern, as evidenced by the runoff from watering of lawns, with the some sprinkler heads watering the street instead of lawn surface, or washing the car, or watering at the peak time of heat.

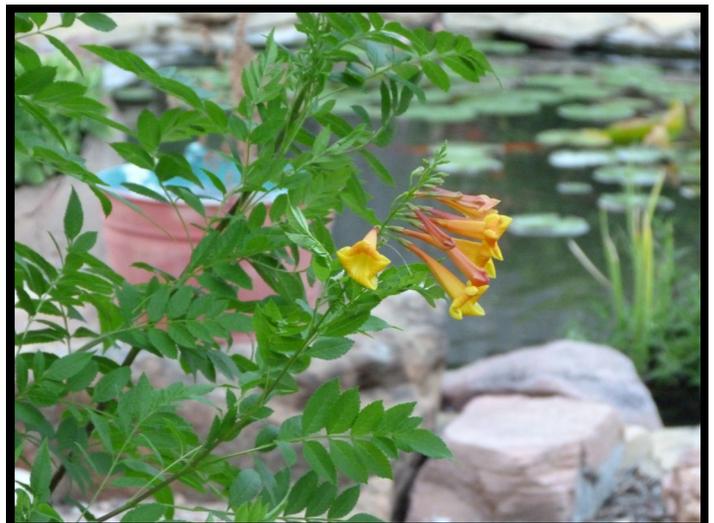
Some of us were able to attend the Texas Watershed Steward Workshop at the Mayborn Convention Center last week, and it was excellent. Then Friday, fifteen Boy Scouts and some parents from our Boy Scout troop worked with the city of Temple to mark storm drains in the Deerfield Estate residential area in

Temple. We had homeowners coming out and asking us what we were doing. What an opportunity to educate!

It is about education, and the more I learn, the more I discover there is so much more to learn. I have attached some pictures taken in my yard. While I don't have the greenest lawn, my yard is alive with wildlife, such as this Texas spiny lizard, and even some blooming plants—*Justicia spicigera* (Mexican honeysuckle) and *Tecoma stans* var. Orange Jubilee—those good Texas natives, or adapted nonnatives. The hummingbirds are working these plants along with my desert willow.

Keep cool and see you in August!

Mary Ann



MN Members Plant Trees ...continued

Management Program and Temple Parks and Leisure Services had dug the holes for the trees prior to the volunteers from the Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter and the Boy Scouts from Troop 153 arriving for the final planting of the trees. After the trees were planted, they were mulched and watered to help establish the root systems of the trees.



Clockwise, above: Don Wyatt gets some help from the Scouts; Richard McCarthy digs deeper; Marilyn Whitworth sizes up the project; Don practices hole digging and City Staff demonstrates how to use a post to measure the root ball.

Photos by Zoe Rascoe



Spotlight on Natives

The Yellow Catfish

- Dale Hughling

It was late Spring, the daylight was fading quickly, but I needed to check my trotline one more time before heading home. I was keeping an eye on the weather as they had forecasted thunderstorms for later in the evening, but right now, the waters were glassy calm. The waters of the Lampasas River where it flows into Stillhouse Lake were already murky



from the recent runoff and the deepening darkness made the waters seem that much more foreboding. About halfway through running the trotline, I noticed the line getting heavy, not hung, just heavy. Cautiously, I kept pulling on the line finding only a few Channel catfish that had taken the 'blood bait' but mostly, just missing bait. The line grew heavier, then I saw the dark shape just below the surface of the water, just in time to avoid getting soaked as the Yellow Cat "woke up" thrashing his flat tail, sending water everywhere in his effort to escape. After letting him wear himself down, I eased him over into the boat. It was then I noticed the tail of a channel cat protruding from the Yellow Cat's mouth. I had thought it unusual to catch a Yellow Cat while fishing for Channel Cat as Yellow Cat pretty much like their meals live. What had happened was the Channel Cat took my bait, then the Yellow Cat, figuring on an easy meal, took the Channel Cat head first, but in doing so, caught himself on my line. Though this was an unusual experience for me, I have it from reputable sources that it happens more frequently than you might think. Be-

ing a predator, the Yellow Cat would be naturally attracted to a small fish struggling to free itself from a trotline. This could explain some of the many occurrences while fishing for Channel Catfish that a hook is straightened out or a line staging is broken. Perhaps it was a Yellow Catfish that made a meal of the smaller catch and got away.

The Yellow Catfish is one of our native fishes in Central Texas and is one of the largest freshwater fish we have in Texas. The Texas state record for a Yellow

Catfish is 98.5 pounds caught in Lake Palestine in 1998 and those in the 40 pound range are not uncommon. Most of these fish are typically a pale yellow on the back and sides; the belly is usually pale yellow to white. The tail is almost flat rather than notched like other catfish; his head is flat and the lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper jaw. The Yellow Catfish goes by several aliases: Flathead, Opelousas, Shovelhead, and if

you are into the scientific name, he is "Pylodictis olivaris" meaning mud fish – olive colored. Catfish in general are the second most sought after fish by licensed fishermen in Texas with the Yellow Catfish being second in that group only to the smaller and more numerous Channel Catfish making them a valuable economic resource for Texas.

The Yellow Catfish lives a solitary life style preferring submerged hollow logs, indentations in the embankments or rocky areas beneath the banks for their home. They are extremely territorial in protecting their home site, and due to their large size, are very effective at it, often eating whatever infringes its territory. Yellow Catfish prefer deeper pools of rivers and lakes and show a preference for murky or turbid water though they do quite well in the clearer waters of lakes. At night, they often move into the more shallow water to feed on smaller pan fish, other catfish, or crawfish. The spawn usually occurs from late May

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Yellow Catfish ...continued

through August when water temperatures reach 75 to 80 degrees; a healthy female can lay up to 100,000 eggs. It is during this late Spring through Summer that most of the Yellow Catfish that are taken are caught.

Property owners have been known to stock a Yellow Catfish in their pond or stock tank when it becomes overrun with Bullheads and Perch. The Yellow Catfish is a natural and effective choice for cleaning out the pond, first eating the Bullheads, then the Perch and any other fish smaller than it is (to include desirables like Crappie and Black Bass). One Yellow Catfish is all it takes and it is cheaper than, safer than, and just as effective as using chemicals.

Since the Yellow Catfish feed almost exclusively on live prey, they make very tasty table fare. The meat of a Yellow Catfish cooks to a pure white color with very little fat content. Frying them in corn meal as you would any other catfish is the most popular way to prepare them. Because of their size, they can be steaked into portions large enough to be put on the grill with your favorite spice and herbs. If you do keep the Yellow Catfish you catch (you can release them) be sure they are at least 18 inches in length and you can take no more than five per day. Be aware that, fishing laws in Texas vary from one county to another and there are numerous requirements for fishing with a trotline. Be sure to be legal

by checking the regulations for the county in which you will be fishing.

My father loved to go fishing, more specifically, he loved everything outdoors. While I was living at home, he taught me about how to hunt, fish, handle a boat, and garden that I was able to enjoy these activities on my own and I gained an appreciation for the things outdoors at the same time. Similarly, I

have taught my son those same skills. One of the best ways to teach the next generation how to be good stewards of our natural resources is to teach them to enjoy those resources firsthand. By doing so, they gain an appreciation for them that is missed by many of our young folks today because they lack the opportunities to learn about the activities provided by our outdoors. If we fail to pass along these



skills and appreciations, the outdoor activities we now enjoy may be a lost art for our children.

Photos by Dale Hughling

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."

- Wendell Berry

Joanne Millican found this quote.

Teaching and Fun at the AgriLife Extension Science Day!

- Zoe Rascoe

These are photos from AgriLife Extension's Science Day for Military kids June 21st at Blackland. There were 11 CTMNs on hand to help with activities. Rehannon Pampell was tasked with teaching one of the science stations.



Photos by Zoe Rascoe



Continued on next page...

Science Day...continued



Get ready, *Go Fish!*

- Joanne Millican

On June 16, one of the last balmy days before the heat wave, a dozen Central Texas Master Naturalists from the 2010 and 2011 classes were joined by several members of Milam County's Camino Real Chapter to attend an Angler Education class held at the Salado Civic Center. Trainers presenting the program were Karen Marks, Training Specialist of Texas Parks & Wildlife's Outdoor Learning Program, and Ann Miller, recently retired coordinator of the Project Wild initiative.

The object of the course is to provide volunteers with information, tools, and skills for teaching Texas youth to become successful anglers. We were taught—and will be privileged to pass on—basic skills of assembling tackle, identifying fish, understanding fishing regulations and safety, and describing good fish habitat. But the “bare bones” of describing the class are not sufficient to recount what a lot of fun we had. With gross-looking plastic worms as prizes, Karen and Ann *lured* us to answer questions about safety, law, ethics, and the environment. We practiced tying knots and casting lures.

We learned the proper way (and why) to measure a fish. It was certainly a day well spent with lots of information pleasingly taught!

Tune in to a future Tracker report on an upcoming trial of our new-found skills. Our intrepid Ursula Nanna has organized a Junior Angler class for a group of 30 boys at Scouts' Day, Saturday, July 30, in Harker Heights. About 15 Central



Texas Master Naturalists will be assisting to set up and man stations teaching various elements of the basic angler program. We plan to have a great time ourselves and, hopefully, infect some future fishermen with a love and respect for our great outdoors.

Class checks out their fishing equipment; Karen Marks, Rich Cromwell from ECRMN and Dale Hughling; Joanne Millican makes a catch

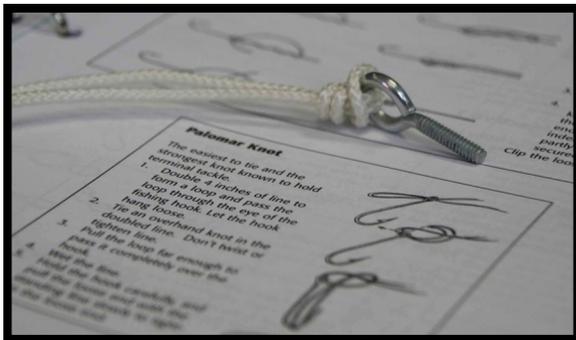
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Go Fish!...continued



Clockwise, above; Dale and Gail Hugling learn knots; Lyna Pitts and Liz Pool teach each other the Palomar Knot; Don Wyatt and Jerry Lewis land a Land Fish; Not the Hardest knot to learn.

Photos by Zoe Rascow



Butterfly Count?

- Jerry Lewis

I took this photo of a male Widow Skimmer on July 16th at the Butterfly count in Salado. Only the adult males have the white waxy coating on their wings. According to the Loudon Wildlife Organization, the Widow Skimmer Dragonfly (*libellula luctuosa*) gets its name because it leaves as soon as the female lays her eggs. Other male Dragonflies tend to hang around afterwards. There were only a total of 15 species and 43 individual butterflies sighted for the entire count, but dragonflies were numerous. Drought and our previous hard winter took their toll.



Project Aquatic WILD Workshop Held

Project Aquatic WILD Workshop was held at the Waco Wetlands July 13th. Diane Cooney and Janet Wallace from Heart of Texas Master Naturalists were the instructors. Aquatic WILD is one in a series of training opportunities sponsored by TPWD. CTMN's attending were Linda Mahaffey, Jerry Lewis, Carol Mattson, Linda Young and Mary Ann Everett.



Photos by Jerry Lewis



Graduation For the Class of 2011!



Above, clockwise: Completing their requirements to become a Texas Master Naturalists are Lyna Pitts, Ursula Nanna, Don Wyatt, Isabelle Johnson, Gail Christian and Liz Pool. Rehanon Pampell received her name tag for Master Naturalist in Training. Ursula and Gail also became Certified.

Continued on next page...

More!



Top, Clockwise, Master Naturalists in Training, Shirley Watts, Kathy Cantu and Carole Mattson receive their Name Tags. LouAnn Hight receives her Re-certification. Terrie Hahn receives her Certification, Sidney Van Loh receives his Re-certification and Ray Kozusko receives his Certification. Pearl Fellingham was absent, but is a Master Naturalist in Training and Barry Culwell (2010) was absent, but completed his training to become a Master Naturalist.



Continued on next page...

More!



Mary Ann Everett earns her 1000 hour milestone pin.



Above, Dr. Jason Locklin gives a program on Dragonflies during the Graduation Meeting. Right, this was the Training Committee's Boxing Day - we worked on the Nature Gift Boxes for the graduates. Rocks and shells and feathers and leaves and seeds and all sorts of goodies!



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

For Your Information

TMN members:

The Texas Master Naturalist program's Assistant Program Coordinator, Sonny Arnold, will retire August 31st, 2011.

A celebration of Sonny's service and retirement will take place at the Statewide Annual Meeting and Advanced Training October 21 through the 23rd. At MO Ranch.

For anyone wishing to contribute to a gift for Sonny please send a check payable to Michelle Haggerty at 309 Sidney Baker South, Kerrville, TX 78028

For anyone wishing to write a note/letter of congratulations, thank you, etc. Please send to Michelle at the address above. The letters will be compiled into a scrapbook for Sonny.

Please forward the above items by October 5th, 2011

Contact Michelle Haggerty with any questions at 830-896-2504

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Don't miss the next General Meeting of CTMN's. There are quite a few people getting certified and recertified. And Rehanon Pampell will give a talk on "Pollinators." It's on August 9th at 6:00p.m. **AT**

The Bluebird Symposium is coming up. Check out the next page for their flyer. **AT**

Monarch Way Station in Salado

- **Debbie Blair**

We're looking for a CTMN member with Master Gardener (or the like) training that can help design our Monarch Way Station at the Salado Elementary. The whole project is a sustainability display that will show a reconstructed prairie, water retention and other ecologically friendly avenues of growing and utilizing native plants, foods, etc. The Way Station does have some requirements if it's to be registered. Kathy Cantu and I will be happy to work with volunteers who would like some volunteer hours. The project is overseen by the PTO of Salado Elementary. We're researching the whole development of the Way Station, but would like the input of someone with native (and monarch attracting) plant expertise.

Contact: Debbie at tblair9938@aol.com or Kathy at: kcantu1@peoplepc.com **V**



This picture was taken at a Woodland and Grassland Landscape Management Advanced Training class at Camp Tahoya in May.

Photo by Jerry Lewis

V Approved for Volunteer Hours
AT Approved for Advanced Training
MA Must Apply for approval of hours



2011 Bluebird Symposium in Glen Rose (with Silent Auction FUNdraiser)



Presented by the Texas Bluebird Society.

Sponsored by the Somervell County Texas Master Gardeners

Saturday, August 20, 2011
Somervell County Expo Center
202 Bo Gibbs Blvd, Glen Rose, TX 76043

9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Doors open at 8:30 for Registration and Silent Auction

Featured Speaker: Keith Kridler

Author, Speaker, Naturalist

- Nestbox basics for success
- How, What & Why of Bluebirds

Other Presentations:

- Nestbox installation
- Gardening to attract Bluebirds
- Sparrow control for Bluebirds
- Success with NestWatch
- Nestbox Housekeeping



©Luke Hoag

REGISTRATION COSTS and DEADLINES:

Early Bird Advance Registration: \$12. Fajita Buffet and 10 door prize tickets. Deadline July 20, 2011.

Advance Registration: \$12. Fajita Buffet and one door prize ticket. Deadline August 6, 2011.

At-the-door Registration: (No meal and no door prize tickets): \$6.

NEW! Friday 6:45 pm BBQ (BYOB) at the Holiday Inn Express: \$10. Deadline August 6, 2011.

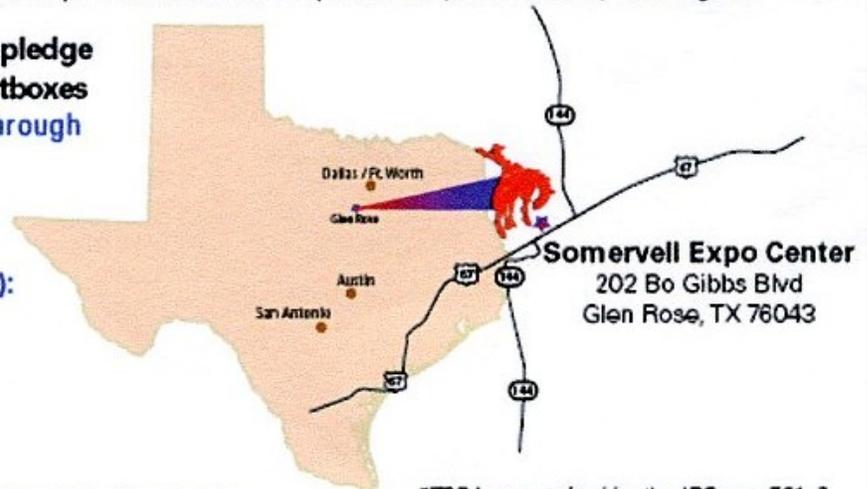
The Holiday Inn Express (254.898.9900) offers "Texas Bluebird Society" rates (includes hot breakfast) — Standard:\$84; King Suite: \$96. RV Hookups available at the Expo Center (254.897.4509): \$20/night.

FREE Nestbox to members who pledge to "NestWatch" at least two nestboxes (submit observations to Cornell through www.NestWatch.org)

For More Information or to Donate Silent Auction Item(s):

Jimmie & Benni Konvicka
1315 North Dale Ave.
Stephenville, TX 76401-1604
jkonvicka@gmail.com
254.968.6663

Donations received after July 20th will miss the publication deadline.



**TBS is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 "charitable" organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

Newsletter Mission Statement

"Our mission is to inform and educate Master Naturalist members and the general public about our local environment and resources, and what we, as caretakers, can do to protect them."

Board of Directors

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Randall Rakowitz,
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Derrick Wolter,
Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Banner photo on page one of water fall in Colorado Bend State Park by Werner Hahn.

Newsletter Staff

Newsletter Committee Chair: Gail Hughling

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Assistant Editor: Werner Hahn

Contributing Writers: Mary Ann Everett, Zoe Rascoe, Marilyn Whitworth, Dale Hughling, Joanne Milican, Debbie Blair, Jerry Lewis, Michelle Haggerty

Contributing Photographers: Zoe Rascoe, Jerry Lewis, Mary Ann Everett, Dale Hughling, Terrie Hahn



Fox about 15 feet up in an old Oak tree in Werner and Terrie Hahn's yard. Yes, they do climb trees!

Please send any news of events, articles or photos of what you're doing or what's going on in your yard or area to:

Terrie Hahn at moompie45@hotmail.com