

The Tracker

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

June 2013

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Calendar at a Glance

June 3, 8:30 am, Salado Sculpture Garden Workday

June 10, 8 am, Andy Wells Hike and Bike

June 11, 6 pm, **Temple Public Library**, Graduation and General Meeting

June 13, 8 am, Miller Springs Workday

June 20, 9 am, Mother Neff Workday

June 22, 9 -11 am, Miller Springs Nature Area, Pollinator Event

July 29, 8 am, Nolan Creek Workday

An Incredible Journey

Yvonne Eele

Belton put on their first Earth Day Festival on April 13. The Master Naturalists were there doing the Project Wet activity "The Incredible Journey". With this activity young people make a bracelet of beads as they travel through a variety of stations that simulate the water cycle. Many of

the kids that did the activity

would then go

and explain to their parents what each bead meant and why they had so many of one color and none of some of the others. (it all depends on where the water is). It was wonderful to see the kids understanding and being able to explain the water cycle to others. Many teachers also came by asking questions both about the activity and Project Wet.



View under the microscope.

Chapter Motto

**Earth Day,
Every Day**



Continued on page 4...

From the President's Pen

May has brought some welcome relief in the form of rain. Ponds are beginning to fill again, plants are blooming, growing and enjoying the warm and humid conditions. We are back on track for rainfall totals for the year at last. Unfortunately with the welcome rains, came some very unwelcome wind, hail and tornadoes.

We can easily see the destruction done to what man has built. Looking at the pictures of the Moore, Oklahoma tornado, I was dumbfounded at the total elimination of house after house. In the parking lot of the hospital, groups of cars were squashed together, lifted and turned 90 degrees and set down again. The pictures from Granbury also showed that wooden houses are no match for the power of Mother Nature. And who in the area can forget the devastation in Jarrell sixteen years ago this month.

The storm that blew through Temple on May 9th hit home for my family. Part of our metal roof was ripped away, we lost a 55,000 bushel grain bin, some other various structural damage, and had about 250 acres of corn destroyed. I was at work when the storm came through, but my husband, son and two others rode it out inside a pickup parked inside a barn. We live about a half a mile from where 16 high power transmission towers went down(about 5 miles east of Troy). The winds were ferocious and the hail deafening.

As usual, the first things listed in storm damage are material things like buildings and roofs, but when I got home the afternoon of the storm I saw more than just that. The birds that were nesting were blown down and beaten by the hail. I found a fledgling cardinal and mourning dove in the yard that were still alive, barely. All around the house were bird bodies, casualties of the winds and hail. A young cotton tail rabbit was also killed and that's just what I saw right away and in our yard. No telling how many birds and other wildlife were killed or wounded during the storm. I saw a hawk a few days after the storm that looked pretty raggedy – probably still recovering. It kept calling and calling, I am guessing for it's mate.

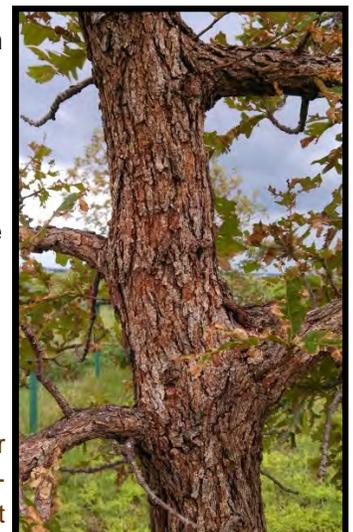
We did have quite a few Eurasian ring-necked doves around our house and at the grain bins. Since the storm, I have not seen them at all. They were either casualties or they decided it was too rough to live around here and moved on...I'm not sure.



The damage to the trees was not as bad as I had expected. Our pecan tree was completely defoliated and some others were

almost defoliated. There were broken limbs and scrapes from flying tin off the roof. But looking closer, I saw the bruises to the bark on the trees. The pelting of the hail knocked off bark and put dings and dents in every trunk. We have a huge oak tree in our back yard that fortunately stood strong. Ten years ago we lost its match in the front yard to a freak lightning strike that literally exploded the tree. Wood went a hundred yards in all directions. Mother Nature at work again.

Storms can do a lot of damage in the blink of an eye, but here's the good part. Two weeks after the storm, things are recovering. The cardinals, doves and mockingbirds are mating again, the trees are putting on new leaves. The martins are back in their house that went down in the storm and the bull bats (night hawks) are flying at full force booming loud and clear. The survivors are rebuilding just as the human survivors will do. Mother Nature has the power in her hands – the power of destruction and the power of construction. The will to live and carry on is strong and can overcome many obstacles including stormy weather...Lynn Fleming



Right: Bur Oak in our yard. Above: Common Nighthawk -- Image from internet

Louis Deiterman

- **Zoe Rascoe**

Louis Deiterman, PhD

Dec 14, 1932 - April 25, 2013

Louis Deiterman was a member of our charter class in 2010 and he was also a Bell County

Master Gardener. And those were just a couple of his many hobbies! Lou - I called him Lou, but I eventually noticed that other people did not, but it was already stuck in my head... not sure where I got that - and we first met through the Central Texas Astronomy Society. He participated in Star Parties that my husband and I hosted for the club. Although when he came to the Master Naturalist class orientation and said he knew me, I didn't recognize the face - just the name. Well, that happens a lot with Star Party friends because you only "see" them when it's pitch dark.

Lou was a kind and quiet man. It would take some doing to get him to talk about himself. Here are some other things about Louis Deiterman you may not have known:

Lou was born in Temple and graduated from Temple High School. He earned all of his college degrees from the University of Texas at Austin ending with a PhD with Honors in Physics. I learned that Lou knew by the second grade that he wanted to be a scientist. His laboratory was the garage and his younger brother was his as-

sistant. His mother put out several fires in that garage.

He loved to fish and vacationed at Port Aransas from his youth until many years later. Lou was a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and belonged to the Temple club. He worked at General Dynamics after college but soon moved back to Temple to start the Physics Department at Scott

& White in 1965 where he worked and served on a number of state and national health association boards until his retirement. Lou married Maretta, also from Temple, in 1956. Our condolences go to Retta and his family - I know he will be greatly missed.



Incredible Journey...continued

There was also the opportunity to look through a microscope at bee mouth parts and look through hand lenses at bryophytes and anything else kids wanted to look at. Some looked at their fingers while others looked at



leaves, grass, and an ant walking on a stick.

After a little bit of a slow start in the morning, the Master Naturalist booth was popular for most of the day. Thanks to Ray Hughes, Janis Holmes, and Gail Hughling for helping to make the day such a success.

Photos by Yvonne Eele and Linda Griffith.



Earth Day at Clifton Park Elementary

- Richard McCarthy

On 22 April, Marilyn Whitworth and Richard McCarthy, assisted Clifton Park Elementary School in Killeen, celebrate their First Annual Earth Day.

The students planted flowers in a prepared bed along the sidewalk leading to the main entrance. They then visited the various displays and information booths set up by a variety of organizations. Fort Hood Military, Fort



Hood recycling Center, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist.

Our presentation was depicting the Water Cycle and pollution. A total of 177 students attended our presentation.

We had borrowed the Environscape from the Clearwater Underground Water Commission. Our thanks to the commission for the loan and also for the great give away items.

Photos by Richard McCarthy and Marilyn Whitworth



Advanced Training 101

- Sandy Summers

“Rolling stones don’t gather moss” but a stone by a spring sure does! Our chapter experienced first hand where and how to spot the tiniest among us, the bryophytes. On Friday, April 5th, we spent several hours in a classroom setting at Harris Community Center in Belton, learning to recognize characteristics of mosses, liverworts, and hornworts, from Dale Kruse, curator of the MS Tracy Herbarium, at Texas A & M. His PowerPoint presentation and pictures were interesting and gave us tools to use in the field after lunch.

We were given permission from one of our own class of 2012, Bill Messer, to go to his property and look for specimens. We walked to a spring-fed pond and



were able to find many of the bryophytes we had learned about. I will include a list at the end of the article.

After exploring the pond and

found several mosses we fanned out and made our way through briars, limbs and rocky terrain. The payoff was more finds. There was excitement, members calling others to come over and have a look. Liz and Darla found what they called “golden cups” on a huge limb of an oak tree. Yeah, you had to be there to get this one! We



also found what we thought was a moss to learn upon closer inspection from Dale that it was lichen. We also found you need to know what a bryophyte is **not**.

The time together was great outdoor exercise, laughter, and learning! We had members from the HOT chapter and one our new 2013 class members learning along beside us. If you were not one of the seventeen members out with us, then maybe we will have another advanced training in the future you can join..

We could not have planned this perfect day weeks ago! Thank you Zoe, for setting this up and making all the necessary arrangements.

The pictures will let you see all the different positions you might find yourself in such as flat on the ground, hanging over a tree limb, and climbing around in the mud. One last hint, the best time to look for bryophytes is after a rain, and in cooler weather.

We found the following mosses and liverworts:

<i>Thelia hirtella</i>	moss
<i>Pleurochaete squarrosa</i>	moss
<i>Weissia controversa</i>	moss
<i>Leucodon julaceus</i>	moss
<i>Sematophyllum adnatum</i>	moss
<i>Barbula</i>	moss
<i>Fossombroniaceae</i>	liverwort
<i>Reboulia</i>	liverwort
<i>Frullania</i>	liverwort
<i>Hymenostylium recurviroste</i>	moss
<i>Bryum</i> sp.	moss

Photos by Zoe Rascoe



National Pollinator Week Celebrated by CTMN's

- Rehanon Pampell

We all know the vital importance of pollinators. Pollination is one of the most fundamental processes sustaining agricultural production and natural ecosystems. But, did you know that a tiny fly (or "midge"), no bigger than a pinhead, is responsible for the world's supply of chocolate or that one out of every three mouthfuls of food we eat is delivered to us by pollinators?

Native pollinators are critical to the maintenance of diverse ecosystems. Pollination occurs when pollen grains are moved between two flowers of the same species or within a single flower. This can occur by wind or by animals. Pollinators can include birds, bees, bats, beetles, lizards, moths, lemurs and more. Successful pollination, which may require visits by multiple pollinators to a single flower, results in healthy fruit and fertile seeds, allowing plants to reproduce. Without pollinators, we simply wouldn't have many crops! Therefore, Pollinator Week is a week to get the importance of pollinators' message out to as many people as possible.

Six years ago, the US Senate approved the designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week." The US Secretary of Agriculture signs the proclamation every year. Each year, citizens must request their state Governor to sign the proclamation. Last year 38 states declared their own state Pollinator Week. The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign is aiming for 100% state participation this year. So far, it appears that only 25 states have signed the proclamation (www.pollinator.org).

CTMN, in conjunction with the Bell County Master Gardeners, wrote a letter urging Governor Rick Perry to participate. With 79 of our signatures and a handful of other organizations sending in letters, it was

hard to turn down. Governor Perry signed the proclamation declaring Texas Pollinator Week as June 17-23rd! By declaring Pollinator Week and/or hosting a public awareness event, citizens are declaring that they recognize the vital roles pollinators play in our lives. Therefore, the Central Texas Master Naturalists will celebrate pollinators by hosting an event at Miller Springs Nature Center 9:00am-11:00am on June 22nd.

The pollinator educational event will include constructing and installing mason bee houses around the park. Mason bees are metallic green or blue and many are even black. These bees are solitary meaning that every female is fertile and makes her own nest. There are no worker bees and the females nest in hollow reeds or holes in wood made by wood-

boring insects. They do not excavate their own nests. These pollinators are not aggressive and will only sting if they are squeezed or stepped on; thus they are benign yet beneficial since they both pollinate plants and are safe for children and pets.

Take it a step further – Ways You Can Help Around Your Home (Pollinator.org):

Create a pollinator-friendly garden habitat in just a few simple steps.

Design your garden so that there is a continuous succession of plants flowering from spring through fall. Check for the species or cultivars best suited to your area and gradually replace lawn grass with flower beds.

Plant native plants of your region using plants that provide nectar for adults plus food for insect larvae, such as milkweed for monarchs. If you do use non-



Continued on next page...

Pollinator Week...continued

native plants, choose ones that don't spread easily, since these could become invasive.

Select old-fashioned varieties of flowers whenever



possible because breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose their fragrance and/or the nectar/pollen needed to attract and feed pollinators.

Install 'houses' for bats and native bees. For example, use wood blocks with holes or small open patches of mud. As little as 12" across is sufficient for some bees.

Avoid pesticides, even so-called "natural" ones such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). If you must use them, use the most selective and least toxic ones and apply them at night when most pollinators aren't active.

Supply water for all wildlife. A dripping faucet or a suspended milk carton with a pinhole in the bottom is sufficient for some insects. Other wildlife need a small container of water.

Provide water for butterflies without letting it become a mosquito breeding area. Refill containers daily or bury a shallow plant saucer to its rim in a sunny area, fill it with coarse pine bark or stones and fill to overflowing with water.

Grant Given for Angler Education Outreach

- Ursula Nanna

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, City Federation Foundation gave a 'fully-funded' grant of \$400.00 to CTMN for Angler Education Outreach. This means that the Foundation puts



great trust in us, and values the impact Angler Educators and Volunteers have on the youth in our community. They are sponsoring our environmental stewardship in educating those we teach to care for the world around them.

Thank you to all the Volunteers who have made this possible through your continued participation in Angler Events. Each time we teach, we give an educational tribute to those who so willingly give of both time and money. Thank you City Federation for your continued trust!!!



Photos by Gail Christian

Spotlight on Natives



Blotched Water Snake

- Darla Horner Menking

One of my favorite things to watch in the lake behind my house is the focus for this article. This Texas native is fairly common and elicits quite a range of emotion. This native is the Blotched Water Snake, or *Nerodia erythrogaster transversa*.

The blotched water snake is non-venomous, but will bite if it is put in a defensive position. They will grow somewhere between 18-42 inches in length and are usually found in ditches, small ponds and lakes, even in neighborhoods where there is a water source with frogs, toads and fish. Unlike the infamous water snake the western cottonmouth, the blotched water snake has large round eyes and swims with only its head out of the water, as well as no defined markings on the head. The blotched patterns vary on adult snakes and the juveniles' blotches are more distinct. Like the cottonmouth, if approached the blotched water snake will coil, release a musk-smelling odor, and even flatten behind its head to make it look triangular. Both are found in the same habitats and it is best to



stay away from them instead of trying to make an identification.

Unfortunately, many of these Texas native are assumed to be dangerous and killed on sight. It is my hope that citizens will learn to recognize this particular native species and leave them in their habitats to keep the balance they provide in the food chain!

Photo by Darla Horner Menking

Mayflies in April

- Richard McCarthy

On the 25th Of April, students from Keene Texas, were dip-netting for Macro-Invertebrates at the Waco Wetlands. One team of dippers captured a beautiful yellow Mayfly.

DID YOU KNOW: The common name: Mayflies

Order: Ephemeroptera

Family: Epheremeridae

* Mayflies spend most of their lives as aquatic nymphs in rivers and streams.

* They are an essential component of aquatic ecosystems, providing food for fish.

*Anglers fashion fishing flies in the likeness of Mayflies.

* The adults sole purpose is mating and laying eggs for the next generation.

*Adult Mayflies do not eat so have non-functioning mouth parts.

* Adults have only a 24 hour life span.

Photo from KLRU.org/CTM



Angler Instructors and Volunteers Teach at Rockdale Nature Festival 2013

- Ursula Nanna

On Saturday, April 13, a group of Angler Instructors and Volunteers participated, for the second time, in Rockdale, at El Camino Real's Nature Festival. There were no tornadic winds this year and the crowd was just wonderful and very interested in what we were presenting. Youth and parents really got involved in knot tying, Marine debris and Casting.

Kathy Cantu did Knots and Tackle; Marilyn Whitworth and Liz Pool did the "Trash" thing; Don Wyatt and Richard McCarthy ran ragged at the casting. There were almost as many adults vying for poles as there were youth. We even ran a little contest for the public and they loved it. All told, it was a very good day of being out in front of the public, adults and youth alike (145 total).



Photos by Gail Christian



Other Volunteers participating were Merrilyn and Sterlin Barton from the Goodwater Chapter, Gail and Tom Christian, and Pamela Dragoo and her husband, Darrell, with grandson, Jasper casting away.

We had a very good day and were well received.....the crowd was always down where the Anglers were!!!

Fishing Safety Presentations

- Ursula Nanna

On May 16th, Angler Education Volunteers participated for the first time at the Expo Safety Day and had 3 separate docks of fishing safety each highlighting several important features.



Sterlin Barton and Ray Machovsky presented aspects of removing a hook from a non-vital body area as well as covering TPWD fishing regulations and safely handling fish.

Photos by Gail Christian



Rehanon Pampell and Merrillyn Barton covered the 10 safety items to have when fishing, what the safe distance is between people fishing, as well as the 1st aid kit and contents.



Gerrie Johnson and Marjorie Lewis demonstrated Reach, Throw, Row, Go and fishing pole safety.

Pictured above: on May 18, we presented at the Temple Lake Park with the Army Corps. We were among emergency boats, fire trucks, police cars, roll-over demos and Safe Kids from Scott and White.

Actually, several of the kids recognized what we were teaching as what they had been taught at Expo on 5-16. The mothers were soooo excited to share with us what the kids learned and to see the information presented for themselves

Thank you to all who participated.

Anglers and Waco Wetlands

- Ursula Nanna

CTMN Angler Education assisted Nora Schell at Waco Wetlands on 4 occasions in April – May with presentations of Fish Habitat and non-point-specific pollution. The 5th and 6th graders got to feel Freddie's teeth, find out why fish don't drown, demonstrate the food chain, talk about what is: a habitat; a community; an ecosystem; and get close and personal to gills and how they function. The youth described the 2 kinds of plankton and how the food chain sustains itself. They learned what a 'wetland' is and its 3 primary functions. This was the 1st time we participated and hopefully if receiving good feedback from the visiting teachers, we may be asked to participate again. It was a wonderful opportunity and a great personal learning experience.

Mother Neff Work Day

- Yvonne Eele

Fun, Harvester Ants, some green caterpillars and chrysalis', an information kiosk, a hawk as well as many other birds, and Central Texas Master Naturalists are some of the things that could be found at Mother Neff State Park on April 25.

Ray and Zoe worked on getting rid of some overgrowth around an information kiosk and also cut some low branches to make clearance, while Mary Ann and Yvonne raked mulch around the playground to fill holes and cover thin spots. Everyone pitched in to help move the debris to the wood pile. We piled the smaller pieces onto large branches to make a sled and dragged them to the pile. Then loaded a trailer with more branches to get rid of them as well.

The May workday has been moved to May 23, because of the weather, and we plan on walking trails and marking on a map where more work needs to be done as well as

carrying loppers and trimming some lighter stuff.

Come on out and enjoy the fun and great company while helping out one of our partners.

Photos by Zoe Rascoe



Take a Look at Results from Moth Week 2012

Rehanon Pampell

Last year, Central Texas Master Naturalists ventured into the darkness and hosted two moth nights during National Moth Week. Moth Week is a week long, global mothing event to promote the understanding and enjoyment of moths and to raise awareness about biodiversity. Several CTMN members came out, but I think we sighted fewer moths than members! However, the moths we did spot, I submitted to DiscoverLife.org, ButterfliesAnd Moths.org (Butterflies and Moths of North America or BAMONA), as well as NationalMothWeek.org. Just last month, I began to receive species confirmations. You can view our Discover Life photo album at <http://pick14.pick.uga.edu/pa/ph/>. Scroll down the page and click on "Pampell, Rehanon" to view our photos. I believe you have to actually click on the photo to see location data. The following moths have been confirmed and added to the species maps on www.ButterfliesAndMoths.org:

Moonseed Moth (*Plusiodonta compressipalpis*)-
Photo submitted by Kathy Cantu (5 records submitted)

Spotted Beet Webworm Moth (*Hymenia perspectalis*)-
Photo submitted by Kathy Cantu

Four-Spotted Bird Dropping Moth (*Acontia tetragona*)-
Photo submitted by Kathy Cantu

Walnut Sphinx (*Amorpha juglandis*) –Photo submitted by Rehanon Pampell

The **Moonseed Moth** can be found from southern Canada to Connecticut south to Florida and Texas. Caterpillars feed on a variety of plants, fungi, and lichen. These moths typically have gray, brown, or yellow-tan patterns on their wings, but sometimes have patches of white, green, or pink. Sometimes the hind wings are lighter-colored



than the forewings or have showy hind wings with patterns of yellow, orange, or black.

Four-Spotted Bird Dropping Moths are pretty obvious to spot. Or are they? This species can be found from southern Florida south through the Caribbean and from eastern Texas south through Mexico and most of Central America to Costa Rica.



Moonseed Moths and Four-Spotted Bird-Dropping Moth belong to the Noctuidae Family. These moths are also called Owlet Moths or Underwing Moths which constitute the largest Lepidopteran family. Some species of this family evade bats by darting erratically. The moths have tiny organs in their ears that respond to bat echolocation calls that send their wing muscles into spasm.

The **Spotted Beet Webworm Moth** belongs to the Crambidae family also known as Grass Moths and can be found in various parts of the world to include, but not limited to: North America, Hong Kong, Australia, Jamaica, and South Africa. These moths are a reddish or tannish brown with narrow white bands on the forewings.



The **Walnut Sphinx Moth** was the first moth we spotted at Confederate Park. This specimen was actually found in the women's bathroom! As their name suggests caterpillars feed on walnut, but also on alder, hickory, hazelnut, hornbeam, and beech. When attacked, the caterpillars will produce a high-pitched whistle by expelling air out of a pair of spiracles in their abdomen.



Moths of the

Continued on next
ge...

Moth Week Results...continued

Sphingidae family are Hawk Moths, Hummingbird Moths, Hornworms, and Sphinx Moths just to name a few. They are important pollinators of orchids, lavender, and phlox. To attract these to your garden, plant flowers with the following traits: nocturnal flower opening, white or pale coloration, sweet fragrance, horizontal to pendant posture, abundant sucrose-rich nectar, and a long nectar tube.

Not all sightings submitted were confirmed. Some photos did not capture key identifying characteristics. However, as taxonomy continues to develop for certain species, these sightings may be confirmed one

day. Moth Week is **July 20-28**, but you can participate year round and **you don't have to be an expert!** Just snap a photo, note location and time, and submit!! You can either go to NationalMothWeek.org and create an account or you can submit your sightings to me (see below) via <http://txmn.org/centraltexas/submit-your-moth-sightings/> and I can submit your sightings for you to various different databases that I am a contributor. Happy Mothing!!

Photos by Kathy Cantu and Rehanon Pampell

Central Texas Master Naturalists

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Projects

Submit Sighting Here! → [Submit Your Moth Sighting](#)

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.

Meetings are Open to the Public!

Central Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist hold bi-monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, and December) at 6:00 p.m. at the Belton Church of Christ (3003 N Main) located off FM 317 in North Belton. These meetings increase your knowledge of Central Texas natural resources. As a member, these meetings qualify for one hour of advanced training (AT), but for the public, it's a free hour on insects, invasive species, wildlife management, birds, fossils, zero waste management, archaeology, etc. So, come and see what we are all about!!

WEEKLY CLASS INFORMATION
Weekly Class Info
LINKS
UPCOMING EVENTS
CERTIFICATION CLASS 2013
Project Gallery
Nature Apps for Your Smart Device
WP Admin

A Spectacular Martin Season

- Ursula Nanna

Last year, everything in the yard was covered in English sparrow poop, from the pool rim to the garden art to the patio chairs and tables. It was just short of disgusting to have to wash off everything every day only to turn around and have to do it again.

From sheer desperation, I borrowed a sparrow trap from a friend and set out on the mission to trap those little defecating feathery things! To start with I took down ALL the bird feeders. The excess seed was thrown out because I found out that buying that cheap feed from big box stores was exactly what the sparrows (and doves) love to dine on.

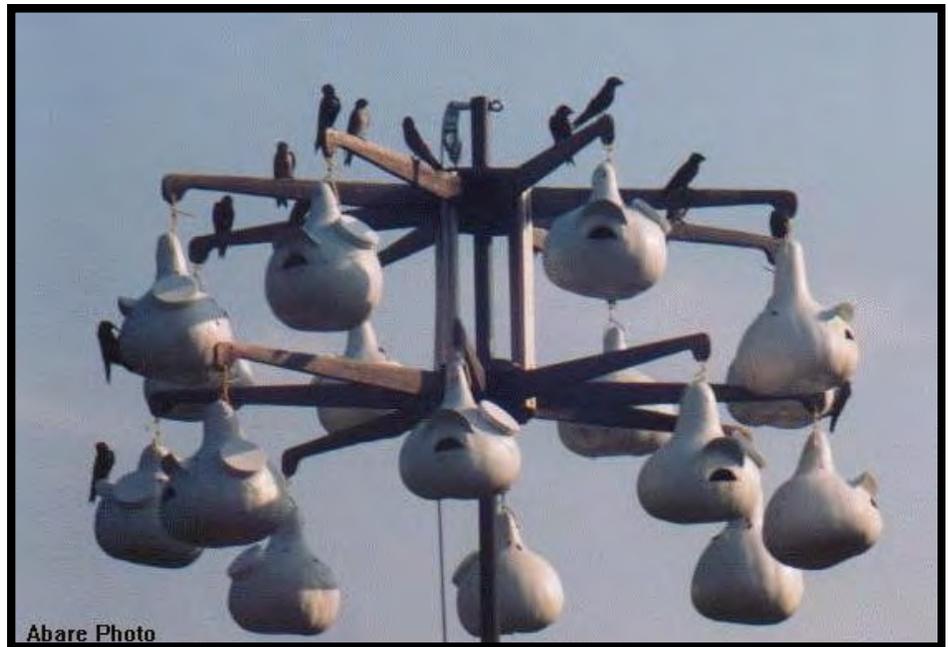
Followed directions for the trap, set it out even though the fall was not reported to be prime trapping time. After 5 hours, nothing caught....but by the 7th hour there were 2 E. sparrows caught (study up on the difference between English invasive sparrows and song sparrows). By the end of the day there was a total of 50 caught. I unset the trap so birds would not be caught overnight and set the trap again the next day. That day there were 82 caught totaling 132. To show you I was not exaggerating about all the bird poop in the yard, by day 3 there were another 20 in the trap totaling 152 English sparrows !!!

Then, for some reason word got out in nature that sparrows were being trapped, and then there were none.....That 'none' time was used to clean out all the bird houses, Martin houses included. All told, about 170 martins occupied the property that March to October of 2012. Feeling badly that my friend had to keep meeting with me to exchange the sparrow trap, I bought one of my own...

Come this spring, I noticed a few E. sparrows returning, nothing significant, I thought!! They were just waiting patiently for me to open the Martin houses.....when I did that, in came

the English sparrows for occupancy. So, I was not free of the E. sparrows no matter how many I caught. Out came the trap again and I began trapping the E. sparrows again...about 40, then 21, then 30. By then, the Martins were coming in.....and the Martins were coming in,.... And the Martins were coming in. Because there were so few E. sparrows, the Martins kept coming in. Of a possible 90 pair occupancy, I landlarded 88 pair of Martins and the other 2 pair were E. sparrows.

The Martins are so enjoying the nests free of the in-



cessant pooping E. sparrow and so am I. With 88 pair of Martins, if each nest has only 2 fledglings, that will be 176 fledglings and 176 adults resulting in 352 Martins leaving this year as opposed the 170 from 2012 !!!! All because life was made peaceful by eliminating the English sparrow, the Martin population exploded.

I'm totally thrilled...maybe I need to buy more Martin houses ??? My yard is just wonderfully musical with all the Martins clicking happily and preparing nests of sticks and Live Oak leaves??



2013 Class



Our Class Directory



Amanda Williams



Andrea Milspaw



Bill Hoppock



Carolyn Stewart



Hannah Kambury



Jerrie Cooper



Kevin Prince



Lisa Hutka



Lori Nunke



Mary Odom



Max Burns



Melissa Fletcher



Michelle Matlock



Patty Wyman



Robin Reese



Sam Priori



Sue Valdez

2013 Class News

- Yvonne Eele

Amanda Williams: Is a video game artist, illustrator, and beekeeper. She is currently living in the countryside, and is interested in nature illustration, plants, caves, astronomy, and archaeology.

Andrea Milspaw: Is a Cub Scout leader and Web site designer. She is interested in photography, gardening and conservation. Andrea would like to know more about small urban ecosystems.

Bill Hoppock: Was an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He is a nature lover and wants to learn about plant/wildlife census.

Carolyn Stewart: Carolyn is a middle school teacher at an alternative school in Killeen. She loves science and is interested in learning more about ecosystems, animals, and plants.

Hannah Kambury: One of the HOTMN chapter trainees. Hannah is studying Environmental Science at Baylor and is looking for research ideas. She is interested in learning more about aquatic culture.

Jerrie Cooper: Jerrie is a 2nd grade teacher and has been involved with scouts as a leader for 15 years. She took Master Gardener training in Washington state and is interested in native plants and birds.

Kevin Prince: Set up the Texas River Cooperation Association to clean up Nolan Creek and enjoys Kayaking. Kevin is interested in plants, wildlife, and water quality.

Lisa Hutka: Lisa has a minor in Biology. She is in the process of starting a green cleaning business and is interested in Ecology and non toxic pest control.

Lori Nunke: Is a graphic artist and Master Gardener, She is into fossils and tracks and has 16 acres by Florence.

Mary Odom: Has spent 44 years in elementary teaching. She is interested in birding, reptiles, and geology. Mary is already trained in Project Wild and would like to offer assistance in grant writing.

Max Burns: One of our HOTMN chapter trainees. Max

is an accountant but is interested in anything to do with nature. She is eager to get outside and volunteer especially on the weekends.

Melissa Fletcher: Has a PhD in Holistic Medicine, enjoys public speaking, event planning and writing. Melissa is interested in the health of aquatic systems and is environmentally conscious.

Michelle Matlock: One of the HOTMN chapter trainees. She has a biology degree and is a Physician Assistant. Michele is interested in birds, botany, water management, and research. She has access to a microscope and 6 ½ acres of land.

Patti Wyman: Patti is currently doing water monitoring on Nolan Creek. She is interested in photography and would be interested in training in everything especially water, animals and history.

Robin Reese: Robin has a BA in Education and a Law degree and grew up in the nursery business. He has experience with ecology field investigations and is interested in mammals, insects, and plants.

Sam Priori: Is a Registered Nurse and Red Cross Volunteer. He has native pasture beside his house and is interested in learning more about wildlife photography and beekeeping.

Sue Bertoleit-Valdez: Sue taught college Spanish for 43 years. She has been involved with the Mya Conference and has done work with hieroglyphics, linguistics, and anthropology.

Flying Wild Workshop

Are you a teacher or environmental educator?

Do you work or volunteer for a local nature or conservation organization or group?

Do you facilitate other environmental ed. programs?

Flying WILD makes it easy to educate students about conservation using birds as the vehicle.

Help reconnect kids with nature and build science skills.

Saturday June 29, 2013, 9:00am–4:00pm (RAIN OR SHINE!), Agrilife Extension Office, 1605 N Main St, Belton, TX

Fee: \$20 (includes Educator's Manual)

2013 Class in Action



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

Announcing CTMN Awards and Certifications

- Zoe Rascoe



Clockwise from top left: Ursula Nanna receives her 1000 Hour Milestone pin and her 2013 Monarch Recertification pin; Ursula also presented an Angler Ed donation from Temple City Federation of Women's Clubs; Lynn Fleming receives her 250 Hour Milestone pin; Lou Hight receives her 500 Hour Milestone pin and her 2013 Monarch Recertification pin; Miriam Jordan, Sandy Summers, Marilyn Whitworth, Linda Young and Richard McCarthy receive their 2013 Monarch Recertification pins; and Ray Kozusko receives his 2012 Bat Recertification pin.

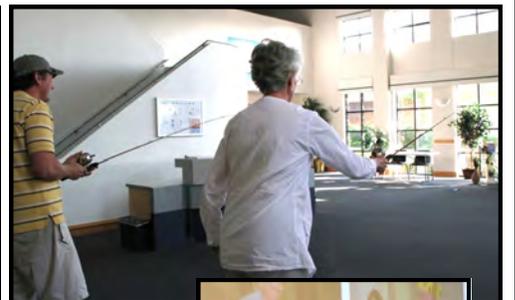


PACE Meeting

- Zoe Rascoe

Here are photos from this month's PACE meeting (*Projects, Activities, Committees and Everything else.) which are now held in odd numbered months on the second Tuesday at 6:00pm.

General Membership meetings, which include a speaker, are held on the same day and time of even numbered months. Above: Lynn and Shirley take notes on Diane's Growing Up Wild training; Kevin and Janis dry land fishing for the same plastic fish; Right: Ursula highlights the Angler Ed Program.



Announcements

Class Changes

- Mary Ann Everett

This is to update you on some changes we have had to make on June 1 and June 8, due to speakers having to change.

June 1 will still meet at Harris Community Center. We have added Jim Reed after lunch, from 1:00 to 2:00. Diane Cooney and Janet Wallace will follow from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. This day will go one hour longer.

June 8: Change of meeting place: Extension Office, 1605 Main, Belton. Steve Bednarz from 8:30 to 9:30. Dr. Walter Holmes: Naming/Plants 9:30 - 11.

June General Meeting

- Zoe Rascoe

June 11, 6 pm at **Temple Public Library**, Graduation and Chapter meeting. **AT**

Advanced Stream Team Training

- Richard McCarthy

Advanced Stream Team Training will be conducted, **August 31**, 2013 at the WACO Wetlands Lab, 1752 Eichelberger Crossing. Training will start at 9:00, with a 30 minute lunch break, then continue until 3:30.

Topics :

Phase one: An orientation of material to be covered.

Sample collection for E. Coli , Turbidity and Nutrient measuring.

How to plate E.Coli samples.

Identifying E.Coli Colonies.

Measuring stream flow.

Phase Two: Conduct Nitrogen and Phosphorous measurements using a standard of known value.

Bring with you a thirst for knowledge and a sack lunch. Coffee, bottled water and morning snack will be provided. There are no costs for this program except your time. PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER THAN AUGUST 10, 2013. **AT**

Blackland Summer Science Camp

- Zoe Rascoe

The summer is fast approaching and you know what that means... **Kids need stuff to do!!** Blackland Research Center will be hosting Camp Horizon - a summer science camp on two dates this summer. For those of you who have missed this fun annual event, we will be working with 5-12 year olds covering topics such as recycling, soils, wetlands, composting, gardening, and sun safety as well as taking 8-12 year olds on a EcoScavenger Hunt along Friars Creek near the Blackland building. Rehanon Pampell will be coordinating the events and needs volunteers for both dates. Both events will be held 9am-11:30am. Kid handlers will be provided by Camp staff. Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

June 17: EcoScavenger Hunt for 8-12 year olds at Friar's Creek on S. 5th Street in Temple

August 1: Outdoor stations for 5-7 year olds will be set up at Blackland Research Center

If you would like to lead a station, but need ideas for topics, or have a topic but need an activity, or have an activity for only one age group, **Rehanon can help!** There will also be information provided for the nature scavenger hunt (it's basic - "find three different kinds of leaves." Just want to get them looking closely at nature.) Please let Rehanon know with the date(s) that you are available. Include the topic/activity you would like to volunteer for or let her know to send you some ideas.

Thanks for any help! **V**

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

Announcements

Standing monthly events

Salado Sculpture Garden Workday: 1st Mondays at 8:30 am (contact Becky Denton) No July workday

Miller Springs Nature Area Workdays: 2nd Thursdays at 8:00am (contact Mary Ann Everett)

Mother Neff State Park Workdays: 3rd Thursdays at 9:00am (contact Yvonne Eele)

Nolan Creek Trail Maintenance: 5th Mondays at 8:00am (contact Mary Ann Everett) **V**

On the Calendar

- Yvonne Eele

June 1, 9:00-4:00 **(V)** National Trails Day at Mother Neff State Park Manning different stations
Contact: Leah Huth Leah.Huth@tpwd.state.tx.us

June 4, 9:00-noon **(V)** Waco Wetlands School Field Trip Assisting with students at various stations.
Contact: Nora Schell noras@ci.waco.tx.us

June 6, 9:00-11:00 am **(V)** Waco Wetlands School Field Trip Assisting with students at various stations
Contact: Nora Schell noras@ci.waco.tx.us

June 8, 8:30-11:00 **(V)** 2013 Class Training Bell County Extension Office, Belton
Contact: Lynn Fleming, Zoe Rascoe, or Mary Ann Everett

June 8, 11:00-5:00pm: **(V)** Angler ED at CAPFEST Casting. Downtown Belton
contact Ursula Nanna fishingpole16@gmail.com

June 10, 8:00 until done: **(V)** Andy Wells Hike and Bike Clean Up
Contact: Richard McCarthy rgm3372010@live.com

June 11, 6:00-7:30 pm 2013 Class Graduation, Temple Public Library
Contact: Lynn Fleming, Zoe Rascoe, or Mary Ann Everett

June 17, 5:30-8:30: **(V)** Hook Line and Senior with Angler Ed Various Angler Ed Docks will be taught. Sammons Community Center, Temple, Texas
Contact: Ursula Nanna fishingpole16@gmail.com

June 17, Blackland Science Camp **(V)**(see page 19)

June 22: 9:00 - 11:00 am, **(V)** Pollinator Event at Miller Springs. More information to come.

June 29, 9:00 - 4:00 **(AT)** Flying Wild Educators Workshop
Contact Liz Pool at lizpool60@gmail.com

August 1 Blackland Science Camp **(V)**(see page 19)

August 31, Stream Team Training **(AT)**(see page 19)

If you have an event to add to the mailing please send it to yeele@ymail.com and make sure to include date and time as well as contact information.

And Zoe Rascoe adds:

June 13, Wetland Plant ID Course, 9 am - 4 pm (Baylor)

June 14, Rainwater Gardening, 9 am - 4 pm (Baylor)

Prairie Restoration Roundup

A day of hands-on activities focused on practical, on-the-ground restoration of prairies on the upper Texas coast.

Time/Date: July 26, 2013 from 9 am - 3 pm

Location: Texas City Preserve (Nature Conservancy of Texas) \$25.00

Hosts: The Nature Conservancy of Texas **AT**

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

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."

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Editor: Terrie Hahn

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Contributing Photographers: Lynn Fleming, Zoe Rascoe, Gail Christian, Yvonne Eele, Richard McCarthy, Linda Griffith, Kathy Cantu, Marilyn Whitworth, Darla Horner Menking

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

[In Case you couldn't tell what the banner on the front page was, it's a photo of the Harvester Ants at Mother Neff by Zoe Rascoe.](#)



[Photo of Louis Deiterman by Zoe Rascoe.](#)