



Inside This Issue	
From the President's Pen	2
Regional Conference	4
Harker Heights Library	5
Geology Class	8
Graduates!	9
NPSOT Landscape class	11
CTMN Events	12

Lost Ladybug Project

- Richard McCarthy

The Nine Spotted Ladybug has declined to the point that there were no confirmed collections of this ladybug, in the Eastern U.S. since 1992, until one was found in 2006. This gave the experts hope that more are out there.

The Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853, is looking for Citizen Scientists to gather information and photos of all species of ladybugs.

Scientists need detailed information on which species are around and how many ladybugs can be found.

The best time to look for ladybugs is between May and October. They can be found wherever there are aphids and small soft-bodied insects. Some are more common on low vegetation, small grains and legumes. Other species are also found in fruit trees and willows.

If you find ladybugs take pictures no matter what species. Your ladybug will be too active to get a good picture, you can slow it down by placing it in the freezer for 5 minutes (over 6 min may kill them) this will calm them down for 2-4 minutes. Coolers are not as cold as a freezer so it will take 30 plus minutes to get 1-6 minutes of quiet time. They will survive for days in a chilled cooler.

Continued on page 7...

Banner photo is from former BCMG Susan Firth of a shedding anole on her porch.

Calendar at a Glance	
Salado Gardens, August 4, 8 a.m.	
July hours due, August 5	
General Meeting, August 12, 6 p.m.	
Miller Springs, August 14, 8 a.m.	

Chapter Motto
**Earth Day,
 Every Day**



From the President's Pen

Outrageous Osage Orange

Osage orange, hedge apple, monkey ball, horse apple, bois d'arc, or bodark no matter how you say it most of us are familiar with the big green balls that fall in late summer from a very versatile tree. *Maclura pomifera* by proper name, the Osage orange has been used for fence posts, bows, yellow dye, insect repellent, and throwing at each other. If you haven't been involved in a horse apple fight as a kid, you just haven't lived.

This spring, we were clearing a fence row and came upon a bodark tree with young fruit about an inch and a half in diameter. I cut them open and they were just miniature versions of the fully mature, softball size balls I was more familiar with. Curiosity took over and I decided to learn more about Osage orange.



Miniature fruit covered with stigmatic hairs. Better picture than mine with cell phone. Thanks Wikipedia.

Osage orange trees can be found just about everywhere in pastures now, but they originally were in a limited area centered on the Red River valley in southern Oklahoma and northern Texas. Before the invention of barbed wire in the 1880's, the sharp-thorned trees were used planted in hedge rows to keep livestock contained. After barbed wire came on the scene, the trees were put to use as fence posts. The wood is strong and so dense that it will resist rot and insect attacks for decades. During the Dust Bowl days, FDR's Great Plains Shelterbelt WPA project planted 220 million trees in 30,233 shelterbelts that stretched for 18,600 miles in an effort to prevent soil erosion. With so many trees planted, there were billions of seeds that went on to produce generations of

offspring that we now see in pastures and fence rows all over the countryside.



Fruits in March—about 1-1/2" still covered with hairs.

The name of the tree comes from the Native American Osage tribe, which lived near the home range of the tree and the aroma of the fruit after it is ripe. On a nice, balmy day find a fruit sitting in the sun and you will notice the pleasant orange-peel smell of the skin. And it kind of looks like a green orange. There are male and female trees, and only the females bear fruit so the males are less noticeable. But you won't know whether you have a male or female for 10 years because that is how long it takes for the trees to become sexually mature! *Maclura pomifera* belongs to the mulberry family. If you look at a mulberry up close, you will see the resemblance to a bodark fruit.

Cut open a horse apple, or even wound the surface and out oozes a sticky, milky white juice. Under all the juice lies a pithy core surrounded by up to 200 small seeds that are smaller than sunflower seeds. Apparently squirrels really like the seeds because it is a real chore to disassemble the fruit to get to the prized seed. I think I'll leave that to the squirrels. If the fruits lie on the ground for a while, they'll get soft. Running over them with a vehicle or stepping on them makes a big mush pile and coats your shoes with icky sticky.

Back to the hedge aspect—the thorns on the tree make them a nuisance in pasture. A short thorn is located where the leaf attaches to the twig. The thorns are just as tough as the wood of the tree and can puncture pickup tires and even tractor tires (been there, done that). During the height of hedge days, the horse apples were gathered in ricks to rot, then sliced into bits and pieces and washed in troughs to

Continued on next page...

Osage Orange...continued

separate the seed from the pulp. The clean seed was dried and sold for up to \$45 per bushel to the hedge planters.

Wood from the Osage orange has a bright orange yellow color is heavy, hard, strong, flexible and will take a fine polish. The trees acquired the name bois d'arc or "bow wood" from early French settlers who watched the Native Americans use it for clubs and bows. My husband's grandfather made a hobby of making handles for shovel, hoes, hammers and such. He favored bodark because it was tough as iron and would last longer than any store bought handle. Foundation stumps from bodark trees in a pier and beam house were found when a ranch house believed to be more than 100 years old was remodeled on the Goodnight ranch in the panhandle. If the roots are exposed, they are bright orange—almost neon. Even the bark itself shows an orange color.

Many folks believe the apples to be useful for insect repellent. There are many differing opinions about whether it really works or not. Some swear by it, some say it doesn't work at all. Either way, there have been a whole load of bodark apples thrown under the house, placed in doorways and other places in the hope of keeping roaches, spiders and other creepy crawlies at bay.

The champion Osage orange tree is located in Virginia, supposedly donated by Thomas Jefferson to the Plantation there. Compared to central Texas specimens, it is a monster. Circumference is 29 feet, height is 58 feet and the spread is 88 feet. Wow. It is thought to be over 200 years old although the listing did not mention whether it was a male or female tree.

So the next time you come across an Osage orange, bois d'arc, hedge apple or whatever name you prefer, tip your hat at the versatility of the tree.

- Lynn



2014 Southeast TMN Regional Conference

- Marilyn Whitworth

The 2014 Southeast TMN Regional Conference hosted by the Piney Wood Lakes TMN Chapter was held in Livingston, TX on July 19, 2014. There were representatives from 11 different TMN chapters in attendance. There were also non-master naturalists in attendance. Marilyn Whitworth and Richard McCarthy represented the Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter.

There were seven topics discussed. Mike Murphrey, Texas A&M TX Forest Service Forester spoke about Drought Impacts on Healthy Forests, Pine Beetles and Reading a "Tree Cookie". He presented material on the parts of a tree, what really determines the strength and health of a tree and how to read a tree ring. He had specimens of some of the pine beetles and a trap that the Forestry Service uses to capture the beetles.

Mark Waters, Trinity River Authority Lake Livingston Project Manager spoke about TRA and Lake Livingston.

Brian Van Zee, TPWD -Inland Fisheries, Regional Director spoke about Zebra Mussel in Our Texas River Watersheds. He presented material on the history of where and when the Zebra Mussel first entered Texas water and how it has spread from Lake St Clair, Texoma (April 2009) to Lake Belton, Belton (September 2013). He discussed the ecological and economical impact caused by the Zebra Mussel. He spoke about a new regulation HB1241 which requires water be drained from vessels leaving or approaching public water. The law applies to all public water bodies statewide except the coast.



Photo from www.stateimpact.npr.org

The next speaker was Mary Pearl Meuth, TXMN State Assistant Program Coordinator. Her topic was Texas Master Naturalist Program, Its History, Growth Trends, and Statewide Impacts. There are 42 chapters plus 2 new chapters being formed this year, 2014. Open registration for the annual Statewide Meeting should be available the 1st or 2nd week of August.

Next to speak, Ronald Havran, CoCoRaHS Houston-Galveston Regional Coordinator spoke about CoCoRaHS Who, What, How and Why of this National Volunteer Citizen Science Program and How the Data is used and helps preserve our Texas Natural Resources. CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow) is a non-profit based high density network of volunteers who take daily measurements of rain, hail and snow in their backyards. It came about as a result of a devastating flash flood that hit Ft. Collins, Colorado in July 1997. The program was born in 1998 with the intent of doing a better job of reporting and mapping intense storms. By 2010 it became a nationwide volunteer network. Precipitation is essential for life. It varies greatly with topography, storm type and season and that is why everyone is interested in it.

Katie Daniel, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Cultural Programs and Natural Resource Management, Lake TomBigBee spoke about the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. The tribe was Hunter-Gatherers who relied heavily on deer and the long-leaf pine needle. The long-leaf pine needle is in decline but there are efforts underway by the Piney Wood Lakes TMN Chapter and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe to restore and replant it. All of their baskets are woven out of long-leaf pine needles. She had a basket that was over 150 years old and was in as great a condition as the day it was woven. She had an alligator basket and a turtle basket woven from the long-leaf pine needles. This tribe uses a rick-rack design in their basketry and clothing.

The last speaker was Nancy Brown, United States Fish and Wildlife Services, SW Regional Public Out-

Continued on page 6...

Lighting up the Harker Heights Library

- Ursula Nanna

On July 2, 2014, a select team hosted a 2 session Angler Education series from 9-noon at the 2nd annual request of the Harker Heights Library. Each dock was "manned" by enthusiastic Master Naturalists and a few other volunteers.

Miriam Jordan and Gerrie Johnson were welcoming the youth and accompanying adults; Gail Christian (a Master Gardener) and new-comer Jacki Bakker took care of Fishing Safety and gave a new meaning to "hands-on" demonstrations!! Diane Cooney and Gail Hughling demonstrated Fish Habitat and let the youth design their own special habitat.

Marilyn Whitworth did an outstanding job of show and tell with Marine Debris as the youth learned how long our garbage takes to break-down....if it does. Richard McCarthy gave Freddie the Fish a real introduction to the would-be young fisherpersons in the group show-

ing off live worms and fishing lures. Whatever Richard does, there's always screeching and screaming coming from his dock!!!

And two new-comers, Lynn Williams and Tina Mazur



gave Knots and Tackle a new twist letting the kids tie Palomar knots and attach bobbers to fishing line.

Tina said she got "bobber fingers" from opening and attaching a zillion bobbers while Lynn displayed fishing fashion with the coveted fish hat.

Continued on page 6...



Conference...continued from page 4

reach Specialist. Her topic was National Wildlife Refuges of Texas and How to Volunteer and Engage. The National Wildlife Refuge System was started by Theodore Roosevelt to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation and management of fish, migratory birds and other wildlife. There are more than 560 refuges with at least one in every state. There are 20 in Texas. Nine of the 20 are around the Houston area. One is in Moody, TX. The National Wildlife Refuges in Texas offer interpretive and environmental education programs and specific events in addition to offering hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The conference had exhibits of what the Piney Wood Lakes Chapter was doing. They had one exhibit on recovery and recycling of monofilament fishing line. There are bins around Lake Livingston for people to put their used fishing line in. The bins are checked periodically and when the bin is full the monofilament is sent to Pure Fishing, the parent company of Berkeley in Spirit Lake, Iowa which is currently the only place that recycles used fishing line. The recycled fishing line is used to make a variety of plastic items but not fishing line.

It was a very enjoyable and informative conference.

Lighting Up the Library...continued from page 5

Outside, Don Wyatt, Katherine Bedrich and Tom Christian kept the kids fascinated with the Back-yard Bass and Casting.

This was our very 1st year to give prizes!!! We gave away 2 new fishing poles, 6 tackle boxes, and 4 eyeglass lanyards. Prizes were donated by Texas Parks and



Wildlife and CTMN Angler Instructors. Each youth was also given a bag of fishing information and booklets and their choice of a squiggly. Our survey demonstrated that the kids liked 1 squiggly over all the others...a brown plain one over all the glittery choices they had....imagine that????

A special thanks to the brave newcomers who were outstanding and to all the old-timers who do the job so wonderfully, THANK YOU.



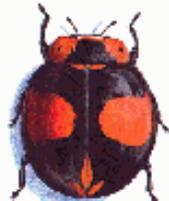
Ladybug Project...continued from page one

To photograph place the calmed specimen, on a grey background and take the largest shot while maintaining focus. Glare of the ladybug is often more of a problem than lighting. Shield the specimen from bright light and use flash only as a last measure.

Note the date, time, location and habitat (i.e. garden, wild field, cornfield etc.). To send this info along with digital images go to, lostladybug.org; or send to Cornell University address above. Release ladybugs back to where you found them. Additional info at: www.lostladybug.org Poster below from lostladybug.org

LOST LADYBUG PROJECT

Are you a nine-spotted ladybug?



No! My name is *Harmonia axyridis*, the multicolored Asian ladybug. As you may have guessed, I come in many different color patterns, with too many spots or too few. But I am consistently large and rounded. I was introduced from Japan for biocontrol and have become very common. I often spend the winter inside houses!

Sorry - not me. My name is *Coleomegilla maculata* and I am native to North America. I am too long and thin. I am often pinkish and my pronotum is black with red edges – not white. Along with aphids, insect eggs and small larvae, I eat a lot of pollen. So you may find me in corn and fruit trees!



Checkers anyone? I arrived near the St. Lawrence River from Europe in the 1960's and I'm moving south. I have 14 spots that are more like squares so although my official name is *Propylea quatuordecimpunctata*, most folks call me the checker spot ladybug. I am small and I am not red!



'Not spots.' My distinguishing feature is not a spot at all, but the two paired marks that look like parenthesis. I am *Hippodamia parenthesis* or the parenthesis ladybug. I am small and I am a native.



Not a nine-spot. I am a native with similar features but the wrong number of spots. I can have 13, or fewer spots. I take my name, *Hippodamia convergens*, from the two converging white lines on my pronotum.



Close - but no. I am the seven-spotted ladybug, *Coccinella septempunctata*, a close cousin of the nine-spot and introduced from Europe in 1956. I started to spread about when the nine-spot began to decline.



Almost! I'm the two-spotted ladybug, *Adalia bipunctata*. I get an early start in spring. I come in many color forms and spot patterns but I don't think you will confuse me with a nine-spot. I am also a rare native! If you see me please take my picture and send in my image.



**Yes!! You found me!!
CONGRATULATIONS!**
I have 4 spots on each elytra and one split in the middle to make 9. My pronotum is black with white marks on front. So, I am *Coccinella novemnotata*, the nine-spotted ladybug. Please take my picture immediately !!!

Geology Class at Miller Springs

Photos by Joe Dorn



Central Texas Master Naturalist, Dr. Ray Kozusko teaches the Geology class at Miller Springs.



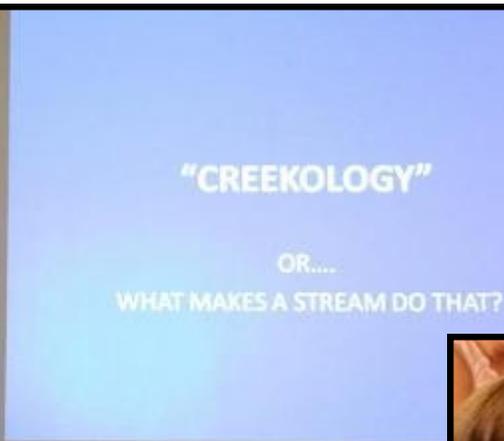
Congratulations to the CTMN Class of 2014 Graduates

The entire class of 2014 graduated!!! Graduating on June 10, 2014 with their CTMN certificates were left to right: Cindy Allen, Jackie Bakker, Daniel Gardner, Angela Cases, Joe Dorn, Sarah Dorn, Dan Flores and Jean Flores. See the rest of the graduates on the next page!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Israel Garza, Dana Hazelwood, Marlene Maciborski, Tina Mazur, Patricia Mielnick, Jeannie Milberry and Lynn Williams. Peggiann Jones graduated, but was unable to attend. And Dr. Ray Kozusko gave a talk on "Creekology."



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP)



Presented by

Native Plant Society of Texas

Are you interested in:

- Learning about native plants for Central Texas landscapes?
- Sustainable landscape design using native plants?
- Native plants to attract Birds and Butterflies?
- CEU hours for professionals in landscape-related fields?
- Texas Master Naturalist/Texas Master Gardener advanced training hours?

If you answered **Yes**, NLCP is designed for you!!!

NLCP Workshops Now in Williamson County

Each class includes a classroom session and 2-hour outdoor native plant identification walk.

Participants must complete Level 1 before attending Level 2.

Register online: <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/class-schedule>

Level 1, Introduction to Native Landscapes. \$37 all registrants

Saturday, Sept. 13, Williamson County AgriLife Extension, Georgetown; 8 am – 4 pm

- ✓ Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes.
- ✓ Understand differences between sustainable and conventional development.
- ✓ Learn Central Texas vegetation region and soil type.
- ✓ Learn 45 native Texas plants for your landscape and 5 exotic plants to avoid.

Level 2, Planting Design with Native Plants. \$37 NPSOT members; \$52 non-members

Saturday, Oct. 4, Williamson County AgriLife Extension, Georgetown; 8 am – 4 pm

- ✓ Learn to create landscape designs with regional native plants.
- ✓ Understand important considerations for creating a landscape design.
- ✓ Learn how to preserve native plants in the landscape.
- ✓ Learn 45 native Texas plants for your landscape and 5 exotic plants to avoid.

Sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Williamson County. For more information or for mail-in registration form, send a request to nlcp@npsot.org or call Meg Inglis at 512-589-1316.

Will receive Advanced Training hours

CTMN Events

- Yvonne Eele

August 4, 8:00 until finished **(V)** Salado Sculpture Garden Work Day

Contact: Becky Denton bekydenton@embarqmail.com

August 5, 12:00 midnight. CTMN July hours due

Contact: ctmn.bell@gmail.com

August 12, 6:00-7:00 (AT) CTMN General Meeting. Speaker to be announced

Contact: Lynn Fleming lynn.fleming99@gmail.com or Jerry Lewis lewis1@hot.rr.com

August 14, 8:00 until done (V) Miller Springs work day

Contact Mary Ann Everett everett.maryann4@gmail.com

If you have an event to add to the mailing please send it to yeele@ymail.com make sure to include the time and date as well as contact information. If you are a project coordinator, please check the information on your event and alert me of any corrections I need to make. If you would like to stop receiving these emails please reply, letting me know.

Thank You.

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

Shedding
skin from for-
mer BCMG
Susan Firth.



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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Contributing Photographers: Lynn Fleming, Zoe Rascoe, Ursula Nanna, Joe Dorn, Terrie Hahn

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

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County Extension Agent, Natural Resources

Derrick Wolter,
Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Photos of maybe an American Bumblebee? And a seedpod from Antelope Horn Milkweed by Terrie Hahn

