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Banner Photo of Indian Blanket by Terrie Hahn.

Calendar at a Glance	
June 5, hours due	
June 4, 14, 18 , Training Class	
June 5, 3 p.m. BOD meeting, Extension Center	
June 10-12, MN Camping Trip	
June 12, 6:00 p.m. General Meeting	
July 30, 8-10 p.m. Moth Night, Mother Neff	

Beauty and Adventure Await You at Colorado Bend State Park

- Jacki Bakker

Caves. Kayaking. Hiking. One of the prettiest swimming holes in the state of Texas. Birding. Camping. Stargazing. Nature Photography. It's deceptively beguiling, the sign on Hwy 580 in Lampasas County,



"Bend, 4 miles." That would be 4 miles to the post office...after you turn at Bad Bob's Bend Store, it's an additional 4 miles to the entrance of the park. And then, it's an additional 6 miles to the headquarters! Colorado

Continued on page 5...

Chapter Motto
Earth Day, Every Day



From the President's Pen

Our family has a deep tradition of hunting and duck hunting is the special favorite of my son, Augustus. His story describes one of his most favorite hunts that he and a friend had over at one of our ranches in Limestone County. For those not familiar with duck hunting, mallards in this part of the world are the best of the best hunts. As you can see from the pictures, it was smiles all around after the hunt. - Lynn

Morning Mallards

- Augustus Fleming

The telephone rang about a quarter till 5. It was my friend and hunting companion Justin Rowmine. He came over the phone with an excited voice telling me that he had just spotted 150 greenheads and pintail crowded in our favorite hunting hole. "When can you meet me?" I'll be there Sunday. So it was on then.

That night I was fixed on getting the suburban ready with all the hunting necessities. I loaded up the duck mobile with my hunting bag, calls, a case of black cloud ammunition, a cooler for the morning after party full of all types of beverages, my shotgun, and the dog box for the lab's elite voyage.

I pull up the night before the hunt to the Mexia Holiday Inn. I go to the front desk to get the room key for room 227 and drive the car around to the back entrance. It takes me two trips to move everything upstairs for the night and on the last trip I smuggle the most important merchandise upstairs, the dog. Once I get everything settled upstairs, I cut on the TV to watch a movie before I fall asleep. RING RING RING!! I wake up and read the time set on the alarm clock the

night before and realize it had been ringing for a couple minutes as the display read 4:32 a.m. I jump out of bed to slide my camo apparel on. I grab everything and coax the dog back downstairs.

"SIT" I command Pica the Labrador as I leave the doughnut shop with 3 regular glazed in hand. I fly down the road with fear to be late but arrive in the nick of time as the radio says 5:29 when I pull up to the gate. A few seconds later Justin pulls up in his pickup flashing his lights at me. I shut the gate behind



him and we move down to the pond. We unload everything and move it down to the water's edge when he looks at me funny and I explain that I am clouding the cold air with my hot breath to figure out the wind direction. When I make up my mind that it is out of a

northeasterly direction we throw the decoys out in a perfect corner of the pond to give the most appeal to the birds as they circle. When we get it all laid out I find a hiding spot and settle down.

Then the worst sets in, fog starts to roll in

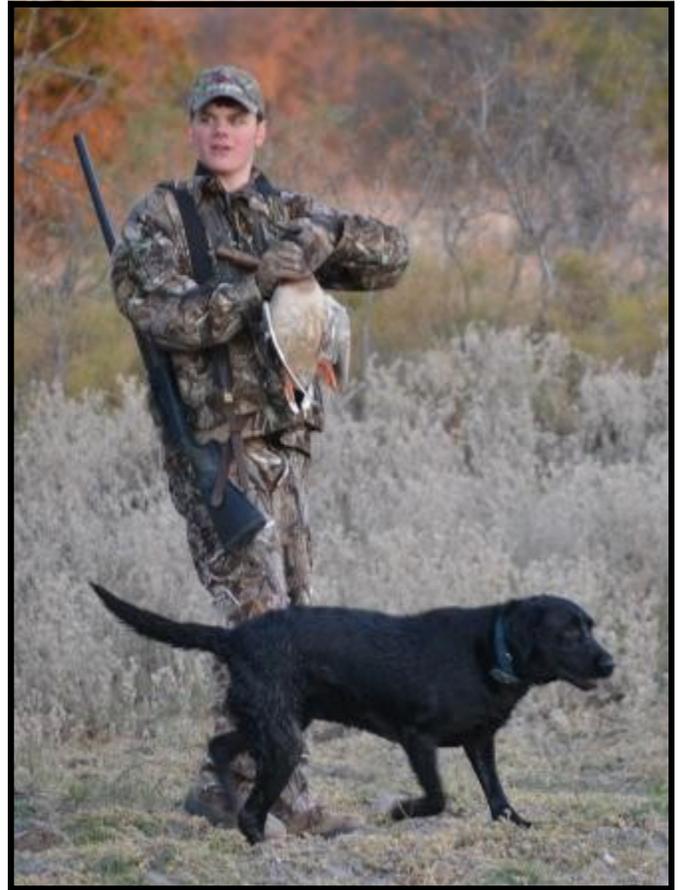
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Morning Mallards...continued

from every direction as the heat of the morning approaches. I sit there in the darkness wishing the fog would clear when a glimmer of hope arrives. A barely audible whistle of a lonely mallard drake pierces my ear. I look through the calls around my neck to find the right call to talk back to him. I find it when out of nowhere he plummets through the fog onto the water and slides across the glass like surface as he lands. Justin and I sit and talk to each other until it is daylight enough to see when a pair of mallards and a lonely pintail drift out of the sky. Well that was enough for me as my trigger finger is finding the primed trigger of my Beretta Urika Optima.

BOOM! Black cloud goes flying through the air at over 1200 feet per second. I hope the mallard lands in the water I thought as I just wounded him. He glides across the water's surface and stops. I look at Pica and say "BACK" with a firm command. Just as she should, Pica shoots out into the frigid water in pursuit of the bird. Pica swims as fast as she can but the sly mallard sees that she is after it. He tries to take off unsuccessfully then dives head first into the pond. The dog panics looking for the bird but is not outsmarted with six years under her belt. The greenhead resurfaces after running out of air and the trusty dog shoots like a torpedo out of a submarine to capture and retrieve the bird. Pica makes her way back to the shore just as 1000 birds break through the clouds quacking and whistling and I tell the dog "Pica get over here."



The morning goes on in the same fashion until both Justin and I have reached our limit of birds. We then finally decide to pull the decoys up and get ready to leave when another 1000 birds break-through the clouds. We both look at each other and say "I can't wait till next time."

Interesting Tidbits

Banded White Lipped Snail

- Richard McCarthy

This is an example of nature's ability to create perfect form. This is a "Banded White Lipped Snail", magnified using the Chapters new digital microscope. This specimen was found along Nolan Creek in Killeen.



Whirligig Beetle Gyrinus Species

- Richard McCarthy

Family: Gyrinidae. Lives on the surface of ponds and other quiet water sources. These are the ones you see in a group on the surface scooting in all directions. Sometimes going in crazy circles. Fun to watch. They will scatter and dive when threatened. Adults eat dead or dying insects trapped on the surface. The Larva prey on aquatic insects. Females lay eggs on living or Dead aquatic plants. All have divided compound eyes and can see equally well above or below the water surface.



Green Anole Lizard

- Terrie Hahn

The Green anole lizard, *anolis carolinensis*, common in our gardens, grows to 5-7 inches in length. They are insect predators. Females lay eggs, one at a time, in moist soil or rotten wood. Color changes with temperature, background color and mood. They are hunted by birds, cats and a now invasive aggressive species called the Brown anole that has entered the country from the Caribbean Islands. This one was in our yard shedding its skin which I assume he ate later as a snack.



Colorado Bend...continued

Bend is one of the most rustic and out of the way state parks we have here in Texas, and yet, it is right in Bell County's backyard! I think, though, the word primitive would be a better fitting word: there is only tent camping, potable water in two places and the toilets are self-composting. It was just last year that they finally got a paved road in the park!

It may seem like a haul to get to this park, but like the sign suggests, it is deceptively near. Situated near the



Lampasas/San Saba county line, the park borders the Colorado River north of Lake Buchanan.

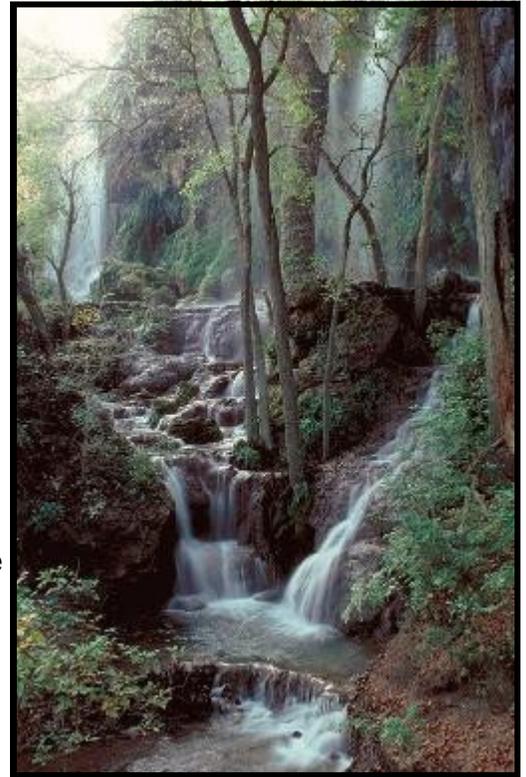
This is north Hill Country ranchland at its finest. The land was originally owned and operated as the Gorman and Lemons ranches. It was purchased partially in 1984 and 1987, and the park opened to the public in 1987. Everywhere you look, you can see traces of what this land once was. Like all ranchland in Lampasas and San Saba counties, you have a lot of Ashe Juniper and Prickly Pear, but you also have beautiful grasses like Little Blue Stem and Indiangrass, stately oaks, towering Pecans and huge Sycamores. There are more bushes and plants than a person can count and the wildflowers and vistas are mind blowing!

There are so many things that come to mind when you talk about Colorado Bend State Park, like Gorman Falls and the stories about how some high school kids drove off the top of the falls and landed in the river (the car is still there!), the fishing, the over 800 caves that dot the limestone landscape, but you can't talk about any of that without talking about the people who work and visit the park.

Having never had Master Naturalists in the park, the whole crew—Kelby, Jason, Debbie, Jessie and the revolving flow of volunteer park hosts—have opened

their arms in welcome to us. Lynn Williams and I go out every third Saturday and whenever the need arises. The park staff have been both supportive and very open to our ideas and activities. For the most part, we start our mornings out setting up and engaging visitors with Back

Yard Bass and fly fishing demos. We try to change it up in the afternoons, doing things like kayaking demonstrations both on land and in the river, nature walks to and around Spicewood Springs trail and falls, and leading tours to Gorman Falls and into the Discovery Cave. We have established a wonderful working relationship with the park staff and help out anyway we can. The park office is very small so we usually bring



all of the equipment we use and take it home each Saturday. Our activities are not limited to just being out there. Lynn has also done some sewing for the park! She is the genius behind their new Telescope

Continued on next page...

Colorado Bend...continued

bag, as well as coming up with small clipboard holders for children who want to participate in our nature walk scavenger hunts.

The park visitors are another wonderful dimension of the park. All state parks, I think, get neat visitors who come and see and experience what each park has to offer. Our visitors at the 'Bend are colorful and varied. We have diehard survivalists, naturalists, cyclists, hikers, campers, swimmers, fishermen/women, boaters, cavers, and wanderers! There is never a time that we go out there that we don't meet first time visitors who never knew anything like our park was nearby much less even existed. We also get a lot of repeat visitors who come back to try something different each time!

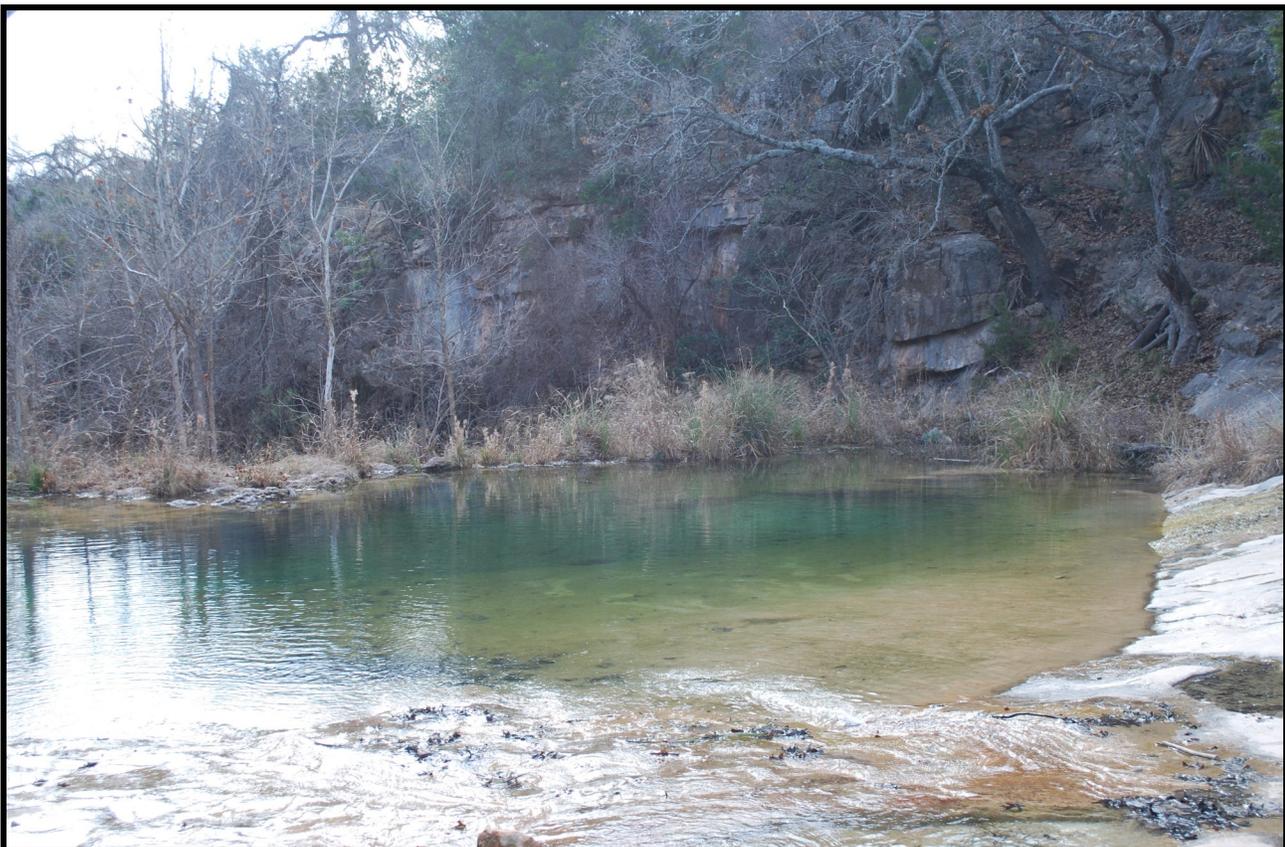
And this is my favorite part...the DOGS! No, really! Have you ever wanted to just go someplace and be by yourself with your dog? Yes, you can do it here! There are trails for old dogs, young dogs, experienced outdoor dogs and those dogs new to the great wide open. They can play in the river (not in the springs, though) and they can hike every trail. There are so many smells to be had! With wild animal scat all around, there are endless opportunities to roll in

smelly stuff, and on the trails, no less! And did I mention the squirrels and the birds? There is no way your dog is not going to love this park!

If I haven't mentioned it before now, I love this park folks! But alas, my time in Texas is limited. We want, need, desire, and wish to have you out there! Colorado Bend has so many opportunities to touch nature! If you are interested in bugs—we have them! How about birds—oh yeah! Trees, plants, bushes—lots of them! Rocks—tons! Water (that's my favorite!)—falls, watering holes, rivers, streams, springs, yep, we got 'em! Want to talk with people? They are usually full on the weekends! Want to enjoy nature and not talk to anyone? There are always trails to build and brush to clear!

If you have found yourself intrigued by the idea of a local state park that is anything but park-like, come out and join us! Contact Lynn Williams at lin-dawi@embarqmail and let her know that you want to come out and help us at Colorado Bend State Park!

Photo on previous page of Gorman Falls by © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. All other photos by Jacki Bakker.





The Big Sit

- Kathy Cantu

The TPWD 20th annual Great Texas Birding Classic was held from April 15 to May 15. The world's biggest birding competition raises funds for conservation grants for birding, nature tourism and habitat restoration and enhancement.

There are categories for all ages, beginners to experienced, over 8 hours, 24 hours, one week or 2 days. There is a category for blind or limited sight to bird by ear. Competitions are by state park or TPWD regions or statewide. CTMN was invited to participate in a Big Sit at Mother Neff State Park. Birders are required to be within a 17' diameter circle.



On May 5 our team, The Golden-cheeked Wanderers, located our circle on the prairie beside a small pond. We counted from 8 am to 4 pm. Then park staff counted the rest of our 24 hour period. Our total count was 38 species. We had an enjoyable day out on the prairie meeting other birders and explaining to hikers what we were doing. It was an opportunity to get birding tips from top birder Gil Eckrich.

Next year I hope we will have another opportunity for more members to participate in this fun and learning experience.

Get Ready! Moth Week is Coming Up!

- Rehanon Pampell, Zoe Rascoe

Central Texas Master Naturalists (CTMN) will be among the thousands of individuals and scores of organizations around the world participating in their third annual National Moth Week, July 23-31. National Moth Week engages Citizen Scientists to get outside on dark porches, city streets, backyards, fields and woods throughout the country and around the globe in order to observe and document one of nature's most diverse –and misunderstood – creatures. National Moth Week literally shines a much-needed spotlight on moths and their ecological significance. There are hundreds of thousands of moth species, many of them as beautiful as their colorful cousins – butterflies – and just as important to the ecosystem. Moths also can tell us a lot about our changing environment by their geographical and seasonal distribution. Participants can help map moth distribution and provide needed information on other life history aspects around the globe.



For the past two years, we (the Central Texas Master Naturalists) have had a rough time finding moths during National Moth Week. The last week of July apparently isn't the best time to look for moths in Central Texas. The best time seems to be around May; however, we look forward to being among the thousands of individuals and scores of organizations around the world participating in National Moth Week year after year.



This year we have partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife - Mother Neff State Park to set up in a more remote location. Our event will be taking place at the new 3,800-square-foot headquarters at Mother Neff State Park. The park entry fee will be waived for the evening; gates open at 7:45pm. Participants will have a chance to visit historical displays about the Civilian Conservation Corps contributions to the state parks system, plus review history about Mother Neff and see what else there is to explore at the park during the day. The park store will be open late and even if it rains there will be plenty of moth related activities inside. Outside, you will find a black light setup with the Central Texas Master Naturalists helping you identify what critters you are finding under the night sky.

In the past, we have uploaded data to DiscoverLife.org, but this year we are submitting data to the National Moth Week project via the smartphone app iNaturalist. iNaturalist is a social network launched in 2011 for naturalists to store, share, and map photographic species observations. You can post observations on iNaturalist along with images or audio recordings. Like the other platforms, they use social media to discuss and validate the identification of each observation. The platform also has built in GPS to assign coordinates

Continued on next page...

Moth Night...continued

to every observation. iNaturalist shares your findings with scientific repositories (databases) like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](http://www.gbif.org/) to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe and report. Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. For more information, please visit: <http://txmn.org/centraltexas/central-texas-moth-night-2016/>.

Since Mother Neff State Park is helping spread the word about Moth Night, we are expecting to have a larger crowd than usual (both moths AND humans.) We are also planning to have other activities in addition to the moth watch since

they seem to be so fickle. We need a team of Master Naturalists to help with Moth Night! Tasks include directing guests to appropriate locations, helping with activities, manning the blacklight stations and assisting with set up and tear down on July 30th. If you can help in any way, please let Rehanon Pampell know that you will be available. rpampell@brc.tamus.edu

Photos by Zoe Rascoe



Discover the night life @ Mother Neff State Park

Free event with no park entrance fee! Gate opens at 7:45 pm

Moth Night

Mother Neff State Park
1680 TX-236 Highway
Moody, TX 76557

30 July 2016
8:00pm - 10:00pm

National Moth Week is held worldwide celebrating moths. Everyone, everywhere can become a Citizen Scientist and contribute scientific data about moths.



<http://txmn.org/centraltexas/central-texas-moth-night-2016>

Walking the Prairie Walk

- Terrie Hahn

On April 30, Linda Mahaffey and I joined Lynn Fleming, Mary Ann Everett and more than a dozen others from NPSOT, MN's from other counties and various interested people from Central Texas to take a walk around Mickey and Bob Burleson's Native tall grass Prairie restoration. The Burleson's spent decades restoring this prairie remnant and it was so interesting to hear the stories of how this 500 acre tract of land went from farmland/scrub to native prairie. A lot of hard work and dedication from the Burleson's is how it happened! We were a bit early for some wildflowers to be blooming, but it was beautiful none the less, and this is outside Temple, right in our own backyard! Take a look at their online restoration guide available on NPAT's website: http://texasprairie.org/index.php/main/landowner_resources/the_new_southern_reconstruction_-_home_grown_prairies/

Below: Mickey (center) points out a favorite wildflower.



Class Notes

- Zoe Rascoe



Above: Shore birds in Central Texas...You Bet!



Left: Mary Steele was quick to volunteer for a close encounter with a Cow Bird; below: Somebody has to be the cow...Diana Hostettler; Sarah Dorn has clearly just spotted the Golden Cheeked Warbler during the Fort Hood Ornithology class.



Class Notes...continued



Above, clockwise: Found items at an old home site; Nicole Smith takes a close look at bumps on the grass for an identification tip; Dalton Merz demonstrates how W-A-T-E-R and livestock feeding rates are related; Cistern Archeology at Fort Hood.



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

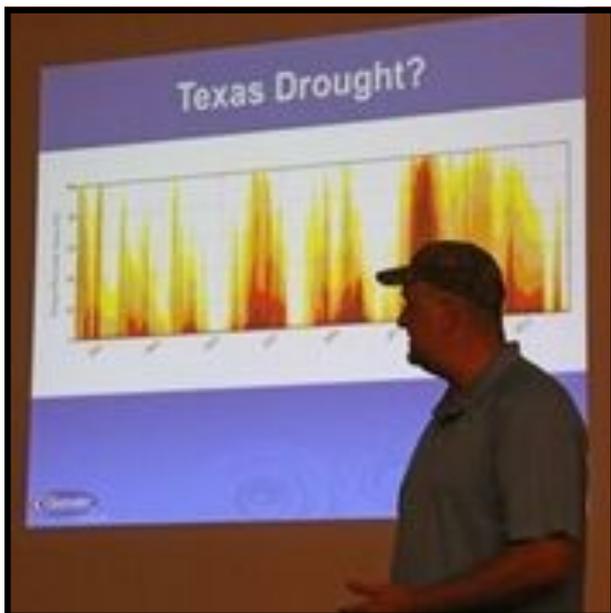
Congratulations!

- Zoe Rascoe



At the April General meeting, Todd Strait, Education Coordinator at Clearwater Underground Water Con... Texas Water Issues gives a talk.

President Lynn always brings a piece of nature to share - critter home in a dead tree



Zoe Rascoe receives a 2500 hour milestone dragonfly pin...Yikes! Jacki Bakker receives her 250 hour milestone pin; The Amazing Linda Mahaffey re-certifies.



Marilyn Whitworth and Andreas Wooten re-certify for 2016; Nicole Norelli certifies ; Bruce Polikoff, a new transfer member, certifies.



On the Horizon

- Sarah Byrd

(V/Training) 6/4/2016 - 8:30-2:00 pm 2016 Training Class @ Messer Ranch, Belton, TX -- for more information contact Mary Ann Everett / Zoe Rascoe (everett.maryann4@gmail.com / trascoe@hotmail.com).

(AT) 6/4/2016 - 8:00-4:00 pm Native Landscape Certification Workshop: Level 2 @ Georgetown Public Library -- for more information and registration click here.

6/5/2016 - 3:00 pm BOD Meeting at Extension Center. All are welcome.

(AT) 6/9/2016 - 6:30-8:30 pm The Genus Yucca - Taxonomy, Fun Facts, Ethnobotany @ Georgetown Public Library.

(V) 6/9/2016 - 8:30 am Miller Springs Workday @ Miller Springs Park Nature Center -- for more information contact Mary Ann Everett (everett.maryann4@gmail.com).

(AT) 6/10-12/2016 - 3:00 pm through 3:00 pm CTMN Camping Trip - Pedernales Falls @ Pedernales Falls State Park -- for more information and registration click here or contact Nicole Norelli (NNorelli@gmail.com).

(AT) 6/12/2016 6:00 pm CTMN General Meeting at Belton Church of Christ, 3003 N. Main St.

(V/Training) 6/14/2016 - 6:00-8:00 pm 2016 Training Class @ Harris Community Center -- for more information contact Mary Ann Everett / Zoe Rascoe (everett.maryann4@gmail.com / trascoe@hotmail.com).

(V) 6/15/2016 - 9:00-12:00 pm Mother Neff Workday @ Mother Neff State Park -- for more information contact Yvonne Eele (yeele@gmail.com).

(V) 6/18/2016 - Colorado Bend State Park Interactive/Interpretative Activity @ Colorado Bend State Park -- for more information contact Lynn Williams (lindawi@embarqmail.com).

(V/Training) 6/18/2016 - 8:30-1:30 pm 2016 Training Class @ Blackland Research Center -- for more information contact Mary Ann Everett / Zoe Rascoe (everett.maryann4@gmail.com / trascoe@hotmail.com).

(V) 6/20/2016 - 8:00-9:30 am Andy Wells Hike and Bike Clean-up @ Killeen Community Center -- for more information contact Gail Hughling (gailhughling@aol.com).

(V) 6/22/2016 - 10:00-12:00 am Water Camps: The Incredible Journey (Water Cycle) @ Church of the Deliverance, Killeen, TX -- for more information contact Todd Strait (254-933-0120).

(V) 6/22/2016 - 1:00-3:00 pm Water Camps: The Incredible Journey (Water Cycle) @ Church of the Deliverance, Killeen, TX -- for more information contact Todd Strait (254-933-0120).

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

(V) 6/25/2016 - Stream Team Sampling with Bruce! @ Temple Lake Park -- (limited space) to sign-up or for more information contact Bruce Polikoff (txmn@pobox.com).

On the Horizon

(AT) 6/25/2016 - TBD pm Basic Stream Team Training @ Harris Community Center -- for more information contact Sarah Byrd (sarah@byrd.pl).

(V) 7/14/2016 - 8:30 am Miller Springs Workday @ Miller Springs Park Nature Center -- for more information contact Mary Ann Everett (everett.maryann4@gmail.com).

(V) 7/16/2016 - Colorado Bend State Park Interactive/Interpretative Activity @ Colorado Bend State Park -- for more information contact Lynn Williams (lindawi@embarqmail.com).

(V) 7/20/2016 - 9:00-12:00 pm Mother Neff Workday @ Mother Neff State Park -- for more information contact Yvonne Eele (yeele@ymail.com).

(AT/V) 7/30/2016 8:00-10:00 pm Moth Night Mother Neff - for more information, contact Rehanon Pampell (rpampell@brc.tamus.edu)

June General Meeting Program:

- Zoe Rascoe

"Rangers and Wardens" - a new class on rules and regulations regarding natural resources required for Master Naturalist trainees. Since the class is new, current members who attend will receive Advanced Training credit. Rene Berkhoudt, a former federal land manager at the 2 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, will be our speaker.

Slime Mold Anyone?!

- Terrie Hahn

Has anyone else got some of this in their yard? Slime molds in the genus Fuligo are organisms that can appear bright yellow to orange, fading to brown and tan as they dry. It's commonly referred to as a slime mold-dog vomit fungus. It grows in wet conditions on top of mulch. Leave it alone-it doesn't hurt anything. If you want to remove it, be careful to gently lift into a bag to the garbage so more spores don't drop. Once it dries out, this type of thing will go away on its own. One photo shows it looking like saliva-I think it's starting to spread. More info:<http://organicgardening.about.com/od/diseases/a/Identifying-And-Controlling-Dog-Vomit-Fungus.htm>



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Texas-Chapter-Texas-Master-Naturalists-116648718373317/timeline/>

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 Writers and Photographers: Augustus Fleming, Richard McCarthy, Zoe Rascoe, Rehannon Pampell, Sarah Byrd, Jacki Bakker, Lynn Fleming, Kathy Kantu, 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

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter:

Holds member meetings the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at 6 p.m. at the Belton Church of Christ at 3003 N. Main. Location exceptions are in December and June.

PACE meetings are at the Church location at 6 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. **THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT ALL OF OUR MEETINGS.**

Programs Activities Committees Everything else

The Board of Directors meet the 1st Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 3 p.m. in the Board Room at the Agrilife Extension Center at 1605 Main in Belton.