



Inside This Issue	
President's Pen	2
Discovering Hairstreaks	3
Whooping Crane in Louisiana	4
Mother Earth News Fair	6
Concordia U. NatureFest	7
2017 Class	8
February Awards	10
Facebook Hits	11
Here and There	12
Thank You	14
On the Horizon	15

# Home and Garden Show

## 2017 Temple Area Builders Association Home & Garden Show Is In the Record Books!

- Zoe Rascoe

Thank you to the big crew of Master Naturalists for stepping up to man (and woman) the Chapter booth AND the Kids Zone activities at the 2017 Home and Garden Show. That represented 16 shifts over 3 days covering two different areas with 20 people. A special thanks to those who covered multiple shifts on multiple days! I also happen to know that many of you also worked the Mother Earth News Fair the previous weekend. That's an awful lot of face time with the public.



Top: Screech (aka Lynn Williams) shows off her camouflage. Right: Tina Atkins is a double fisted puppeteer at the Home and Garden Show.

Our goal is to inform the public about the mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program but we are really intent on recruiting for the spring

Continued on page 5...

Calendar at a Glance	
April 5, hours due.	
April 11, 6 p.m. General Meeting, Belton Church of Christ	
April 27, Burleson Prairie Walk	
See page 12 - 14 for more info	

*Chapter Motto*  
**Earth Day,  
Every Day**



# From the President's Pen

Spring has been a very busy time for our chapter; most significantly we began our orientation training program again this March for our incoming class of 2017 Texas Master Naturalist applicants. Our Training Team continues to do an outstanding job of interviewing new applicants and aligning them with suitable mentors. We once again have a consortium of talented instructors on board to teach our TMN course curriculum this year.

Our chapter began collating Discovery Trunks since our last newsletter, and they will be incorporated into



our training curriculum this year. The concept of Discovery Trunks was briefed by the North Texas Chapter at the annual Texas

Master Naturalist Conference at Lake Conroe last October. News of this briefing update was brought to the CTMN Board Meeting in January. We made inquiries to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to see if we could use a portion of our Community Outdoor Outreach Program grant to purchase Discovery Trunks for our chapter and they concurred.

So far to date we have collated four Discovery Trunks focusing on birds (ornithology), insects (entomology), mammals (mammology) and reptiles (herpetology). We were able to unveil our first two Discovery Trunks at the Mother Earth News Fair at the Belton Exposi-

tion Center in February, and the following weekend we had them

available again in the Kid Zone at the Temple Home and Garden Show



and made contact with over 100 children at the two combined events. I was familiar with the concept of Discovery Trunks from my tenure at the Grand-Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, where we used them to facilitate environmental education in paleontology and archeology, but they can be costly to collate. I am very grateful that now as a volunteer organization, we have funding from TPWD to promote environmental education through our own Discovery Trunk program here in Central Texas. We have since used the trunks again on several occasions in March, and I believe the use of the trunks will only increase in the future.



# Discovering Hairstreaks

- Kathy Cantu

When I started posting observations to i-naturalist, I began looking more closely for critters to photograph and that is when I discovered hairstreak butterflies. I already knew the Gray Hairstreak but soon I found my first blue, Ceraunus Blue.

Hairstreaks are classed with Gossamer-Winged (Family Lycaenidae.). Of about 5000 species worldwide, here in central Texas we might expect to find about twenty. A checklist is available from Austin Butterfly Forum.

Most perch with their wings folded. They are small and fly fast. Some are gray but could be purple, green and blue. They can be identified by their pattern of streaks and spots. Some have slender tails and eyespots, perhaps to fool predators. Individual seasons vary but are generally March to November.

Caterpillar food sources include box elder, poison ivy, yaupon and Ashe juniper. They seek nectar from many flowers from Agarita to white roadside asters.

For resources I use "Butterflies of Houston and southeast Texas" and Kaufman's "Field Guide to Butterflies of North America. "

Pictured from top: Ceraunus Blue, Dusky-blue Groundstreak, Great Purple Hairstreak and Juniper Hairstreak.



Photos  
by  
Kathy  
Cantu.

# The Whooping Crane in Louisiana

## - Marilyn Whitworth

At the Whooping Crane Festival in February of this year one speaker, Sara Zimorski, talked about Louisiana Whooping Crane Reintroduction efforts. It is extremely difficult to reintroduce any wild species back to the wild. She went back to the 1890s when there were “large numbers” of whooping cranes on wet prairies year-round and on coastal locations in the winter in Louisiana. By 1939 the numbers had dropped way down to only 13 north of White Lake. August 1940 a hurricane scattered the White Lake Whooping Cranes and only 6 returned. By 1947 there is only 1 Whooping Crane at White Lake. In March 1950, the lone White Lake Whooping Crane was captured and transported to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

In 1977 there was a proposal made to reestablish resident whooping cranes in Louisiana. In 1982 an amendment to the Endangered Species Act allowed for management of recovery efforts. There were three reintroduction efforts attempted. One migratory effort from Indiana to New Mexico from 1975 to 1989 and one non-migratory effort in Florida from 1993 to 2004. Both efforts failed and were discontinued.

In February 2011, a nonessential experimental population was established at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WLWCA). WLWCA provides temporary shelter for Whooping Cranes before releasing them into the wild. The eggs which make up the population of LA birds were raised at USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, MD and then flown to LA. LA received 102 birds in February 2011. There are two types of pens at WLWCA. The baby whooping cranes are raised 2-4 weeks in top netted pens. They are kept in open pens 6-12 weeks. Food is provided and they are costume raised to teach them how to behave like adult whooping cranes and to imprint on whooping cranes and not people. The birds were released to the wild in December 2011. Of

the 102 released only 60 survived. The highest mortality rate is in May. Ten of the birds were shot. There was no successful nesting or hatching of eggs recorded from 2011 to 2015. In April 2016, there was 1 nest built in the wild which had 2 baby whooping cranes hatch. They are still alive. It seems a turning point has finally been reached in the reintroduction efforts of the Whooping Crane to Louisiana.



## Home and Garden Show...continued

training class and we did indeed get a number of our new trainees from interactions at our booth at this event. We had a chance to do a live radio interview with a simultaneous live streaming video on the radio station's Facebook page. Yeah. We do social media.



TABA was very pleased with our Kids Zone activities. As were a whole bunch of kids! If you get a chance to say thank you to an area homebuilder, thank them for waiving the \$600 booth fee for non-profit organizations. Screech the Owl (secretly, Lynn Williams) is always a hit

and added "Bird Yoga" to her repertoire at this event. There was a video that went viral of some kind of mating dance demonstration. (Not really, but there was a video!) We also brought our new Bird Discovery Trunk that was full of all-things-birds for the kids to touch and see.

For the record book: there were 618 men, women and children with whom we had



more than eye contact at the booth and in the Kids Zone. At times it seemed like we were getting a dozen at a time in the booth! A big shout out to Andreas Wooten who knocked out a whole table full of bird houses for us to sell at our booth. That both brings in money for projects and slows some of the thousands of people walking by to stop and take a look in our booth and find out just what it is we do.

Left: Whooo doesn't want a hug!

Right: Zoe is interviewed for a radio spot and live video stream for Facebook.

Top right photo by Master Gardener, Pam Dragoo. All other photos by Zoe Rascoe.



# Working at the Mother Earth News Fair

- Gail Hughling

The Mother Earth News Fair returned to the Bell County Expo Center February 18-19. This is the second year the sustainable and self-sufficient event has been in Texas. Central Texas Master Naturalists have enjoyed anchoring a booth each year. Over 14,000 visitors from all over the US swarmed the center and halls. Three hundred exhibitors and 150 speakers made the event a huge success.



For 2017, our booth sported a huge bird wing span canvas created by Lynn Williams, and Discovery Trunks featuring birds and insects. Children and adults could measure their arm span against the wing spans of various birds. The Discovery Trunks were stocked with models of birds, insects, tracks, eggs, feathers, games and information.

Our booth was the go-to place for Texas Master Naturalist and Central Texas Master Naturalist information. More than three-fourths of our visitors were from out of state. Wade Matthews, lead wrangler, managed twenty volunteers as they answered questions and talked with guests for 2 complete days.

Mother Earth News Fair is the perfect venue for master naturalists. The Fair is all about using our natural resources competently. Plans are being made for us to participate in 2018.



Right: Wade plays bird calls on a device from the Bird Discovery Trunk and Richard teases the little ones with an owl in a stump puppet. Top: What size bird would you be?

Photos by Zoe Rascoe

# Concordia University NatureFest

- Zoe Rascoe

Concordia University in Northwest Austin has a new campus nestled in 140 acres of cedars and oaks snuggled up against 250 acres of natural area which is part of the federally-protected Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. A great outdoor location for a nature fest! This was the second year for Concordia to host NatureFest and Central Texas Master Naturalists were invited to have a booth. The University is participating in a pilot of a student version of a Master Naturalist chapter. Nearby Balcones Canyonlands Chapter Texas Master Naturalist sponsors the Concordia University Student Chapter. What a great way to inject youth and enthusiasm into the Master Naturalist program



and spread trained conservationists

throughout Texas and the U.S. after the students graduate. Congratulations to the Balcones Canyonlands Chapter for working with and mentoring the Concordia University Student Chapter and to Dr. Sam Whitehead for spearheading this effort at Concordia.



With experience at our own Nature Fest, we decided to take our new Bird Discovery Trunk, full of bird skull replicas, bird call devices, books, life-like feathers, posters, and puppets; we also took loupes which are fascinating to adults and children alike - you always know when they have the focal point located when you hear "Wow!"; we had our wingspan banner where both College Administrators in suits and little kiddos in shorts and t-shirts can measure their "wingspan" against those of Red Tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle and a Great White Pelican; Joe Dorn brought his educational beehive box that has photographs of the different parts and stages of a beehive; and most importantly we also took Screech - our lively Screech Owl who offered games and Angler Education activities to children. (Spoiler alert: Screech is actually Lynn Williams in an anatomically correct screech owl costume of her making.)

In addition to exhibitors such as CTMN (including Wizzie Brown, our favorite Entomologist!) other activities at the NatureFest included tours of the Nature Preserve, Bird Watching 101, Drone Photography, Beekeeping, Wilderness First Aid, Salamander Conservation and other tours and talks.

Thank you goes to Rene Berkhoudt, Mary Ann Everett, Sarah Dorn, Joe Dorn, Lynn Williams, Marian Riegel, Jerry Lewis and Zoe Rascoe for highlighting birds and bees (so to speak) at Concordia's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NatureFest!

Right: Sarah Dorn and Marian Riegel demonstrate bird calls from the Discovery Trunk; above: Screech teaches Kirsten to cast for his first time with Backyard Bass; top right: Screech and Sarah Dorn are ready for NatureFest customers of all ages



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

# 2017 Class



## Our Class Directory



Carol Rowald



Cassie Torti



Charles Sorensen



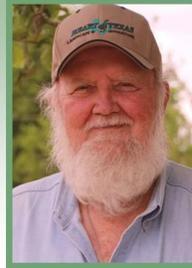
Christa Venette



Connie Kuehl



Denise Ponder



Doug Rowald



Kathleen Ramey



Krystal Trammell



Lois Reiter



May Foreman



Ronna Olivarez



Vanisse Higginbotham

# Meet the 2017 Trainees

## - Zoe Rascoe

*A big Texas welcome to the 2017 Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Trainees! Here is some of what we learned from them at Orientation.*

**Carol Rowald** is taking the class with her husband Doug Rowald. They live in East Bell County and are retired as owners of Heart of Texas Landscape & Irrigation Co. She likes to garden, quilt, and enjoys photography and has worked with scouts.

**Cassie Torti** moved here from CA with her husband who is getting a Masters in Education at Baylor. She has an Ecology degree and volunteers with RainForest Partnership.

**Charles Sorensen** is attending class with his wife Christa Venette. He recently retired as stadium manager for KISD and is interest in archeology and local native plants.

**Christa Venette** was in the inaugural 2010 class and is getting a refresher alongside her husband Charles. She enjoys cooking, gardening and hiking and is a retired bus driver. She and Charles live in Killeen.

**Connie Kuehl** lives in Belton and recently retired after 14 years as Killeen's first Director of Convention and Visitor's Bureau and had the same position in Temple prior to that.

**Denise Ponder** teaches science in Lampasas and is a member of the National Association of Biology Teachers, so she is excited to learn about the children's programs we do. She and her husband live in Gatesville.

**Doug Rowald** joins Carol in the class as a recent retiree as owner/CFO of Heart of Texas Landscape. He volunteers at the Seaton Brethren Church and enjoys historical sites such as forts. He is looking forward to CTMN helping fill his new-found time on his hands.

**Kathleen Ramey** lives in Salado and is Texas born and bred, but recently moved here from VA. She is a retired CFO, loves the outdoors and is training her pooch as a therapy dog.

**Krystal Trammell** lives in Kempner, is a web designer, business consultant and childbirth professional (and has 5 kiddos herself). She has degrees in Commercial Art and Sociology. She and her husband are implementing permaculture design on their land.

**Lois Reiter** lives on a large ranch near Lake Belton on Owl Creek. We've invited ourselves there! She has taught music for many years and is an instructor at the Academie Musique located at Temple College.

**May Foreman** has a degree in Anthropology and is a former SMU Law School Library Acquisitions Manager who now lives in Temple. She enjoys the outdoors and is the mom of a former CTMN member!

**Ronna Olivarez** has an IT background (yay!) and lives in Salado with her husband, chickens, visiting bobcats and other local critters. She spent her childhood outdoors and is looking forward to outdoor time.

**Vanisse Higginbotham** lives in Nolanville and is the Child Care/Food Care Director at the Harker Heights Food Center. She enjoys camping and hiking and like us all, loves being outdoors.

# February Awards

## - Zoe Rascoe

John Atkins and Tina Atkins are Certified Master Naturalists. Rehanon Pampell along with Seda received her 500 Hour Milestone pin and Recertification pin.

Louann Hight and Kathy Cantu received their Recertification pins.



# Facebook Hits

- Zoe Rascoe

Facebook post on the new Training Class gets 3100 views. 522 people following our page!

Central Texas Chapter Texas Master Naturalists

Page Messages 1 Notifications 21 Insights Publishing Tools Settings Help

Like Following Share

It's Time! If you've been thinking about becoming a Texas Master Naturalist - here's your chance! The 2017 Class Registration is now open. Sure - of course you have questions. Just give one of us a call. You can also come by our booth at the Mother Earth News Fair Feb 18th or the Home and Garden Show the following weekend.

**Become a TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST**

**2017 Training Class**

**March 21st - June 6th**

**Tuesdays: Classroom & Field Trips**

Applications Now Available

For information on the Central Texas Master Naturalist Program contact:

**Zoe Rascoe 254-913-1013**  
**Mary Ann Everett 254-721-0931**  
**Lynn Fleming 254-760-4739**

[txmn.org/centraltexas](https://www.facebook.com/txmn.org/centraltexas)

3,067 people reached [Boost Post](#)

Central Texas Master Naturalists Presents: A day packed full of a multitude of activities for our members, friends, and volunteers! Central Texas is the heart of the state. Plan, grab your gear, and join your friends for a day of fun. [centraltexasnats.org](https://www.facebook.com/centraltexasnats) 1-800-955-5555

2015 Central Texas Master Naturalist NATURE FEST

Visitor Posts

**Texas Bluebird Society** [www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org)  
March 22 at 3:56pm  
Usually MN volunteers flock to set up the Bluebird Season Kickoff..... See More  
Like Comment Message

**Cindy Allen**  
March 16 at 6:17am  
Can anyone help me identify this blooming tree/shrub we saw yesterday at Chalk Ridge Falls Park?  
1 Comment  
Like Comment Message

**Allison Copony**  
January 24 at 2:56pm  
<https://www.gofundme.com/TMNlicenseplate>  
Like Comment Message

People Also Like

# Here and There



Linda Mahaffey's photos of a swallowtail flitting around a volunteer blooming tree; spider wort after a rain; redbud and yellow Lady Banks; Macho Mocha Manfreda; and a Bewick's Wren serenading me at my door.



# Here and There



Kathy Cantu's photos of a Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly; Roadrunner in my yard and an Anhinga seen on Witter Lane in Temple.



Terrie Hahn's photos of a White lined Sphinx moth and some Carpenter bees on Antelope Milkweed in our yard.



# THANK YOU

*By Marilyn Whitworth*

*Now comes the time to bid au revoir to Terrie*

*Amazing lady who edits our Tracker Newsletter*

*Terrie will be greatly missed by all the Central Texas Master Naturalists*

*Under her guidance wonderful articles with beautiful pictures were presented*

*Reluctantly we say goodbye, not wanting her to go*

*Even though we know she's ready for a new adventure*

*Marilyn was so sweet to write this for me. I'll be leaving as Editor of The Tracker after over 6 years. I've enjoyed my time working with such terrific people who have given me an opportunity to do a job that I've loved. But it's time to pass on the torch to someone else. I may still be working on the June Tracker. We'll see if someone steps up to take over before that time. It's been good being part of a fun-filled organization! - Terrie Hahn*



# On the Horizon

## APRIL

- Sat 1 (V) CTMN & UMHB Work Day at Miller Springs Nature Center. Come out and work alongside UMHB students to support the Outdoor Service Project of our TPWD CoOp grant doing trail maintenance on Bee Suck Hollow and other trails at the nature center. Contact Mary Ann: everett.maryann4@gmail.com
- Tue 4 CTMN Training class#2. Fort Hood. 8am - 2:30pm. Contact Zoe: trascoe@hot.rr.com
- Wed 5 Enter your hours into VMS
- Wed 5 (V) Career Day at Tarver Elementary, Belton. School would welcome guest speakers at their annual event 8am - 12noon. Contact School Counselor Ilse: ilse.brindley@bisd.net
- Fri 7 (V) Career Day at Cavazos Elementary, Nolanville 8am - 2pm.
- Sat 8 Gault Site Tour. A unique opportunity to examine Clovis culture with the Gault School of Archaeological Resources. Trip will leave from the Bell County Museum. \$10 per person, children under 10 free. Contact Rene: rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com
- Mon 10 (V) Austin Insect Expo. Volunteers needed before, during & after. Set-up Sunday April 9 @4pm. Event Monday April 10 9am - 1pm with break-down immediately following. Wyndham Garden Hotel 3401 S I-35 Frontage Rd, Austin, TX 78741. 900 students registered, please join us for all the fun and madness. Contact Mary Ann: everett.maryann4@gmail.com
- Tue 11 (AT) General Membership Meeting & Advanced Training 6pm, Belton Church of Christ. Advanced Training features Kelly Simon TPWD speaking on the subject of "Teaming with Wildlife HR 5650. Contact Rene: rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com
- Thu 13 (V) Miller Springs Workday 8am - 12pm. Contact Mary Ann: everett.maryann4@gmail.com
- Tue 18 (AT) Webinar 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Ecological Significance of Natural Flow Regimes. Free. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4883365827052368898>
- Tue 18 CTMN 2017 Training Class #3 Merz Ranch, Salado. 8:30am - 2:00pm. Contact Zoe: trascoe@hot.rr.com
- Tue 18 (V) Thomas Arnold Elementary, Salado. Nature activities for Pre-K through 2nd. Times: 8am - 10am & 1pm - 3pm. Volunteer for any or all times. Contact Lyna: lyna.pitts@gmail.com or Miriam: mejcom@gmail.com
- Wed 19 (V) Mother Neff Workday 10am - 12pm
- Sat 22 CTMN Earth Day BBQ @ Belton Lake Overlook Pavilion. You won't want to miss this fun day! Celebrate Earth Day with students from Belton ISD & UMHM and CTMN alumni. BBQ open to all family members and children. Also need volunteers for BBQ & to staff our Discovery Trunk exhibits. Contact Rene: rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com
- Tue 25 CTMN 2017 Training Class #4. Harris Community Center, Kinchon Room. 8:30am - 3pm. Contact Zoe: trascoe@hot.rr.com
- Thu 27 (V) Bell County Museum Workday Contact Lynn: lynn.fleming99@gmail.com
- Thu 27 Spring Prairie Walk -Burlson Prairie, Temple. 9am - 12noon. Join us on an exploration of a Blackland Prairie site. More details or to RSVP contact Lynn: lynn.fleming99@gmail.com
- Thu 27 Texas AgriLife Safety Day for 6th grade students. Volunteers needed, contact Rene: rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com

## MAY

- Tue 2 CTMN Board Meeting DATE CHANGED TO 5/9
- Tue 2 CTMN 2017 Training Class #5. Blackland Research Center. 9am - 3pm. Contact Zoe: trascoe@hot.rr.com

Continued on next page...

## On the Horizon...continued

- Thu 4 (V) STEAM\* Science Open House, Venable Village Elementary, Killeen 4:30pm - 6:30pm. Bird Activities for 350 kids (Pre-K through 5th) and their parents. Screech the Owl (Lynn Williams) will be there. We'll have Bird Yoga, "What's Your Wingspan?", the Migratory Game, the bird discovery trunk and other activities. STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math\*. Volunteer opportunity, contact Zoe: [trascocoe@hotmail.com](mailto:trascocoe@hotmail.com)
- Fri 5 Enter your hours into VMS
- Tue 9 CTMN Board Meeting 3pm - 5pm
- Tue 9 CTMN PACE Meeting & CTMN 2017 Training Class #6. Belton Church of Christ. 6pm - 8pm
- Thu 11 (V) Miller Springs Workday. Contact Mary Ann: [everett.maryann4@gmail.com](mailto:everett.maryann4@gmail.com)
- Tue 16 CTMN 2017 Training Class #7. AgriLife Extension Meeting Room. 8:30am - 3pm. Contact Zoe: [trascocoe@hotmail.com](mailto:trascocoe@hotmail.com)
- Wed 17 (V) Mother Neff Workday 10am - 12pm
- Sat 20 (V) TPWD CoOp Project Day @ Miller Springs Nature Center
- Tue 23 CTMN 2017 Training Class #8 AgriLife Extension & Miller Springs Nature Center. 8:30am - 3pm. Contact Zoe: [trascocoe@hotmail.com](mailto:trascocoe@hotmail.com)

## JUNE

Tues June 6 CTMN 2017 Training Class #9. Blackland Research Center. 8:30am - 2pm. Contact Zoe: [trascocoe@hotmail.com](mailto:trascocoe@hotmail.com)

Sat June 24 10 a.m.- noon at Mother Neff

Mother Neff State Park in partnership with Techno M.A.S.H. bots, a local home-school group, is presenting a Bee House workshop on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM-12 PM that will count towards Advanced Training (AT)..

Participants will learn about native bees and what they need for a healthy environment. Participants will also be able to take home a bee house to place in their yard. We all know the vital importance of pollinators.

Pollination is one of the most fundamental processes sustaining agricultural production and natural ecosystems. These houses are geared towards mason bees. 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.

Please RSVP to Rehanon Pampell at [RPampell@brc.tamus.edu](mailto:RPampell@brc.tamus.edu) if you plan to attend. This event will be accepted as advanced training. As of right now, the event is free, but we need to know if we have enough supplies so please RSVP!

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!**

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

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

# Spring Prairie Walk Burleson Prairie

Join us on an exploration of a Blackland Prairie site replicated by Mickey & Bob Burleson.

Date: Thursday, April 27th 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

RSVP: [lynn.fleming99@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.fleming99@gmail.com)

Bring a sack lunch and chair if you wish to picnic on the prairie.

Please wear closed toe shoes, bring hat, water, sunscreen, field guides, usual outdoor gear.

## Welcome to the Prairie!

From I-35 North: Take Exit 304 (Buc-ee's and Loop 363). Cross over Loop 363 at the light and continue to Berger Road on the frontage road. At stop sign take right over railroad tracks. Follow Berger Road approximately 4.6 miles. You will make several 90 degree turns, the pavement will end and switch to gravel.

Mickey's address is 5101 Berger Rd Temple, but go past her driveway about 0.3 mile. On the left there is a metal gate (set back from the road) and gravel drive, turn in there. Park along the road and we will meet at a group of trees.

## Gault Field Trip

Greetings; We are being afforded an opportunity to participate in a tour of the famous Gault site located just outside of Florence, Texas this Spring. Lynn Fleming has arranged our CTMN chapter tour through the Bell County Museum. The tour is scheduled for **Saturday, April 8th**.

The Gault School of Archaeological Resources will be hosting the tour. The Gault site continues to draw a great deal of both national and international archaeological interest because of the wealth of information on Clovis culture which flourished in the area 13,000 years ago. The tour is generally about 3 hours long and will traverse a walking route of about a mile and a half. Topics will include an overview of the geology and cultural history of the region with a focus on Clovis culture, important finds from the Gault site and a tour of the archaeological excavation. At the end of the tour there is a small picnic area.

The tour will cost \$10 per person, but children 10 years of age and under are free. We will be meeting at the Bell County Museum with payment due on the day of the tour. Travel to the site will be by personal vehicle. There is requirement for all participants to sign a waiver for liability issues.

We are hoping to have at least 15 people participate. If you are considering attending please let me know.

- Rene

## *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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**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](mailto: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.