

WOODDUCK WHISTLER



May 2011

April Meeting April 28 @ 6:45 pm Texas Nature Center Tyler, Texas

David Wolf will present The World of Butterflies. David has been an avid birder since childhood days in San Antonio. He received his Bachelor of Science from SFASU in Nacogdoches, and has made a career of leading Birding Tours with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours since 1977. He recently discovered new "lifer" possibilities in butterflies, and has quickly become immersed in photographing and identifying these eye-catching insects. He has a wonderful collection of Texas butterfly photographs he has taken to show us. Come one, come all, you don't have to be a Master Naturalist to enjoy our program.

May 7 Chapter Activity Day

Presentation time is 9 a.m. to noon at the Nature Center; Guest speaker will be Tim Krizan, "Beneficial Biodiversity Thinning";

This month's Chapter project will be at the Mineola Preserve (pending). Assistance will be needed to install several markers/signs labeling trees found at this location, a sign up sheet will be available for anyone interested in getting from one volunteer hour, to several.

For additional information contact tmn.editor@gmail.com

Awesome news from the president! Spring is here and in some places very spectacular. I hope everyone got to see some of the beautiful plums in bloom. The redbuds, red maple, and dogwoods were just as beautiful. The frogs and toads have been singing up a storm, despite the lack of rain. The Spring Peepers, Green Treefrogs, and Woodhouse's Toads are just some of the night sounds down at the pond. The night sounds aren't just for the amphibians; the Great Horned Owls are having a hoot over the last month or so. Driving along FM 3506 this morning, I saw a Coyote dragging a small deer hit by a vehicle the day before into the woods along the fence line. Now that pretty cool if you ask me. Now what else could a master naturalist want to see? Well it's time to go back outdoors and keep my eyes and ears open. You never know what you will see or hear!

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Points of Interest

These issues are a work in progress. Suggestions are appreciated. The Editor, may ask for an article of interest. Or if she can profile you, so others may know you, and know what drew you to becoming a Texas Master Naturalist. All work may be edited, and YOU get credit for volunteering!

Thanks!



East Texas Plant Materials Center Field Day

The USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) East Texas Plant Materials Center will be hosting a Field Day and luncheon on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 from 9:00 am to 3:30pm. The East Texas Plant Materials Center is located about 10 miles southwest of Nacogdoches, Texas at the SFA Experimental Forest (6598 FM 2782). Events at the Field Day will include tours of the Plant Materials Center's evaluation and seed production fields and facilities, along with information sessions about plant and seed collecting, wildlife, and pollinators. Please register for the Field Day before May 10th by contacting Nancy Posvar (NRCS/Temple, TX) at 254-742-9880 or Nancy.Posvar@tx.usda.gov.

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



Incredible Advance Training Opportunity

The Wildlife Society - Urban Wildlife Working Group and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are pleased to host the 2011 International Urban Wildlife Planning and Management Conference at the Hyatt Regency on Ladybird Lake in Austin, Texas.

The theme of this Conference focuses on the challenges faced by practitioners, planners, architects, designers and researchers when attempting to anticipate the consequences for wildlife as they plan and develop the ecology of urban environments.

Interact with us while we examine urban ecosystems, challenges of urban wildlife management, planning for the inclusion/exclusion of urban wildlife, the linkages of open space, urban forestry, research needs, and New Urbanism concepts.

All this and more awaits you so mark your calendars today!

<http://urbanwildlife2011.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

May 22-25, 2011

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NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN

Now is the perfect time to be planning your garden areas if you are in the mood for a change. If your gardens are just perfect, skip this article and re-read President Stilley's editorial. I am studying Xeriscapes (pronounced zera-scape) to see if this concept might be something that would work on my hill.

Now, this is not ZEROSCAPE. Zeroscape is defined by Shades of Green Garden Center in Frisco, Texas as a landscape that is actually turf from the patio to the fence. It consists of zero except for some grass, adds zero value to the property and usually returns about zero enjoyment. There is zero wildlife except for fire ants and maybe a rabbit or two. This landscape relieves zero stress and may cause depression. This landscape takes time, money and effort to mow and water, yet returns zero.

Back to Xeriscapes - these are landscapes that require little or no supplemental watering and are becoming popular in areas of the country where drought and water shortages are common. Did you know that in urban areas of Texas, 25% of the water supply is used for landscape and garden watering (mostly watering high demanding landscapes or inefficient watering practices)? Xeriscape landscapes need not be cactus and rock gardens. This type of landscape can be used anywhere to create a beautiful, lush garden and yard that conserves water and protects the environment while saving time, effort, and money.

As with any flowerbed, garden or landscape project you should draw a plan of the current layout of the area. Be as detailed as possible such as including any trees and bushes that already exist and if you have a sprinkler system remember the existing spigots and electrical outlets. Note hours of sunlight that different areas of the landscape receive.

Next, decide how to use different areas of your yard. Ask yourself if there are any existing focal points that need to be included. If you have a beautiful view you'd like to enhance, sketch it in. If you have nosy neighbors or barking dogs, note those items as well.

Xeriscaping doesn't mean you have to get rid of all grass— just consider areas that might need turf such as where the grandchildren or dogs play. Avoid impractical turf use, such as long, narrow areas. Some of these areas may be better suited for new walkways, decks, or patios. Steep hills, which are a pain to mow, are better suited for ground covers, low-water perennials or mulch.

Soil testing is a good idea. Yeah, I know we have sugar sand here but some of us have clay. It is nice to know what amendments are needed to create a healthy growing medium for all the high dollar plants that you will be putting in. Try to choose low water plants and plants that are adapted to our area. There are so many low water choices that you can choose by color, fragrance, texture, or purpose such as a butterfly garden or Biblical garden.

Now here is another new word for the day - "hydrozone". Hydrozoning means, breaking your yard into groups of plants with different water requirements. (cont'd)



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- "Oasis zones" require the highest water usage and will generally be the areas where you spend the most time because they're cooler.
- "Transition zones" should be near oasis zones to take advantage of water runoff.
- "Low water use zones" should require little or no supplemental water.

After you execute your plan, all that's left is to keep your garden growing and beautiful. Your plantings will determine how much maintenance your garden requires. All gardens will need some regular upkeep – pruning, weeding, pest management, and lawn mowing. Don't forget mulches– they reduce evaporation, soil temperature, and erosion while limiting weed growth.

Adjust your watering to avoid evaporation and conserve as much as possible. Different hydrazones should be watered independently; water close to the ground in the morning to avoid evaporation.

Lastly, I found these words of garden wisdom in a recent garden publication.

1. Be realistic about your time, labor and budget.
2. Take stock of your household's requirements and activities, and keep these in mind.
3. Don't feel you have to accomplish everything at once.
4. Keep it simple.
5. Don't sweat the small stuff. Nature forgives.
6. Take the time to enjoy what you have accomplished.

Thanks again to Ann Reynolds for submission

“Famous Trees of Texas”, published by the Texas Forest Service in 1984.

The Hubbard Ginkgo located near the southeast corner of the city hall lawn in Tyler, Texas

“On the lawn of the city hall in Tyler stands this immense Ginkgo biloba, which was brought from Japan by Ambassador Richard Bennett Hubbard. It was planted in Tyler in 1889. The Ginkgo is a living fossil – the only member of the Ginkgoaceae family of plants, which otherwise became extinct in early geological times. The tree, which is considered sacred in Japan, was introduced from China by Buddhist priests and was planted around their temples. The beautiful Hubbard Ginkgo is a male tree and produces no fruit. It is about 80 feet tall and, except for a large scar on one side, caused by a strike of lightning years ago, appears to be in good health.

Hubbard brought two of these seedling trees to Texas in 1889. He planted one on the lawn of the Governor's mansion in Austin and gave the other to an intimate friend, Colonel John H. Brown of Tyler, who planted it in the front yard of his home. The Brown property was later acquired by the city of Tyler as the location for its city hall.”

Thanks to Mike Price for Submission:

This and That

CHAPTER T-SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE

Chapter T-shirts are now available for the 2010 class members at no charge. Button-down shirts are also available in some sizes at Chapter expense. There are also T-shirts available for other members and they can be purchased at the next meeting!!!

**EAST TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
P.O. BOX 131184
TYLER, TEXAS 75713**

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS TO TEXAS NATURE CENTER:
OFF LOOP 323 ON STATE HWY 248 (OR IT'S CALLED
UNIVERSITY BLVD). RIGHT ON FM 848 (BASCOM
ROAD) ON THE RIGHT.....**

I encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, quotes, (with permission web links, and other forms of submission with written consent). To :
TMN.EDITOR@GMAIL.COM
Deadline is 15th of every month!!

*HEY WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!
East Texas Master Naturalist*



We're on the WEB!!
Www.Woodduck.org
Www: Txmn.org/etwd



Our Officers, Committee Chairs, & Meeting Dates

The East Texas Chapter of Master Naturalists meetings are on the
LAST Thursday of every month @ 6:45 pm. Texas Nature Center

Neal Stilley - President	Clyde McKinney – Vice President
Carol Wilcox - Secretary	Mike Price - Treasurer
Cindy McCullough - Database Mgr	- Membership
Tappa Burt - Curriculum Chair	Laura Wilson - Newsletter & Web-Mistress

Our Advisors:

Irene Hamel & Kevin Herriman



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