

WOODDUCK WHISTLER



Volume 7 Issue 11
November 2011

Greetings folks,

I hope that some of you have gotten some rain here in the past few days, but there are still folks who are without rain. The drought has still got its grip on the state. Many of our lakes are down with record low levels. Lets take Lake Palestine for example. The upper portions of the lake are so low that in some places the old highway bridges can be seen that haven't been visible for twenty years. There are many other lakes across the state that are in similar condition. This situation has had an adverse effect on the wildlife and plant life.

Speaking of plant life, boy, has the heat and the dryness taken a toll on shrubs and trees around here and many other places. Depending on where you go in the state, you'll find different levels of drought. Lack of water for the mast (acorn or nut) crop has been severely damaging to this year's harvest and maybe next year's as well. The acorn trees in our yard range from Live Oaks, Bur Oaks, Water Oaks, and Red Oaks. The Live Oaks and Water Oaks have produced exceptionally small acorns this year. While the Bur Oaks and Red Oaks are producing, they are smaller in yield and size.

The Yaupon Holly looks like it will have smaller fruits and some, none at all. These depleted food resources will have an adverse effect on wildlife for sure. Water for wild life is critically low in several regions of the state as well.

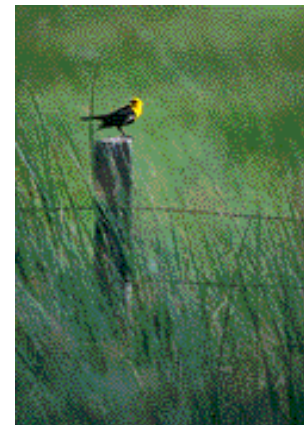
As a master naturalist I feel there is something I can do to help. One thing which can be done, is to educate folks about being better stewards. One of a steward's responsibilities is to do something, however small, but just do something to help take care of the world we live in. I'm doing my share the

best I can and wish I could do more at times. I know many others who are doing the best they can and together we will make a difference.

Neal

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HEY WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! LIKE!!!!!!



THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST LISTSERV

The Texas Master Naturalist Listserv is an electronic mailing list for Texas Master Naturalists that provides access to information about Master Naturalist programs and activities throughout Texas. The Listserv is provided as a service to TMN program members and supporters. It is owned by the Texas Master Naturalist program and is sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The Texas Master Naturalist Listserv is monitored to ensure appropriate program content and minimal spam. The Listserv is one of the most important resources for communication and sharing of information in the Texas Master Naturalist program and currently serves over 800 members. All Master Naturalists are encouraged to sign on and contribute to the Listserv.

To join the TMN Listserv mailing list, send an email to listserv@tamu.edu. No "Subject" is required. There is no need to include your email address in your message; the Listserv recognizes and uses the address from your email. Subscribers may also enroll by sending a message to listserv@tamu.edu with a simple "subscribe tmn" in the body of the message. Persons signing on to the list will receive a response asking them to confirm the request and giving them both a web and email option for confirming that subscription. Once you sign on you may select how you wish to receive news and information from the program, either as it goes out (message by message) or in what is called "digest" format, a collection of recent messages sent in one message to your in-box. The TMN listserv averages about one or two messages a week but sometimes, such as during the time leading up to the annual meeting and registration, notices are more frequent.

One word of caution for posting messages to the listserv: For security reasons, the Listserv will not support attachments to a message. If you have information that you would like to send out over the Listserv, please send it in the text or body of your message with a web address/link to the additional information.

This information is based on messages received from Michelle Haggerty, August 30, 2011, and the TMN Listserv, May 18, 2011.

Helen Mar Parkin
ETCMN Membership Manager



Save a Snag for Wildlife

Dead trees, or snags, are valuable to a wide variety of wildlife. Many people assume snags are of no value and routinely cut them down. In some places, this practice has caused cavity-nesting bird and mammal populations to decline. Nest boxes are not suitable replacements for dead trees. Here's why:

Snags provide homes for woodpeckers. Woodpeckers use snags for drumming, nesting, roosting, and feeding. Woodpeckers hammer their bills to make a loud drumming sound; this is their courtship and territorial "song." Snags provide ideal feeding sites for woodpeckers as many insects live and reproduce in decaying wood.

Though woodpeckers have powerful bills and neck muscles, they are only able to excavate nests in trees with soft decaying centers. Thus, dead or dying trees are preferred excavation sites.

Snags with old woodpecker holes provide homes for swallows, chickadees, nuthatches, and other cavity-nesting birds.

Snags provide ideal hunting perches for Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Bald Eagles, Crested Caracaras, Great-horned Owls, and other raptors. Snags provide "songposts" to a wide variety of birds. Many use songposts sticking above other vegetation to sing and to perch on when looking out for predators and/or other birds.

Snags provide "hawking" perches for flycatchers and resting perches for swallows.

Large natural cavities often provide homes for a variety of mammals. When left to decay and fall over naturally, large hollow snags may provide den sites for larger animals.

To help provide homes for this wide variety of animals, leave dead trees standing whenever possible.

Written by: Susan E. Quinlan

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**Our Program for November 5, 2011 will be
Dr. Jeff Kopachena
Associate Professor and Head of Biology
at Texas A & M University
9am-noon Tyler Nature Center**

Possibly outline could be:

- evolutionary origins**
- avian classification (Avian Orders)**
 - avian anatomy and physiology**
 - feathers and flight**
- respiration, circulation, digestion, and metabolism**
 - avian behavior and communication**
- avian migration, territorial and social behavior**
 - avian reproduction and development**
 - population dynamics and conservation**

Come join us the class fee is \$10 per person, and if your goal is to join the Master Naturalist program, this will be applied to your class March 3, 2012.

click here

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**Please plan on attending this informative 3 of 5 Seminars we are offering
before our Classes begin March 3, 2012**

MINUTES

Here are the minutes for the Board Meeting held on Saturday, October 1, 2011.

The board meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM.

Neal Stilley, Laura Wilson, Cindi McCullough, Helen Mar Parkin, Janet Cook, Tappa Burt and Mike Price were present.

Revisions made to the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) during the past year were discussed. After some initial discussion, it was decided to have each person responsible for their section of the handbook comment on any additional changes that needed to be made. It was also discussed that the handbook is a living document and future changes to it are easily made. No additional changes to the COH were proposed. Mike Price made a motion to accept the COH as submitted. Neal Stilley seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed. Appreciation was expressed to the people who worked on the review and revisions to the handbook.

The Drought Seminar to be held at the Nature Center Saturday, October 15 was discussed. Nathan Garner told Tappa it was okay for us to set up and display our information flyers.

We discussed the next several meetings and seminars to be held. They are as follows:

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2011. No board meeting before the monthly meeting. Neal Stilley to contact Clyde McKinney about a speaker.

Training Seminar: Saturday, October 29, 2011. Need to finalize the speaker for the 3 hour AT training.

Chapter Activity Day: Saturday, November 5, 2011. Morning AT session will be on birds. Afternoon session will be wildscape clean-up around the Nature Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Any corrections or additions, let me know.

Mike

**EAST TEXAS CHAPTER MASTER NATURALISTS
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).

TMN.EDITOR@GMAIL.COM
Deadline is 15th of every month!!

HEY WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!

** East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists*



We're on the WEB!!

<http://txmn.org/etwd/>



Our Officers, Committee Chairs, & Meeting Dates

The East Texas Chapter of Master Naturalists meetings are on the
4th Thursday of every month @ 6:45 pm. Texas Nature Center

Neal Stilley - President

Clyde McKinney – Vice President

Carol Wilcox - Secretary

Mike Price - Treasurer

Cindi McCullough - Database Mgr

Helen Mar Parkin - Membership Mgr.

Curriculum Chair Laura Wilson - Newsletter & Web-Mistress

Our Advisors:

Kevin Herriman

