

WOODDUCK WHISTLER

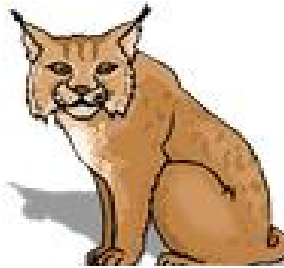


Volume 7 Issue 10
October 2011

No Presidents' message this month.

East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists News

Our program for our regular meeting is September 22, 2011 6:30pm Our guest will be Valerie Marler on "Urban Bobcats & Wildlife". At the time of this writing Valerie was going to seek permission from the City of Tyler to allow a bobcat in the city limits. Please plan on attending!



Special Points of Interest

What's happening	1
App for Scholarship	2-4
Volunteer Opportunities	5
Revised Mig Schedule	6
Article on Beverly Grage	7
Web/Officers./Address	8

We are also pleased to let add that our Seminars have started, please attend our second in a series of six. These informative and diverse topics, will be covered in our Spring Classes .

The seminar is October 1, 2011 from 9-noon with Alan Smith Entomologist with the Texas Forest Service Longview, Texas .

In the past Mr. Smith has brought many specimens for us to view & examine. Cost of this seminar is \$10, and can go towards your tuition for the Classes in the Spring. Add it to your calendar!!!

See you there!!!

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





A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Attention all



With



ETCMN Members

the



announcement of the MN State meeting and

agenda, it is time for those interested in attending the meeting, and in receiving our chapter scholarship for

financial assistance, to take a moment to read the

following information regarding the scholarship, and if



interested, application submit it to



fill in the and one of



our chapter officers.



**East Texas Chapter Master Naturalist
State Meeting Scholarship**

The purpose of the East Texas Chapter Master Naturalist scholarship program is to provide financial assistance and recognition to members who are interested in attending the annual State Master Naturalist meeting so that they may learn more about the State Program and other Master Naturalist chapters and may improve the ETCMN with knowledge gained at the meeting.

The goal of the ETCMN scholarship program is to subsidize the State scholarship program if funds are available. The scholarship will be paid to the selected member upon completion of all requirements.

Qualifications and requirements of the ETCMN Scholarship

- The applicant must be a member in good standing (either Certified or Associate Member) and must have paid dues, completed at least 60 hours of class work, and be taking an active current role in the chapter.
- The applicant must submit a completed application (Appendix V) by the deadline, which shall be one month after the State publishes the date for the current year State meeting.
- The recipient agrees to the following:
 -
 - 1. The recipient must present to the Executive Committee an agenda of sessions, seminars, or roundtable discussions to be attended based on the State meeting schedule. The agenda must include a Friday evening seminar or roundtable discussion if the applicant is arriving at the meeting on Friday; two half-day sessions or one full-day session on Saturday, as well as an evening roundtable discussion; the presentation of the State guest speaker on Sunday, the presentation of awards and prizes, and any other sessions attended that day. This agenda will be approved by the Executive Committee and at least one advisor.
 - 2. Upon returning to East Texas, the scholarship recipient must prepare a presentation discussing his or her experiences at the State meeting and the information gained. This presentation should include an overview of each session attended. The report may be presented at a monthly chapter meeting and will be published in the ETCMN newsletter and on the chapter website.

Advanced Training hours apply for training sessions and roundtable discussions attended. The session leader/trainer for each session must initial the State agenda for that session.

Volunteer hours do not apply unless the recipient has signed up for volunteer work with the State Coordinator. Volunteer hours shall be determined based on the ETCMN Chapter Operating Handbook.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
AND AGREEMENT**

Applicants Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone Number(s) (H) _____ (C) _____

Describe your motivation for submitting the application for the scholarship and why you qualify:

I, _____, agree to the terms and requirements of the East Texas Chapter Master Naturalist Scholarship Agreement as stated in the Chapter Operating Handbook.

_____. I have read and understand the terms as stated in the Chapter Operating Handbook.

(initial)

Signed _____ Date _____

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Three interesting opportunities have been approved recently for Volunteer Service Hours. By the time you read this, they will be posted on the ETCMN website <http://txmn.org/etwd> under Member Resources.

Sign Installation and Assistance with Trail Development at the American Legion in Lindale

American Legion Post-15 in Lindale has asked the East Texas Master Naturalists to help develop and maintain their hiking trails. The goal is well-marked, well-defined, and well-groomed trails. The Legion needs assistance with identification of trees and native and invasive plants, installation of interpretive signs, placement of location markers and benches, and development of trail maps. The project will start this fall and will be ongoing; the Legion has agreed to a ten-year partnership with our chapter.

The project leader is Helen Mar Parkin, who may be reached at hmparkin@gmail.com or 903-343-4991.

Project Feeder Watch

Operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada, "Project Feeder Watch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America." For two days every week, participants count the birds they see from November through early April and submit their tallies to Project Feeder Watch. The data is used to track the movements of winter birds and determine "long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance."

For information on how to join this year's count, which begins November 12, visit the Project Feeder Watch website at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw>. There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Cornell Lab members).

The Great Backyard Bird Count

The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada. The objective is to count all birds seen over a specific four day period in February and send the information to the Great Backyard Bird Count website so that researchers can obtain a 'snapshot' of bird movements across the continent. Participants may count as little as fifteen minutes a day or all day for four days. "It's free, fun, and easy-- and it helps the birds."

For information on this season's count, which will take place February 17-20, 2012, visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

East Texas Chapter Master Naturalist Revised Meeting Schedule

During our September 10 Chapter Activity Day afternoon member work session we discussed our meeting schedule in an effort to simplify it.

The following schedule was agreed to:

Member meetings will occur the first 10 months of the year on the 4th Thursday of the month. Previously we would not have a standing monthly meeting during the month of a Chapter Activity Day or during the summer months. We had summer meeting this year, attendance was good so we decided to continue with the summer meetings.

We will have 4 Chapter Activity Days a year to be determined by Nature Center availability and non-conflict with weekend holidays.

For November and December we will have a meeting the 1st Saturday of the month. This was done to avoid conflicts with Thanksgiving and Christmas and all the activities surrounding those events.

In November it will be a Chapter Activity Day

In December it will be the Christmas Party. This year the Christmas party will start at 11:00 AM. At the event people will be recognized and awards will be presented.

Written:

Mike Price

Certified Texas Master Naturalist

Lindale Retiree Rehabilitates Eagles, Other Animals

By KENNETH DEAN

Staff Writer Tyler Morning Telegraph

Article published Aug 27, 2011

The majority of funds to care for injured raptors at Beverly Grage's Wild and Free Again in Lindale come from the retiree's own pocket and sometimes even her veins.

On Friday afternoon, the former Tyler police officer walked into the Biolife Plasma Services in Tyler, rolled up her sleeve and began the process of donating plasma to raise extra money to care for a Bald Eagle that was shot earlier this week along with the 39 other raptors she houses.

The newest patient, a mature male bald eagle, was brought to her by Nacogdoches area Game Warden Sean Reneau after he was alerted to the bird found behind a subdivision near Lake Nacogdoches.

"I just got him yesterday so he's in a very high-stressed situation because he's been shot, it's hot and he's not used to his surroundings," she said of the eagle.

Reneau took the eagle to Glenwood Animal Clinic in Tyler where Dr. Ann Buchanan treated the raptor for a shotgun wound to the left wing.

Dr. Buchanan said the Eagle is "strong and feisty, just not able to fly" at this point.

Ms. Grage was said she now is caring for the bird as she has cared for animals since she found a baby opossum on her way to teach a criminal justice class at Tyler Junior College more than 20 years ago.

"I found this baby opossum and I didn't have a clue on how to take care of it, but with a little help I kept it and that started this whole thing," she said.

As the years passed, Ms. Grage said game wardens kept taking animals and birds to her because she was the only one in the area that was taking care of injured or orphaned animals and birds.

"The game wardens just kept bringing them to me, and I really liked taking care of the animals and raptors," she said. "They said I was the only one in the area that takes care of injured animals and if I didn't take it then it would be put to sleep. You don't say that to someone with a soft heart."

Ms. Grage, who left the Tyler Police Department in 1994 and then worked at the East Texas Police Academy in Kilgore, said repairs are needed to some of her pens, but are costly.

"Most of the pens were built for mammals out of wire, and some need serious repairs.

**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

