



National Fishing & Boating Week
and Texas Fishing Week
June 2 -10, 2012

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June 2012 Newsletter

Volume 8 - Issue 6

East Texas Chapter Monthly Meeting May 24
presents: Michael Banks, Co-Director of the
Friends of the Neches River.

His presentation will discuss the Friends of the
Neches River and what they are trying to
accomplish.

You can research the Friends of the Neches River or
visit their facebook site: [https://www.facebook.com/
pages/Friends-of-the-Neches-River/
111473105531196?sk=info](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-Neches-River/111473105531196?sk=info) and get more
background information.

It is my understanding this group was formed to
prevent the Neches River from being dammed to
form a water reservoir to supply water to the Dallas
area.

The establishment of the Neches River National
Wildlife Refuge is being heralded as one of the
recent major conservation victories in Texas.

They are concerned about loss of hardwood
bottomland and the plants and animals that reside
there.



Michael Banks with a
nice Neches River bass.



Michael Banks the Co-
Director of the Friends of the
Neches.

**A BIG Thank You to the
Native Plant Society of Texas
Tyler Chapter
for the new plantings at
The Nature Center - Tyler**



Class of 2012



Front Row: Judy Swensen, Barbara Thompson, Donna Manley, Nancy Dickson, Brenda McWilliams, Susan Evans **Back Row:** Ed Swensen, Lance Homeniuk, Susan Linnard, Jeanne Bennett, Jay Dickson, Scott Harris, Micheal, Gras, Mary Ann Nilson **Not pictured:** James Florence and Nigel Rogers

On Saturday, May 12, The East Texas Master Naturalist Class of 2012 curriculum ended. The group enjoyed a picnic and each candidate was given a Texas Master Naturalists t-shirt as a token for the hours they have devoted.

Congratulations to those of you who were able to attend every class and field trip for ten Saturdays, that is an accomplishment to be proud! With the end of the training program many of the candidates have completed their 60 hours of required curriculum, and are acquiring the 40 volunteer hours (VSH) and 8 AT hours to be considered a certified Master Naturalists in the East Texas Chapter. The class has a year to fulfill the required 60 hours of curriculum (AT), 40 hours of VSH and 8 AT hours.

Those of you who were unable to complete or attend all of the classes, still need volunteer service hours, or have questions can contact your mentor, send an open email to tmn.editor@gmail.com, or find many answers to your questions on the East Texas Chapter Master Naturalist Website: <http://txmn.org/etwd/> .



President Neal Stilley and VP Mike Price present the 2012 Class

WOW, some of you dug in and even completed the 40 hours of Volunteer Service Hours during training - that is noted hard work and a great accomplishment. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Give a boy address and accomplishments and you give him the mastery of palaces and fortunes where he goes." We may be past our youth, but we will never see the world around us in the same way as before our classes.

Our Member of the Month - Gloria Rognlie

Our member of the month is Gloria Rognlie, the perky little blonde that has been actively involved with our East Texas Chapter of Master Naturalist for over ten years, actually it is more like twelve years. Gloria is currently heading up the Herbarium project with Tappa Burt and with the help of Sonnia Hill.



Rognlie Team - Nick and Gloria

Over the past years Gloria has worn many of the Chapter “hats” heading up many projects and committees, along with helping her husband “Nick” fulfill some of his positions. Gloria and Nick were always a great team working to support the East Texas Chapter. When Nick was diagnosed with cancer several years ago, there were times Gloria when had to pitched in to keep the Chapter running smoothly, when Nick had to slow down.

One of Gloria’s passions the past few years has been the Cancer Foundation For Life, “Fitsteps for Life” program. When Nick became ill, they were introduced to the Fitsteps for Life program. They were excited when they saw how much Nick benefitted and improved as he progressed in the program. Bringing the “Rognlie Team” support to this program, both Gloria and Nick devoted many hours to this organization. In 2009 Gloria received the Volunteer of the Year award for all her help in the administrative office. Both Nick and Gloria received recognition from the President of the United States, with the Presidential Service Award for 2009 for the hundreds of hours they have given.

Gloria grew up in the Adirondack area of New York, but when she met “Nick”, things changed and from that time on,

they lived in several parts of the United States, settling with their son in the Dallas area. During her years in Dallas, Gloria worked for Vercom Software heading the customer service department.

Gloria and Nick had a second home in the Mixon area, which was located at the bottom of a hill that was named the “The Beauty and the Beast” by the Tyler Bike Club, who hold the annual “Beauty and the Beast” race. It was only when their

son, an avid bike rider, entered the race that they realized their property was adjacent to the infamous hill.

On a Sunday afternoon drive around Lake Palestine, they stumbled on the cozy lakeside community of Emerald Bay, and fell in love with the area. Soon Gloria decided this is where she wanted to retire, and found the perfect condo with a great view. That was when she told Nick, “well, this is where I am going to live,” - so they did. Needless to say, today Gloria still lives in her perfect condo.

When Nick finally lost his lengthy battled with cancer a year ago, we all lost a true friend who certainly made a contribution to many our lives. We all know that he is missed most of all by his team mate of almost 50 years, but being the true player she is, Gloria still devotes much of her time to the CFL organizations she and Nick supported and continues to devote countless hours to the East Texas Chapter Master Naturalist’s Herbarium project.

Thanks Gloria for giving so much to each of us.

June Management Tip of the Month



by: Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist-Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Rotenone in a powered or liquid form is used to kill fish so ponds can be restocked with desirable species. The recommended application rate for products containing 5% rotenone is 1 gallon of liquid formulation or 10 pounds of powdered formulation per acre-foot of water. Fish usually begin to die within an hour. Thread-fin shad and grass carp area among the first species to die, while bullheads and gar are the most difficult species to kill. Rotenone can be applied throughout the summer. Wait 2 to 3 weeks for rotenone to dissipate completely before restocking.

From “Wildlife & Fish” Management Calendar you can obtain the complete calendar (“Order the full calendar B-6197 for \$9.95 + tax and shipping from the Texas AgriLife Bookstore (agrilifebookstore.org) or by calling

Visit our Website

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist

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

Eastern Yellow Belly Racer (*Coluber constrictor flaviventris*) by Mary Ann Nilson

May 11, 2012, Lindale, Texas; at my front porch steps I came across an Eastern Yellow Bellied Racer. These Snakes are slender, olive grey-green, with a yellow or whitish underside. There are no markings on the head or back dorsals. The throat and neck are bright yellow and the chin and lips are yellow or white. Juveniles are tan or cream with brown or grey blotches, changing to the grey green as they mature. The eastern yellow-bellied racer along with its close relatives the coachwhips and whipsnakes), is among the fastest moving diurnal (day) snakes of Texas, yet rarely seen in the pine-hardwood forests of East Texas.

Eastern yellow-bellied racers speed gives them the ability to satisfy this snake's wide diet assortment and to catch and eat rodents, lizards, frogs, smaller snakes, birds, and large quantities of insects (probably the only large native snake that regularly consumes substantial numbers of insects), but not fishes. Instead of using their forked tongue to sense heat and smell, they rely on their eye site and prop their head up like a cobra to find their prey.

Racers will den singularly and will den communally with as many as several dozen snakes, (In Kansas there was a den of 100 recorded). Emerging from hibernation in April or May, they mate. Eggs can be laid in abandoned tunnels excavated by moles and voles in or near fields and pastures, four to eight inches below the surface. A dozen eggs is considered the usual clutch size that is laid sometime in June or July, the yellowish, oval eggs, with salt-like granules scattered over their leathery shells, hatch in late August or early September.

Occupying much of Texas, and enjoying an ambient air temperature between 78 and 80 degrees F, this snake usually remains active, in temperatures as high as 90 degrees F, when most other snakes avoid the midday heat. Their territory, or home range, contains about 25 acres. Usually these snakes are feisty and can be meaner than water snakes. This is a nervous snake and will bite readily and repeatedly if handled, (the bite is not venomous) and can discharge a musky, cream-colored slime from its cloaca, which it then liberally smears over itself by its animated movements, adding feces to the mixture. This is not a suitable snake to keep in captivity.

The Eastern yellow-bellied racer I found (pictured) is 38" long and had a dark crosshatched pattern on its tail. These snakes are usually found in meadows, open prairie, along woodland edges or rocky outcrops and are a very abundant species in Texas. This snake is listed as an endangered species in the province of Saskatchewan. The 38-inch adult snake (over three years old due to size and colors) relocated unharmed to the back pasture, far away from the house.



Classification:
 Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Subphylum: Vertebrata
 Class: Reptilia
 Order: Squamata (Serpentes)
 Family: Colubridae
 Genus: Coluber
 Species: constrictor flaviventris
 Common Name: Eastern Yellowbelly Racer

Did You Know? You can make your own seed pots with Pot Maker. Pot Maker is a wonderful way to recycle your newspaper, reuse and reduce waste.

Make your own seedling pots instead of using expensive plastic pots that are 3¼" base x 5¼" high.



The Pot Maker sells for about \$14.50, some used and some similar brands may sell for less, you can find them by doing a Google search. No glues or tape needed.

[I used a tall tea glass then slightly slid the paper form off the glass then fold the paper under and pressed down.]

Now gently pressed the form onto a small smooth rock to fold in the bottom securely.

1. Tear or cut newspaper into 3½" x 10" strips.
2. Wrap a strip around the wooden form. [I made my own "pot former" by using a 3-3 ½ straight drinking glass.]
3. Fold the ends under and press the form into the base. [I slightly slid the paper form off the glass]
4. Pull paper pot up and off.
5. Fill with soil, plant seeds, and water; the outward pressure of the damp soil will hold the pot together.

Did you Know? About this Website? <http://www.herpssoftexas.org/content/welcome> **Herps of Texas Website!** "Herps" is a nickname for reptiles and amphibians. Herpers are people interested in "herps". Texas is home to over 225 species of reptiles and amphibians and this website contains species accounts and distribution maps for every species.

Did You Know? You can **Certify Your Wildlife Garden** <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx?campaignid=WH10A150>

Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can **create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife** and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas.

By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young, you not only help wildlife, but **you also qualify to become an official Certified Wildlife Habitat™** and join the nearly 140,000 sites across the country.

To certify your yard, you need to click on the link for further information: NOTE: If you do not think your garden is complete, start your registration and they will inspire you along the way.

Did You Know? Why are there so many Tornadoes this 2012 year? Year of the Twister: <http://gizmodo.com/5902682/why-are-there-so-many-tornadoes-this-year>

Did You Know? A list of weeds can be found at the following web site: <http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plantsdev/common-name-list/>

Did You Know? The amount of Energy in a Gummy Bear of Energy? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2mz0eWSiXA&feature=youtu.be>

Did You Know? The [East Texas State Fair Farmers Market](#) is now open. The opening day has come and gone...So many customers! Basically sold out by 10:30am the first day. Remember the market is open every Tuesday and Saturday thru July 28th. So far the crops are AWESOME!

Did You Know? East Texas Farm and Ranch Club Meetings are monthly and open to the public. Web Site: <http://easttexasfarmandranchclub.com/> Look us up on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/East-Texas-Farm-and-Ranch-Club-Scholarship-und/120014641420981>



Did You Know? The field at left would require less herbicide and produce more corn this field has, **a cover crop mix of millet, cowpea, soybean, turnip, radish, sunflower and sweet clover.** On right, bare fields. Source: Josh Dukart, Burleigh County Soil Researchers studying cover crops have shown that **cover crops can provide habitat and forage for wildlife** without significantly affecting the growth of the cover crop and the other benefits they provide.

A study conducted at Stanford University concluded that **reducing runoff from agricultural lands by just 10 percent could reduce flood peaks by up to 50 percent.** This process would dramatically reduce the costs associated with flood prevention and damage.

Did You Know? No-till production reduces erosion, which keeps surface waters cleaner, fish species diversity and the number of fish doubled due to similar efforts. In addition, no-till enables the ground to build up soil carbon and organic matter, which improves the soil's ability to absorb nutrients and release them to plants.

Did You Know? A helicopter can seed 50 acres in thirty minutes. However, a helicopter needs at least 50 acres to be cost effective for the pilot to seed a field.

Did You Know? Implementing practices such as conservation tillage and cover crops on their land, farmers help to reduce flooding in their watersheds and downriver.

Everything you would want to know about fishing—from how-to videos and where-to-go locators to weekly fishing reports—can be found on TPWD's website: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/ -- **You can even buy your license online.**

[42nd Annual National Wildlife Photo Contest](#)



Photography Celebrates Nature

Enter your photos for a chance to win thousands of dollars in prizes, get exposure, and support the National Wildlife Federation's work to protect wildlife.

- http://www.nwf.org/photocontest/?s_src=2012PhotoContest_Web_Blog
- \$20 per set of 10 photos
- SEVEN categories and TWO entry levels (General and Youth)
- Winning photos will appear in National Wildlife® magazine

Nature used to be thought of as the environment in which humans we were no longer apart of and the wilderness disconnected from society, but today we know better! Nature and sustainability are tied up in our very survival as a species. Farming and Ranching are having a complex relationship between urban and eco-friendly living. From environmental daring eco-stripping to new farm and ranch styles, there are many informative meetings, seminars and gatherings that offer some examples that blur the boundaries of supposed opposites.

East Texas Chapter Texas Master Naturalists do not recommend or endorse items of interest published in The Woodduck Whistler. Items of interest are for information only.

Invaders Texas
Citizen Science Program to Detect and Report Invasive Species

BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST [HTTP:// TEXASINVASIVES.ORG/ INVADERS/ BECOME.PHP](http://TEXASINVASIVES.ORG/INVADERS/BECOME.PHP)

Do you want to help slow down the spread of harmful invasive species and reduce their ecological and economic damage? The first step is to locate where invaders have arrived and get that information to those who can do something about it. That is where citizen scientists come in. Citizen scientists are volunteers who receive expert training to identify and track important invaders in our area. There are two ways to become a citizen scientist. Click on the above link to learn more.

Dancing Bird with a BIG smile picture

http://izismile.com/img/img2/20091009/wtf_gifs_12.gif

(Is this for real – or not?)

You can read past issues of ETCMN, The Whistler Duck Newsletter by visiting the website at <http://txmn.org/etwd> and clicking "Newsletter" then the month you want to view.



The world through a child's eyes is full of wonder.



<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/index.shtm>

Help Save Our Endangered Sea Turtles

(If We Don't - We'll Lose Them Forever)

By Ed Snyder/Outdoors

Bolivar Peninsula, TX.

A Loud sucking gasp suddenly shattered the still of the night that only comes at 4 am. Startled, I glanced up to see a HUGE sea turtle with basket ball sized head and saucer eye on the surface inhaling a gulp of fresh air. Totally surprised by this sight the turtle then submerged as swiftly as it had appeared. All I could respond was WOW!!!

I experienced this most exciting incident while night fishing at Rollover Pass, I was looking through my tackle box when this massive sea critter interrupted my search. The turtle must've weighed 100 lbs or more. Catching only a brief glimpse before it suddenly disappeared, I really couldn't identify the species. But the sea turtle was swimming against the tide towards Galveston's East Bay. The one haunting thing I'll always remember from this encounter was that saucer sized eye looking back at me before it disappeared.

Always amazed by these incredible sea animals with their secretive nocturnal activities when pulling their massive bodies out of Gulf waters, sometimes dragging themselves 100 yards before digging sandy nests to lay their eggs. We mainly only see these ghostly turtle tracks across our beaches while on our early morning beach walks. But mostly these tracks are covered over by wind blown sands or tidal surf before we can see them.

Curious to find out more about them I attended a recent sea turtle seminar on Galveston Island, where they began to educate and answer the many questions we would ask, and giving out information with some very alarming facts about the trials and tribulations of these magnificent sea creatures.

The first SHOCKER was that over 40,000 of the most endangered of the seven species, the Kemp's Ridley, are lost to us each year from over fishing and illegal poaching that market their meat and eggs as a delicacy. This one fact, stated the instructor, is why we'll probably lose the Kemp's Ridley to the world FOREVER! UNLESS, he interjected to ease our shock, we seriously buckle down to the task of

saving them from this inevitable total extinction.

Of the seven sea turtle species known to the world, the Flat-back, Olive Ridley, Kemp's Ridley, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Green, and Loggerhead are all endangered with five of those known endangered species, the Kemp's Ridley, Green, Hawksbill, Leatherback, and Loggerhead living part of their life style right here in the Gulf of Mexico. Of the five species of sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico only the Kemp's Ridley is a daytime nester, which probably makes this habit detrimental to their very survival.

The main problems, stated the instructor, are those who shrimp for a living refusing to use TEDS (turtle exclusion devices) which allow turtles caught up in shrimp trawls to be released alive rather than be killed. Some Gulf shrimpers aren't convinced yet that these devices work and refuse to use them. But what they don't understand is the 2nd problem that occurs with each trawl is the unwanted by-catch of species other than shrimp when using the TED will be cut by 40% after each trawl, which in turn allows the Shrimper to harvest more shrimp, which realizes much higher profits for them.

Another serious problem, he further explained, are the long line fishermen who set out lines with hundreds of deepwater hooks to catch their quarry. The sea turtles will feed on these baits and once hooked aren't able to surface for air and drown. Thousands of sea turtles are lost in this way.

Australia has come up with a new device that will solve this major problem that allows those baited deepwater hooks to drop below the turtle feeding depth. A special clip attached to the baited hook releases from the hook deeper allowing the bait to set below the turtle feeding depth. These two items, the use of the TED and the special long line Australian CLIP would help tremendously to save thousands of sea turtles. But WE have to educate these people to use them and in doing so help save the sea turtles.

Despite complicated lives; sea turtles can live well into their 80s returning to their nesting beaches to keep their life cycles active. But recent studies show that their reproductive journeys aren't providing the numbers of nesting turtles as before. Once, when the sea turtles were abundant, nesting beaches once saw as many as 40 to 50,000 nesting turtles struggling across

nesting beaches. But as turtle harvest and illegal greed increased we began to realize that much smaller percentages of nesting turtles were crossing the nesting beaches. Alarmed by this concerned citizens began to form "Save the Sea Turtle" groups and sea turtle research centers.

Among these groups NOAA and NMFS are most active in the research, development, and activation of sea turtle programs for the preservation of endangered species.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Sea Turtle Facility which is part of the NOAA/NMFS Galveston Laboratory, are not a public aquarium or zoo. They are a U.S. Federal Government (U.S. Dept. of Commerce) Research Facility dedicated to raising threatened and endangered sea turtles in captivity. Guided tours of this amazing and very important Facility are offered to the public 3 days per week. Call 832-459-5533 or e-mail NatureTourismGalv@juno.com. It's well worth the half day you spend with them.

This is the only facility of its type in the United States and one of only two places in the world where you can see Kemp's Ridley hatchlings. The Kemp's Ridley sea turtles in this Facility are a gift from the Government of Mexico and part of a joint international U.S.-Mexico conservation and recovery project. The loggerhead sea turtles are part of a cooperative conservation program with the State of Florida. They are also a Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center and Sea Turtle Hospital for the upper Texas coast.

Miracle workers, these dedicated "sea turtle interns" and doctors, of this special sea turtle hospital, continually provide life lines to mangled and damaged sea turtles that most people would think were unrecoverable. Case in point, a dead sea turtle was once reported by a beach walker and an agent from the turtle group arrived to recover the body of a turtle, which was severely mangled with its internal organs hanging out. Obviously run over by a boats propeller. But when the agent touched the turtles eye to make sure it was actually dead "IT BLINKED!" the sea turtle was immediately moved to the ICU unit of the turtle hospital, where, after extensive surgery and rehabilitation, that once thought dead sea turtle is now alive, healthy, swimming, and still laying eggs.

Texas is participating in these extremely important sea turtle programs on a huge scale which involves gathering turtle eggs

Endangered Sea Turtles - cont'd.

and shipping them down to a special turtle recovery base at South Padre Island. Founded by Ila Fox Loetscher, otherwise known as "The Turtle Lady of South Padre" in 1977, where the sea turtle eggs are incubated, hatched, and imprinted in the waters of the Gulf before being shipped back to their original gathering areas and released. This is also the 2nd place where the public can witness the Kemps Ridley. Turtle Inc; is the name of this facility where injured sea turtles are also mended, rehabilitated, and released.

What we can do to help save the sea turtles ;

The sea turtles are in their mating phase during February/March and will start coming on Texas coastal shores to lay their eggs from April thru June. They don't lay their eggs once but several times throughout this period of egg laying. It's nature insuring its survival by laying eggs in different locations in case nests are destroyed by high storm tides or animal or human vandalism.

Sea turtles inhabit all oceans of the world. There are five species of sea turtles found in the Gulf of Mexico, all of which are either endangered or threatened. The most endangered species of sea turtle in the world is the Kemp's Ridley which is also the most common species found in the waters off of Texas. Since the Kemp's Ridley was listed on the Endangered Species Act, the Galveston Lab has played an important role in the conservation and recovery of this species through ongoing research, special head-start experiments and support their support and involvement with international conservation efforts.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

If seen, Do not bother or harass the turtle but GPS its location and call 1-866-887-8535 to report the finding. The turtle people will dispatch agents to see that the turtle and the nesting site is protected and recover the eggs. Do this for injured or dead sea turtles as well. The injured can be saved and the dead can be studied, furthering the knowledge about sea turtles

If caught on rod and reel; DO NOT remove the hook and release the turtle-cut the fishing line and call the turtle people. It was once thought that when the turtle was hooked and if you cut the line and released it, the turtle would have a 50% chance of survival. This is WRONG!!! They'll

actually have less than 10% chance of survival. But if the turtle people recovers the hooked turtle they can properly remove the hook either by surgery, or by working the hook out of the turtle, then rehabilitate it for release.

A specialized tagging program is also helping to keep track of these endangered sea turtles. This important project provides extremely valuable data for their advanced research of endangered sea turtles. These tags, many attached while they're still hatchlings, maintain a viable history and geographical travels of where the turtles go, which can track them thousands of nautical miles in every sea corner of the world.

Since 1978, over 24,000 Kemp's Ridley turtles and 1,500 loggerhead turtles were reared, tagged, and released by this program. Those tag returns found that these releases have been reported from the Gulf of Mexico, the U.S. Atlantic Coast, and as far away as France, and Morocco. Development and migration studies of captive-reared turtles indicate that they adapt well in all conditions of the wild and are found distributed throughout the species natural range. Injured, maimed, or sick sea turtles found in the wild are also treated, rehabilitated at the laboratory before being tagged and released back into their natural domain.

I, for one, will help out as much as possible in my every day walkabouts on the beaches where I live. For I dread the possibility of never again hearing the sound of that loud gasp for air, or the saucer eyed stare of a sea turtle looking back at me. I would, in my opinion, consider that a loss as personal as losing ones family member. It would be both a tragedy and a crime against nature if we humans allow sea turtles to fade into memory.



Ila Fox Loetscher, "Yankee Doodle", the turtle and Barbara Thompson, in 1976 on South Padre.

Important Contacts;

(832)-459-5533 for Galveston Turtle Reports;

(956)-761-4511 for South Padre Island Turtle Reports;

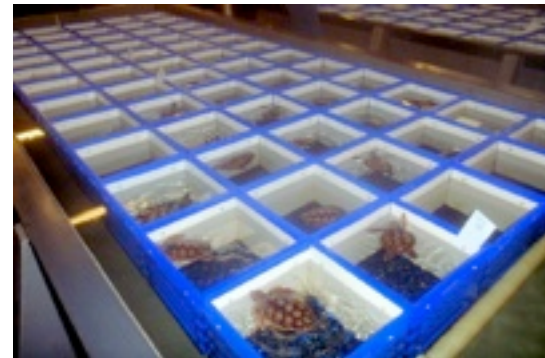
(369)-949-7163 Padre Island Turtle Hatching Program;

1-888-887-8535 (1-888-TURTLE5 for All Sea Turtle Reports);

1-800-9MAMMAL- For Dead or Stranded Dolphins;



Hatchling sea turtles in their cubicles awaiting release



Hatchling sea turtles in their cubicles awaiting release



Sea Turtle laying its eggs at the edge of a sand dune

President's Corner - June 2012**Greetings,**

There are a lot of things happening out there to take notice of. For instance, the Green Milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*) which has greenish flowers and a horn shaped seed pod. This seed pod at maturity will contain silk like fibers that will carry off the seeds by the wind. These silky fibers were used for candlewicks at one time. These fibers were also used by the U. S. Navy as a substitute for kapok in life jackets during World War II. All most 2 million pounds of milkweed floss was collected by school children from the wild in Canada. This is not to forget the Monarch Butterfly and it's relationships with Texas milkweeds.

Another plant to take notice of is the Bull Nettle (*Cnidioscolus texanus*) and its white flowers but be aware of the stinging nettles or fine hairs that can deliver a hefty sting along with a good welt. It's been reported that the mature seeds are edible but some difficulty in getting to them. Both of these plants can be found along the un-mowed road sides and fields.

Several folks in the 2012 class have commented to me about the number of yucca flower stalks that they have seen. I would agree it's been a good year for the yucca blooms. I would also have to point out that the level of awareness has increased in folks taking the classes. Part of being a master naturalist is having an increase of awareness of the natural surroundings. In East Texas yucca (*Yucca louisianensis*) is usually found in areas that have sandy soils and fairly well drained. These sandy soil types often have several other plants associated with this soil type.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2012 TMN class. It took a lot of work and commitment on all sides to make it happen. Not everybody was able to make all the classes and there will be help for y'all to get back on track.

Until next time, enjoy life and your favorite cold beverage.

Neal

Volunteer opportunities**Mineral Nature Preserve:**

replacement of tree signage VSH
Thursday, May 17 from 10:00 AM
Janet Cook needs help re-identifying trees, drilling holes, installing signs, etc.

Mineral Nature Fest:

outreach opportunity VSH
Saturday, May 26 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Contact Ann Reynolds at ann@etex.net or Sandy Tibbs at sandy@lostcreekonline.com.

Ongoing volunteer opportunities:**Sabine River Boat Landing Clean-up:**

Contact Richard LeTourneau at richardoii@aol.com if you would like to help.

Lake Palestine water quality monitor:

The project takes about 2 hrs/month with all training and equipment provided by the Angelina/Niches River Authority. If anyone is interested in monitoring please email Gene Gordon at genedgordon@embarqmail.com or Patrick Bowles at phbowles1@aol.com.

National Phenology Network:

Collect observations of plants and animals that interest you and report them to a national database. See attachment to this email for more information.

Tyler Nature Center:

Contact Mike Price at mhp1947@embarqmail.com to find out about the next clean-up day.

Check our website txmn.org/etude/ for other opportunities. Contact me if you have any questions.

Helen Mar Parkin
Membership Manager

Officers & Committee Chairs

- Neil Stilley** - President
- Mike Price** - VSH & Vice President
- Janet Cook** - Secretary
- Laura Wilson** - Treasurer
- Richard LeTourneau** - AT
- Cindi McCullough** - VHS & Database Records
- Helen Mar Parkin** - Membership
- Laura Wilson/Janet Cook** - AT & Curriculum
- Jay Dickson** - Public Relations & Outreach
- Barbara Thompson** - Newsletter Editors
- Mary Ann Nilson** - Newsletter Editors

- Kevin Herriman** - TPWD Advisor
- Chad Gulley** - AgriLife Advisor

The Woodduck Whistler is a monthly publication of the East Texas Chapter of Master Naturalists program.

*News, stories, comments, photos, and ideas are welcome. **Deadline is 15th of every month!** Please send items to Barbara Thompson or Mary Ann Nilson at tmn.editor@gmail.com*

East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists
P.O. Box 131184
11942 CR 848, Tyler, Texas 75707
Tyler, Texas 75713

Directions to the THE NATURE CENTER:
Turning off Loop 323, turn onto North State Highway 248 (Also called University Boulevard). Turn right onto FM 848 (Also called Bascom Road) The Nature Center of Tyler is located on the right.

Monthly Meetings
We always meet the **Fourth Thursday** of each month, 6:45pm, at The Nature Center **11942 CR 848**, Tyler, Texas 75707



East Texas Chapter Texas Master Naturalists do not recommend or endorse items of interest published in The Woodduck Whistler. Items of interest are for information only.

Join us at **6:30 PM** for socializing and let's get to know each other before our **6:45 PM** meeting.

Bring a friend, invite a guest, everyone is welcomed.



The Nature Center, Tyler, Texas