



GOOD WATER MASTER NATURALIST
WILLIAMSON COUNTY

RIPPLES

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November/December 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

WAG	11/10/14
GWMN Book Club	11/19/14
NPSOT Meeting	11/13/14
Austin Butterfly Forum	11/24/14
GWMN Meeting	12/11/14
NPSOT Meeting	1/8/15
GWMN Meeting	1/22/15
WAG	2/9/15
GWMN Meeting	2/26/15
NPSOT Meeting	2/12/15
Project Wild Training	3/7/15

Check the website for the many opportunities coming up---way too numerous to even think about posting here!

NOW YOU KNOW

Texas Master Naturalists
15 Years

2,434,254 Service Hours
Valued at \$53,89,000.00

Cared for
206,300 Acres

Trail Miles
1,866

Outreach Events
4,100,000 people

Texas Master Naturalist 2014 State Meeting



Over 300 Master Naturalists from all over the state of Texas converged at Mo Ranch for the Annual Statewide Meeting. Twelve members from the Good Water Chapter attended.

Among the Advanced Training sessions were the Geology of Big Bend Ranch State Park, Regaining your sense of place; A Personal Journey to Discovering your Place in your Bioregion; A Celebration of Native Prairie Grasses, Texas Outdoor Family-Growing the Next Generation of Naturalists; Texas Stream Team Paddlers Water Quality Monitoring Training, Aquatic and Riparian Invasive Species; and Water, Water - Where is the Water?

Many chapters brought information about chapter projects for the Project Fair. In addition there were chapter scrapbooks, chapter brochures, and a photography contest. Viewing what other chapters are doing is a great way to get ideas to bring home to local chapters.

The keynote address: *Catching the Wave: Hang Ten with Teaming With Wildlife: True to Texas* presented a history of growing conservation achievements historically.

In addition to the scheduled events, one of the benefits of attending the Annual Meeting is to network with other Master Naturalists and come home excited about what our organization does across the state.

Leaf Beetles by Wizzie Brown



Leaf beetles are a common group of beetles that attack a variety of landscape and garden plants. They come in a range of colors and sizes, but are usually oval in shape. These beetles eat foliage in the adult and larval stage.

Damage may or may not be problematic in the landscape and the level of damage is based upon size of the population and characteristics of the plant the beetles are feeding upon. If it is a smaller plant or a recently planted item, there may be more

stress caused to the plant by feeding which may lead to problems or even death. With large, healthy plants (i.e. trees), heavy populations of beetles defoliating the tree year after year can lead to stress. Usually damage is aesthetic on landscape plantings, but can cause issues if the beetles are feeding on food crops where they are in direct competition with us for the food item.

To manage leaf beetles, you can try active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis*, spinosad, azadirachtin, pyrethrins, pyrethroids, carbaryl, imidacloprid or acephate. Make sure to read the label to make sure it can be used on the type of plant you are treating; some of the active ingredients may not be able to be used on food crops.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

Master Naturalist Spring Training Class

The Good Water Spring Training Class will begin in March 2015. General Information as well as online registration can be found at the website: <http://txmn.org/goodwater/texas-master-naturalist-training-program/>

Pollinator Garden Open House



On October 3, Good Water Master Naturalists, Williamson County Native Plant Society (NPSOT) and Waste Management hosted an open house at the Williamson County Pollinator Garden. The initial plantings for the garden began in November 2012 with later additions of the rainwater harvesting and other plants. The garden showcases how native wildflowers and grasses can beautify urban gardens and provide habitat for

pollinators and other wildlife. Waste Management presented the Master Naturalists and NPSOT a check for \$200.00 to continue the garden efforts.

News reporters from Time Warner Cable News and the Hutto News were on hand as well as County Commissioner Ron Morrison.

As the visitors gathered, monarch butterflies were visiting the milkweed plants. Native Bees and honeybees frequent the garden. Bluebonnets and other wildflowers had begun sprouting giving the promise of a beautiful spring.



WHO'S WHO---CHAPTER PROFILES

Rana Sanders



Rana has lived in Georgetown for two years, after nearly twenty years deep in the country, near Leakey, where she and her husband "farmed" a large garden and orchard and planted native trees as they reduced Ashe juniper stands. She is widowed with two children, a daughter in Kerrville and a son in Utah. She has two aged cats.

She likes reading (history, biography; She LOVES mysteries), movies, birds, trees, bushes, flowering plants, food, crossword puzzles, and all kinds of music (but is far behind on the latest "stars"), weather and discovering the area. What she does not like usually centers around social media and the effect on interpersonal communication.

Rana is in the Fall Training Class. She is enthusiastic about this Master Naturalist course as it contains a lot of her "likes." She is finding it entertaining and educational.

AJ Senchack



AJ is a newcomer to Good Water Chapter, but not to Texas! He grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Texas Tech. He retired this year as a professor of investments, having taught for 45 years--- primarily at the University of Texas at Austin and Southwestern University.

AJ and his family have traveled and lived in more than 60 countries, mostly while he taught at universities in such places as Auckland, Bangkok, Helsinki, and Sao Paulo. His wife, Ginny, is a retired second-grade teacher. They have two daughters.

Besides being a MN, AJ is also a Master Gardener and a lifelong amateur horticulturist, with a specialty in flowering plants. But, his curiosity and thirst for knowing all about our natural world drove him to Good Water, where he has found many excellent educational and volunteer opportunities, such as the Junior Master Naturalist program. AJ's other hobbies involve birding, fishing, geopolitics, and following international financial markets.

For information contact: <http://txmn.org/goodwater> or goodwatermn2@gmail.com